

**SOUTH DAKOTA
HEALTH CARE
SOLUTIONS
COALITION:
INTERIM REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
BACKGROUND AND HISTORY	7
KEY ASPECTS OF MEDICAID TODAY	7
MEDICAID EXPANSION DEMOGRAPHICS	10
AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH DISPARITIES	12
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) AND MEDICAID	14
IHS-ELIGIBLES AND NON-IHS PROVIDERS	17
SOUTH DAKOTA MEDICAID EXPANSION CONCEPT PAPER	19
FUNDING CHANGES PROPOSED BY CMS	20
COST OF MEDICAID EXPANSION	24
MEDICAID EXPANSION IN SOUTH DAKOTA	28
SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTH CARE COALITION	29
COALITION MEMBERSHIP	29
COALITION STRUCTURE AND CHARGE	30
COALITION DISCUSSION	32
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION STEPS	34
RECOMMENDATION 1:	34
RECOMMENDATION 2:	35
RECOMMENDATION 3:	36
RECOMMENDATION 4:	36
RECOMMENDATION 5:	37
RECOMMENDATION 6:	38
NEXT STEPS	39
CONCLUSION	40
APPENDIX 1: Coalition Subcommittee Membership	41

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governor Dugaard convened the Health Care Solutions Coalition (HCSC) to develop a strategy to improve healthcare access and outcomes for American Indians that, along with changes in federal policy for funding Medicaid services for people eligible for services through Indian Health Services, will simultaneously produce general fund savings that can be leveraged to finance Medicaid expansion. The HCSC is a partnership between South Dakota Tribes, IHS, Medicaid service providers, South Dakota Legislators, and State agencies.

KEY ASPECTS OF MEDICAID TODAY

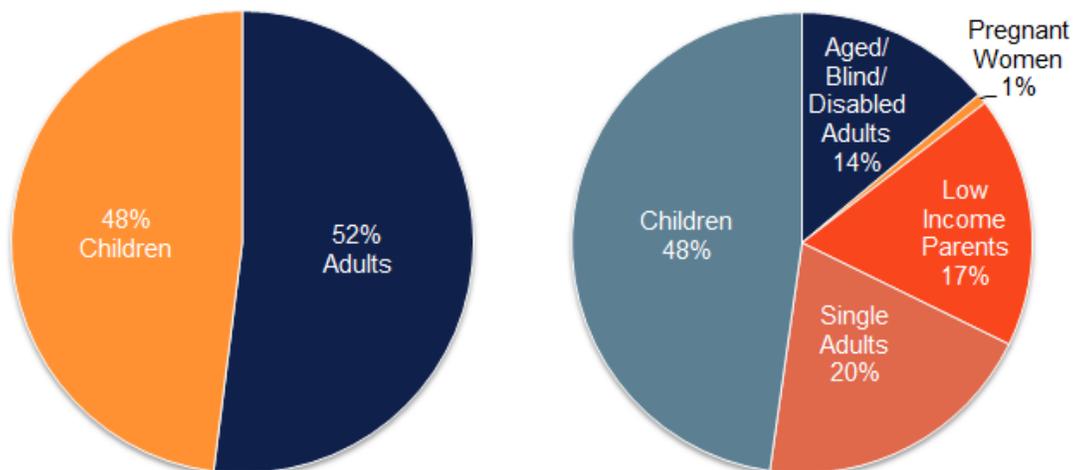
Medicaid is a State-Federal partnership with each entity sharing in financing. The amount of federal funding varies by state. In SFY 2016, South Dakota is responsible for 48.38% of Medicaid costs while the federal government pays the remaining 51.62%.

About 118,000 individuals are currently covered by South Dakota Medicaid during an average month. South Dakota has a conservative program; coverage for adults is limited to those with disabilities, pregnant women, and low income parents. Children make up the largest group of individuals receiving coverage at 68%.

MEDICAID EXPANSION IMPACT

Based on a survey completed in 2015, the Medicaid expansion population in South Dakota is estimated at 49,721 individuals. Approximately 30% of the expansion population is American Indian. One third of the expansion group is comprised of adults in low income families with incomes between 53-138% of the FPL. Two thirds of the expansion group will be a new group of single adults.

MEDICAID POPULATION AFTER EXPANSION



INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) AND MEDICAID

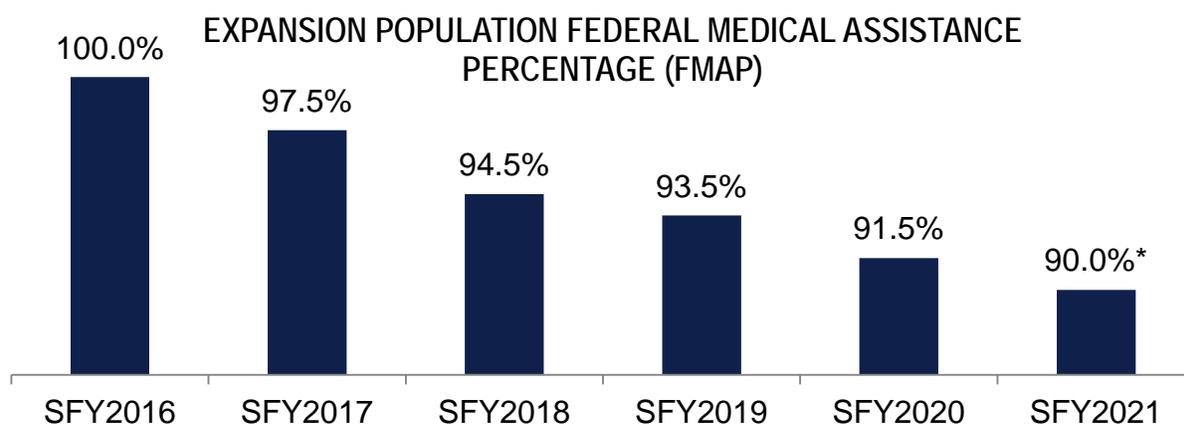
American Indians comprise approximately 35% of South Dakota’s Medicaid population. This has significant financial implications for Medicaid as services provided directly by IHS are eligible for 100% Federal Financial Participation (FFP). However, services provided to Medicaid-eligible American Indians outside of IHS do not receive 100% federal funding. Instead, South Dakota Medicaid must pay for these services at the regular federal match rate.

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015, South Dakota’s Medicaid program expended \$208.2 million for healthcare services for individuals eligible for both IHS and Medicaid. Of that total, \$69.2 million was for services provided directly by IHS and paid with 100% federal funds. The remaining \$139 million was paid at the state’s regular federal match rate, or \$67 million general funds and \$72 million federal funds.

South Dakota has long argued that services for individuals eligible for both Medicaid and IHS should be eligible for 100% federal funding whether provided directly through IHS or by non-IHS providers.

MEDICAID EXPANSION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

States have the option to expand Medicaid coverage to adults with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. One of the key features of Medicaid expansion is that the federal government pays most of the costs of expansion. States must pay 10% of total costs starting in State Fiscal Year 2021 and thereafter, per federal regulations in 42 CFR 433.10.



* Note: 90% is the FMAP for all fiscal years following SFY2021

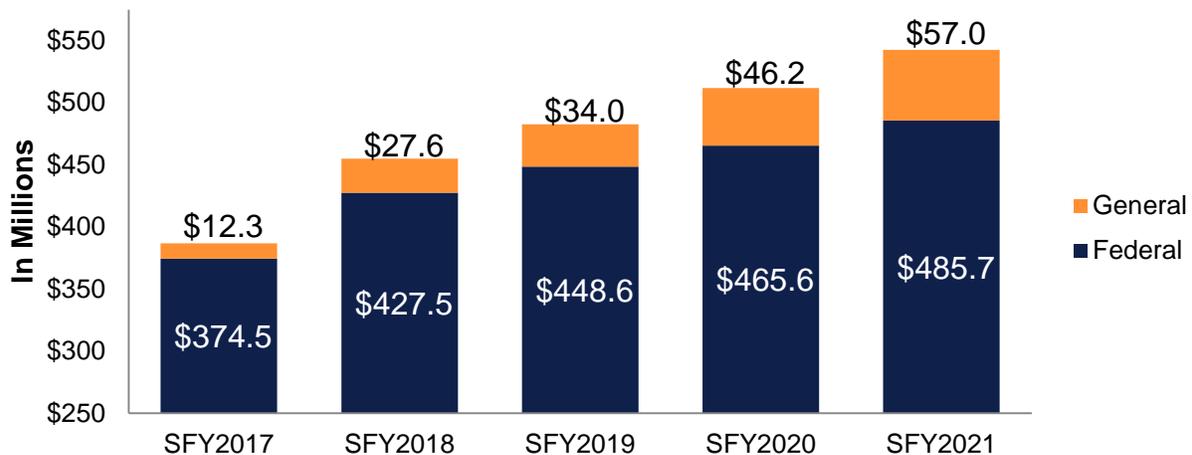
CONSERVATIVE BUDGET PROJECTIONS

The estimates used in Governor Dugaard’s SFY17 budget proposal include a number of conservative assumptions as a way to mitigate financial risk. South Dakota looked to the experience of other states to inform assumptions:

- Estimates assume 54,693 eligible individuals, a 10% increase over the 2015 survey of 49,721;
- Projects the average cost per Medicaid Eligible to be \$7,744 in SFY 2017 with an annual increase of 5%. This rate is based on the actual cost for Low Income Family (LIF) members in SFY 2015 plus 20%;
- Projects administrative expenditures will increase by 5% and require DSS to hire an additional 55 employees;
- No consideration for 100% FFP for American Indians eligible for IHS; estimated to be up to \$15 million per year.

Without taking into consideration economic impact to tax revenue, estimated at \$8.6 million for 2021, South Dakota will need \$57 million by 2021 in order to fully fund Medicaid expansion.

PROJECTED MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS, SFY 2017- 2021



SOUTH DAKOTA MEDICAID EXPANSION CONCEPT PAPER

In early 2015, legislators, state officials, and health care providers saw an opportunity to leverage more federal funding for American Indian health care in South Dakota if the current CMS interpretation of services “received through” IHS could be expanded to include services provided by non-IHS providers. State savings from increased FFP could help defray the costs to expand Medicaid. After engaging in discussions with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), South Dakota submitted a [Concept Paper](#) to CMS with a proposal to provide better health care access to American Indians eligible for IHS, improve health outcomes for American Indians eligible for Medicaid, and increase access to health care for the entire expansion population in South Dakota.

In October 2015, CMS released a [white paper](#) proposing to update policy on funding services provided to Medicaid eligible American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN). Under CMS’s proposed policy change, more services would be eligible for 100% federal

funding, which would increase access to care for AI/AN Medicaid recipients, while generating savings to the state budget to fund Medicaid expansion.

HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS COALITION RECOMMENDATIONS

Governor Dugaard tasked the HCSC with the development of a solution that supports increased access to healthcare for American Indians and improves health outcomes for American Indians in South Dakota, while leveraging state savings to finance Medicaid expansion. The Coalition began meeting in October 2015. Three subcommittees were formed to address specific issues outlined in South Dakota's concept paper:

After three months of meetings, the Coalition proposed the following recommendations:

- RECOMMENDATION 1 Increase use of telehealth services to support emergency departments and support increased access to primary and specialty care consultation and treatment in through Indian Health Service and Tribal Programs.
- RECOMMENDATION 2 Develop a formal Community Health Worker/Community Health Representative program under the Medicaid State Plan.
- RECOMMENDATION 3 Expand support for prenatal and postpartum care to support healthy birth outcomes
- RECOMMENDATION 4 Expand capacity for mental health and chemical dependency services through Indian Health Service and Tribal Programs.
- RECOMMENDATION 5 Expand Medicaid eligible providers of behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services.
- RECOMMENDATION 6 Add evidence-based behavioral health services and supports for children and families, including supporting the provision of functional family therapy as a Medicaid state plan service.

CONCLUSION

In order to expand Medicaid coverage to adults with incomes up to 138% FPL, South Dakota must find a way to offset new costs. Governor Dugaard remains committed to ensuring that any expansion plan for South Dakota is fiscally responsible and has adopted a conservative estimate of cost. To move forward, the following considerations must be met:

- No general fund increase is required, expansion costs must be covered by current general fund budget;
- Tribes must support the expansion proposal; and
- South Dakota Legislature must support the expansion proposal through passage of the Governor's recommended budget.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

KEY ASPECTS OF MEDICAID TODAY

Medicaid is one of the largest healthcare insurers in South Dakota. It is a Federal-State partnership governed by federal requirements and the Medicaid State Plan, an agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), regarding who is served and what services are covered. Each state's plan is different, which can make comparisons between states difficult. It is important to note that Medicaid is different from Medicare which is coverage for individuals age 65 years and older and some disabled adults that is 100% federally administered.

Funding for Medicaid is shared between the state and the federal government. The federal government's share is called the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). Most administrative services are paid at a 50% state match, while the FMAP rate for services varies by state. Every 1% change in FMAP results in about \$7 million in state general funds impact. FMAP is based on the last three years of average personal income (compared to other states); for example, when South Dakota's average income increases compared to other states, the state pays more and the federal government pays less. In FY15, the federal government paid 51.64% and the state paid 48.36% of Medicaid service costs. In FY16, the blended FMAP is 51.61% federal and the state share is 48.39%.

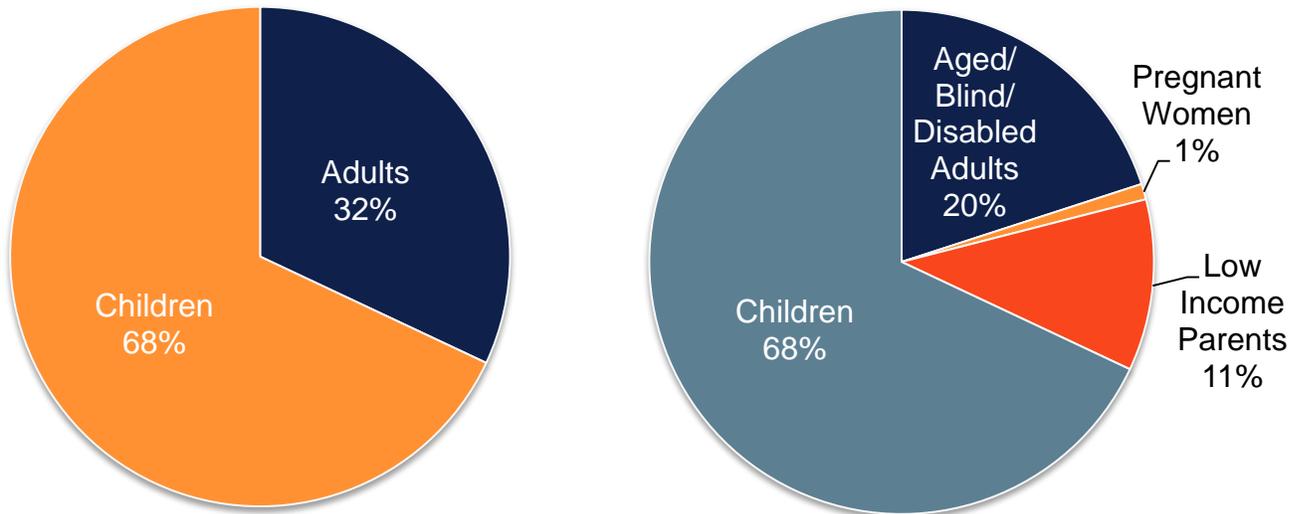
MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility depends on several factors including age, financial criteria, citizenship status and residency. Traditional Medicaid recipients may be low-income children, people with disabilities, low income older adults, and very low-income parents of children. Income and resource limits vary by coverage group: South Dakota covers:

- Children up to 209% of the FPL (\$50,683 annually for a family of four);
- Pregnant women up to 138% FPL (\$33,465 annually for a family of four);
- Parents of children up to 53% of the FPL (\$10,670 annually for a family of four); and
- Elderly and disabled adults.

Currently, Medicaid provides health care coverage to about 14% of all South Dakotans. About 118,000 individuals are covered by South Dakota Medicaid during an average month. Children make up the largest group of individuals receiving coverage. Half of all children born in South Dakota will receive Medicaid or CHIP coverage in their first year of life. Across South Dakota, one third of children under age 19 receive coverage from South Dakota Medicaid annually. American Indians account for 35.5% of Medicaid eligibles.

CURRENT MEDICAID POPULATION



MEDICAID PROVIDERS

Currently, South Dakota has more than 15,000 Medicaid providers; on average there are 5,000 providers actively billing each month. In order to enroll, eligible providers complete an online application, submit required documentation, and sign agreements that outline terms and conditions of participation. Providers must meet federal requirements including screening and onsite visits for some providers.

Eligible providers render covered services under their scope of licensure/certification and Administrative Rule of South Dakota. Services must be medically necessary and physician directed; examples of individual practitioners eligible to enroll include physicians, dentists, psychologists, and optometrists. Similarly, the following examples of facilities may also be eligible: hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, community mental health centers, clinics, and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). When individuals providing the covered services are not eligible to enroll, those services may be delivered under the supervision and direction of an enrolled provider. For example, nurses are not eligible to enroll directly; so Medicaid-covered nursing services are billed through an enrolled supervising physician.

COVERED SERVICES

States determine the type, amount duration, and scope of services based on general federal guidelines. States are required to cover certain mandatory services and may choose to cover other optional services through their Medicaid program, an example of services may be found in the [South Dakota Medicaid Annual Report](#) .

South Dakota currently employs several programs to deliver necessary health services to Medicaid recipients to maximize efficiency and minimize health care costs. One example is the Health Homes Program that provides enhanced health care services to individuals with high-cost chronic conditions or serious mental illness to improve health outcomes and reduce costs related to uncoordinated care. More information about the Health Homes Program may be found in the [South Dakota Medicaid Annual Report](#).

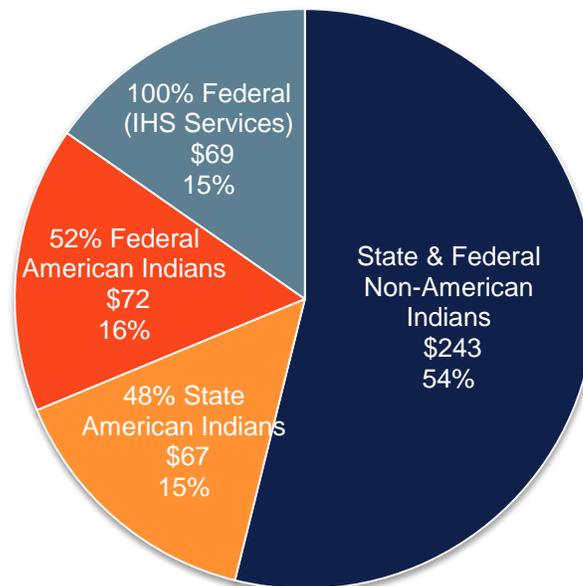
MEDICAID EXPENDITURES

The Medicaid budget is a large part of state government spending and is included in the budgets of several state agencies including:

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Department of Education.

In FY14, expenditures reached \$451.0 million total for typical health care services excluding long term care, Medicare Part A, B, and D premiums, and home and community based waiver services. In the same year, expenditures for American Indians were \$208.2 million. Broken down, \$139.0 million was funded at the State's FMAP rate (\$67 million state funds and \$72 million federal funds) and \$69.2 million was entirely federally funded (100% FMAP).

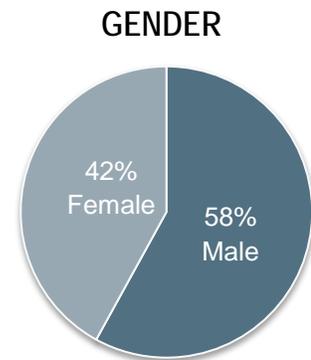
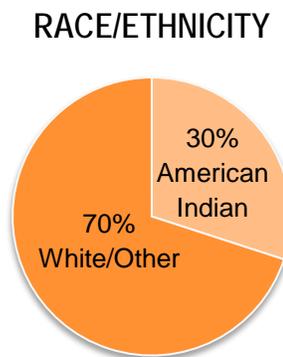
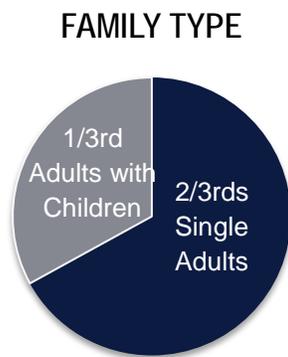
DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS FOR MEDICAID, SFY 2014
(IN MILLIONS)



MEDICAID EXPANSION DEMOGRAPHICS

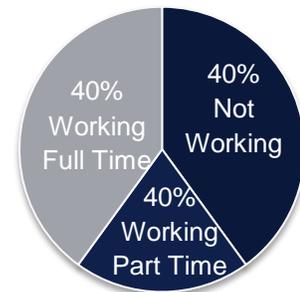
Medicaid expansion would add adults with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. This equates to incomes of \$16,243 per year for one person or \$33,465 for a family of four. Based on a survey completed in 2015, the Medicaid expansion population in South Dakota is estimated at 49,721 individuals.

One third of the expansion group is comprised of low income families, adults with children with incomes between 53-138% of the FPL. Two thirds of the expansion group will be a new group of single adults with no children. Approximately 30% of the expansion population is American Indian; although an estimated 40% have received care through IHS. 58% of the expansion population is male; 42% is female.

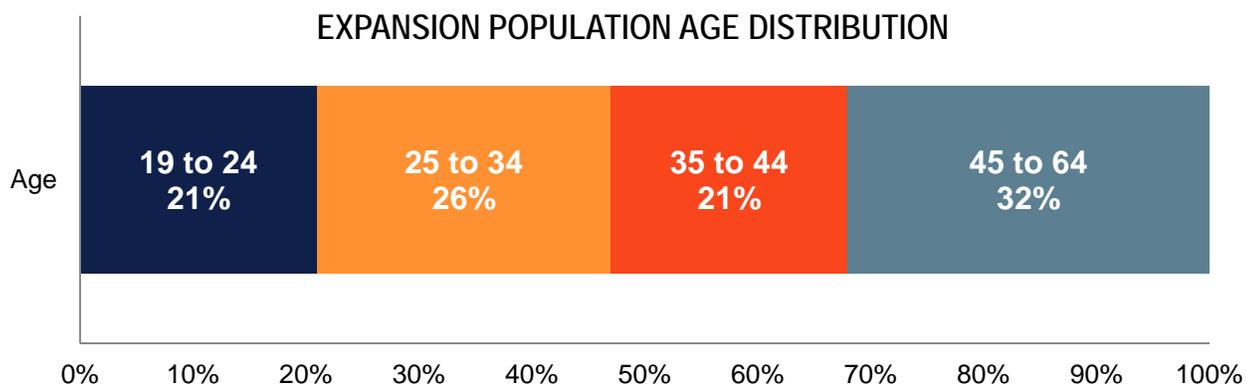


EMPLOYMENT STATUS

60% of the expansion population is working. Of those working, two thirds are working full time; one third is employed part time.

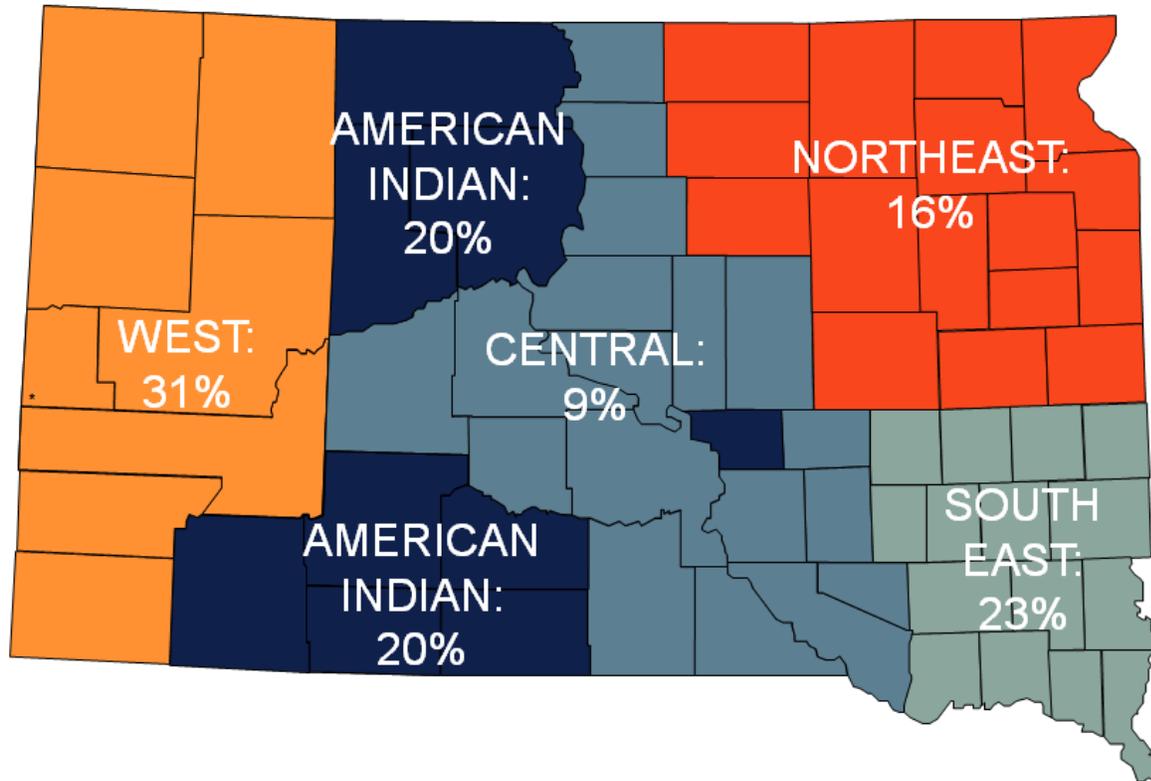


The expansion group ranges in age from 19 to 64. South Dakota's expansion population is young with 47% between the ages of 19-34. An age distribution of the expansion population is depicted below.



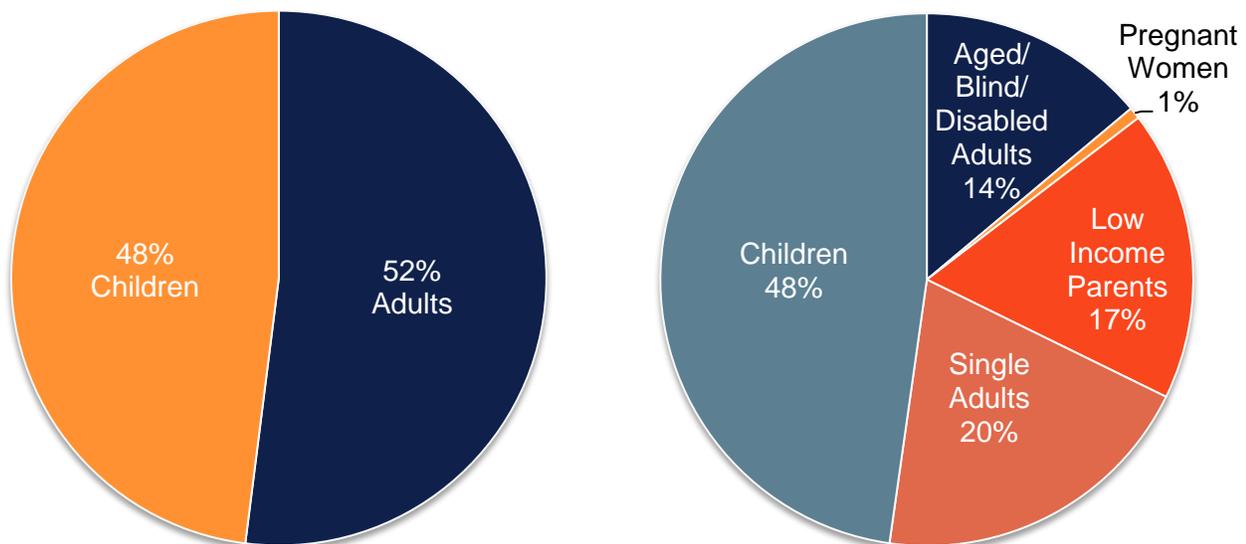
Nearly 6 in 10 adults in the expansion population reside in the West or Southeast regions of the state. A geographic summary of the location of the expansion population is below.

EXPANSION POPULATION GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

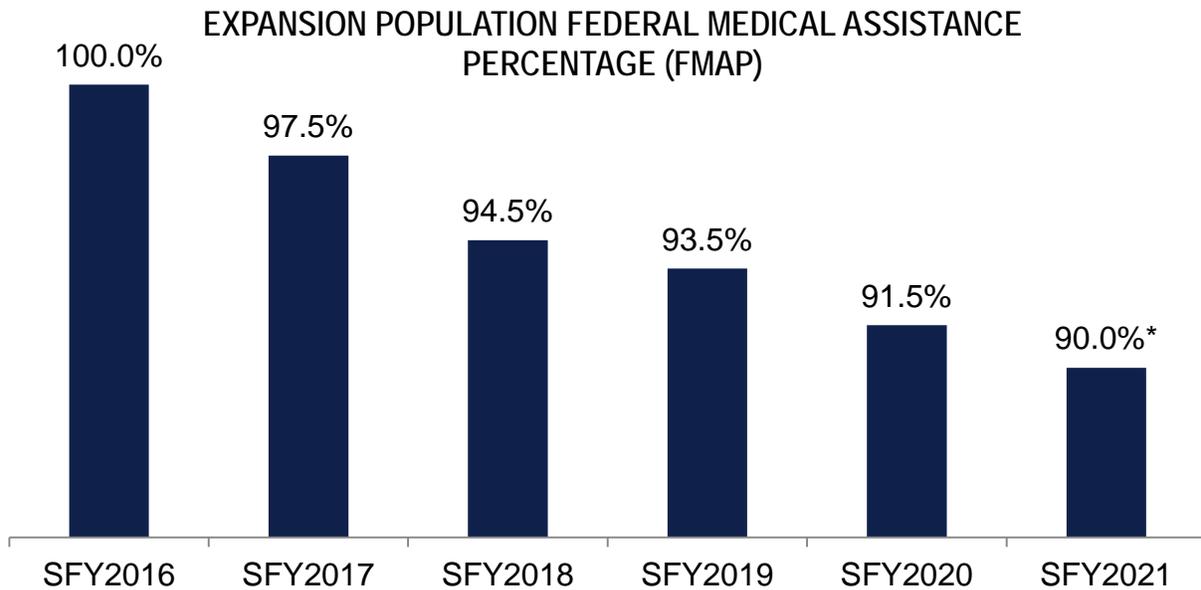


The addition of the Medicaid Expansion population would increase enrollment of adults in both the low-income families' category and in a new single adults group. Overall, adults would become a larger share of the Medicaid Population after expansion.

MEDICAID POPULATION AFTER EXPANSION

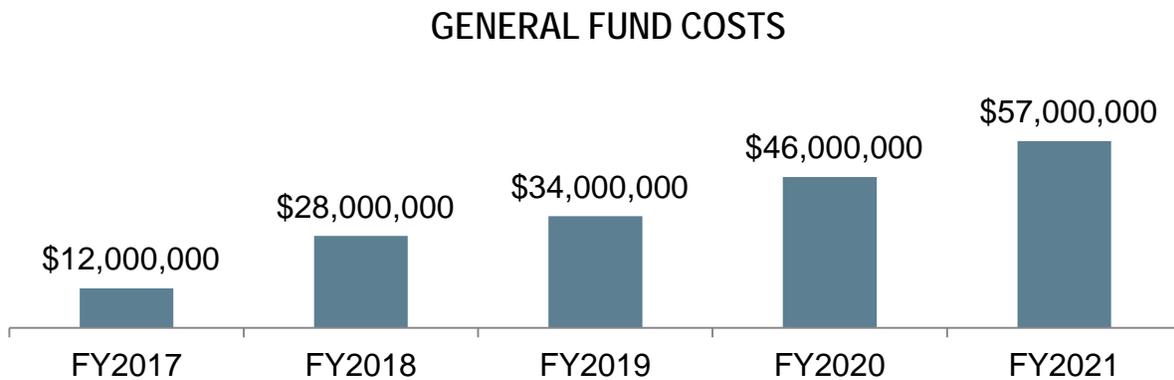


Although the federal government pays 100% of the cost of expansion in the early years of expansion, states are responsible for 10% of costs by calendar year 2021. The FMAP for the expansion population decreases each year as shown in the following table.



* Note: 90% is the FMAP for all fiscal years following SFY2021, per federal regulations in [42 CFR 433.10](#). For budgeting purposes a blended enhanced FMAP is calculated using 6 months of the calendar year.

In SFY 2017, the cost of expansion to the state would be \$12 million, but would increase to \$57 million by 2021.



AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH DISPARITIES

There are significant disparities relating to health care in South Dakota. Research shows that American Indians are disproportionately affected by a multitude of adverse health-related issues and outcomes. This section will examine race disparities among

infants, children and adults, and will conclude by looking at similar trends in certain health-related behaviors and factors.

The birth rate is significantly higher for American Indians (24.9 per 1,000) compared to the total birth rate (14.4 per 1,000).¹ However, data from 2014 shows that infant mortality rates are considerably higher among American Indians (12.18 per 1,000 live births) than the total population (5.94 per 1,000 live births).² The Helmsley Charitable Trust found that American Indians experience more adverse childhood experiences (ACE) than their non-American Indian counterparts.³ Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being.⁴ In fact, when focusing on an ACE score of 5 or greater, the prevalence for American Indians (23.5%) is more than triple that of non-American Indians (7%). Similarly, the absence of ACEs is important to consider; while one half of non-American Indian participants had never had an ACE, less than 17% of American Indians reported the same answer.

Stark racial disparities continue into adulthood in terms of morbidity, mortality and access to care. American Indian population exhibits higher rates of diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, heart disease, and high cholesterol, when compared to the general population rates in South Dakota.⁵ For example, the rate of obesity (BMI ≥ 30.0) for American Indians is 38% compared to 28% for white South Dakotans.⁶ Furthermore, many behavioral health issues are also more prevalent among American Indians including depression, anxiety, and PTSD. The prevalence of both depression and PTSD is double among American Indians. Notably, regarding mortality rates, the median age of death is 58 years of age for American Indians and 80 years for the total population; the disparity between median ages is true among many common conditions.⁷ The total population experiences higher median ages of death than American Indians for the following conditions: heart disease, malignant neoplasms, accidents, chronic lower

¹ South Dakota Department of Health (2014). At a Glance. Accessed on December 9, 2015 from: <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/2014Vital/DataCard.pdf>

² South Dakota Vital Statistics Report: A State and County Comparison of Leading Health Indicators (2014). Infant mortality. Accessed on December 9, 2015 from: <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/2014Vital/InfantMortality.pdf>.

³ The Helmsley Charitable Trust. Focus on South Dakota: A Picture of Health. Accessed on December 10, 2015 from: <http://helmsleytrust.org/publication/focus-south-dakota-picture-health>.

⁴ Sacks, V. et al. Adverse Childhood Experiences: National and State Prevalence. Child Trends. Accessed on December 10, 2015 from: http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Brief-adverse-childhood-experiences_FINAL.pdf

⁵ The Helmsley Charitable Trust. Focus on South Dakota: A Picture of Health. Accessed on December 10, 2015 from: <http://helmsleytrust.org/publication/focus-south-dakota-picture-health>.

⁶ The Health Behaviors of South Dakotans, 2013. A report of the South Dakota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, South Dakota Department of Health; <http://doh.sd.gov/statistics/2013BRFSS/default.aspx>

⁷ South Dakota Vital Statistics Report: A State and County Comparison of Leading Health Indicators (2014). Mortality. Accessed on December 9, 2015 from: <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/2014Vital/Mortality.pdf>.

respiratory diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, Diabetes Mellitus, and suicide. While the vast majority (96.1%) of American Indians can access care, only 43.4% have a personal doctor, which is considerably lower than the general South Dakota population (77.4%).⁸ Similarly, American Indians tend to have greater unmet medical, prescription and mental health needs than their counterparts.

American Indians are also often disproportionately affected by health related factors. For example, the majority of the homeless and housing insecure study participants in South Dakota self-identify as American Indian.⁹ Tobacco and marijuana use are significantly higher among American Indians when compared to the rest of South Dakota. From 2011-2013, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) showed that while fewer American Indians had consumed alcohol in the past month (60% of whites compared to 41% of American Indians), more American Indians reported binge drinking (26%) than whites (20%).¹⁰ In addition, 48% of American Indian South Dakotans currently smoke cigarettes compared to only 19% of the white population.¹¹ Opportunities to reduce these significant health disparities through a Medicaid expansion solution will have a positive impact for the citizens of South Dakota.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) AND MEDICAID

The federal government has a responsibility to provide health care services for American Indians that are members of a federally recognized tribe. This obligation is a direct result of treaties between Indian Nations and the United States, executive orders, and federal law. The Indian Health Service (IHS) is the agency responsible for fulfilling the federal government's obligation to American Indians.

American Indian eligibles comprise approximately 35% of South Dakota's Medicaid population. This has significant financial implications for Medicaid as services provided directly by IHS are eligible for 100% Federal Financial Participation (FFP).

The rules governing reimbursement for healthcare services delivered to American Indians are complex. Eligibility for IHS is determined by membership in a federally recognized tribe or by being a descendent of an American Indian in a federally recognized tribe; effectively making the vast majority of American Indians in South Dakota eligible for IHS (IHS-eligibles). Indian Health Service, like other healthcare providers, bills third party payers including Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance. If there is no third party to bill, IHS uses funding received directly from the

⁸ The Helmsley Charitable Trust. Focus on South Dakota: A Picture of Health. Accessed on December 10, 2015 from: <http://helmsleytrust.org/publication/focus-south-dakota-picture-health>.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ The Health Behaviors of South Dakotans (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) (2013). Alcohol Use. Accessed on December 9, 2015 from: <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/2013BRFSS/default.aspx>; <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/2013BRFSS/AlcoholUse.pdf>.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

federal government. When referring or paying for services from non-IHS providers, IHS uses a medical priority system to determine which services it can pay for through its limited Purchased and Referred Care (IHS PRC) budget.

In addition to IHS services, tribes may choose to operate a Tribal Health 638 Facility. Under the authority of the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638), Tribes may assume operation of any program, function, service or activity operated by the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services for Indians, including the Indian Health Service. Tribes can assume total operation of a facility or individual programs or component services or activities of a program. When an IHS-eligible is also Medicaid eligible and receives care directly from IHS or a Tribal 638 facility, the services are billed to Medicaid and paid at 100% FFP.

When an IHS eligible is also Medicaid eligible and receives care from a non-IHS provider, the services are billed to Medicaid by the non-IHS provider and paid at the state's regular Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate. South Dakota's FY16 blended FMAP is 48.38% state/51.62% federal. The following examples illustrate this unique funding stream:

- A 10-year-old Tribal member is examined at an IHS facility. Her condition requires treatment which is available at the IHS facility. The child is eligible for Medicaid so IHS bills Medicaid. The federal government pays the entire bill (100% FFP).
- A 10-year-old Tribal member is examined at an IHS facility. Her condition requires treatment which is not available at the IHS facility, and she is referred to Rapid City Regional Hospital. The child is eligible for Medicaid, so Rapid City Regional bills Medicaid. The federal government pays at the State's FMAP rate, or roughly half the bill for services provided by Rapid City Regional Hospital. The State of South Dakota pays the other half (State's FMAP).
- A low-income adult tribal member is examined at IHS. His condition requires treatment which is available at the IHS facility. The federal government pays the entire bill (100% FFP).
- A low-income adult tribal member is examined at IHS. His condition requires treatment which is not available at the facility, and he is referred to the Rapid City Regional Hospital. The IHS Purchased / Referred Care (PRC) funding has been exhausted in the current federal fiscal year, and no additional funding will be available until October. The adult is not eligible for Medicaid. The tribal member must receive charity care, pay for the treatment himself or wait until the next federal fiscal year (IHS PRC).
- A low-income adult tribal member has an emergency while in Rapid City. He is treated in the emergency room at Rapid City Regional Hospital, does not have

private insurance and is not eligible for Medicaid. The tribal member may submit a request for purchased/referred care to IHS within 72 hours of the service; but coverage by IHS is not guaranteed and the tribal member may receive a denial from IHS. The tribal member then must receive charity care, pay the bills himself or risk having the bills turned over to a collection agency.

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015, South Dakota's Medicaid program expended \$208.2 million for healthcare services for individuals eligible for both IHS and Medicaid. Of that total, \$69.2 million was for services provided directly by IHS and paid by Medicaid at 100% federal funds. The remaining \$139 million was paid at the state's regular FMAP rate or \$67 million general funds and \$72 million federal funds.

South Dakota has long argued that services for individuals eligible for both Medicaid and IHS should be eligible for 100% federal funding whether provided directly through IHS or by non-IHS providers. In 2001, CMS disallowed federal financial participation for Medicaid services for American Indians who were treated at non-IHS facilities that had contracts to provide care on referral for IHS clients at reduced rates. South Dakota understood from a 1997 CMS memorandum issued to the State of Arizona that these services qualified as "received through" an IHS facility. The CMS Departmental Appeals Board (DAB)¹² upheld the disallowance of FFP. That ruling was overturned by a district court in 2003, and later upheld by similar cases in North Dakota¹³ and Arizona. CMS appealed the decisions in North and South Dakota to the United States Court of Appeals.¹⁴ In 2005, the United States Court of Appeals reversed the decisions by the District Courts and ordered North and South Dakota to return the FFP to CMS for referred services provided by non-IHS facilities.

CMS's current policy for 100% FFP requires services to meet the following conditions:

- (1) The service must be furnished to a Medicaid-Eligible AI/AN Individual
- (2) The service must be a "facility service" – i.e., within the scope of services that a facility (e.g., inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, clinic, Federally Qualified Health Center, nursing facility) can offer under Medicaid law and regulation;
- (3) The service must be furnished in an IHS or Tribal facility or by its employees or contractual agents as part of the facility's services; and
- (4) The IHS or Tribal facility must maintain responsibility for the provision of the service and must bill the state Medicaid program directly for the service.

¹² [South Dakota Department of Social Services, DAB No. 1847, \(2002\).](#)

¹³ [North Dakota, ex. rel. Olson v. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 286 F. Supp. 2d 1080 \(D.N.D. 2003\)](#)

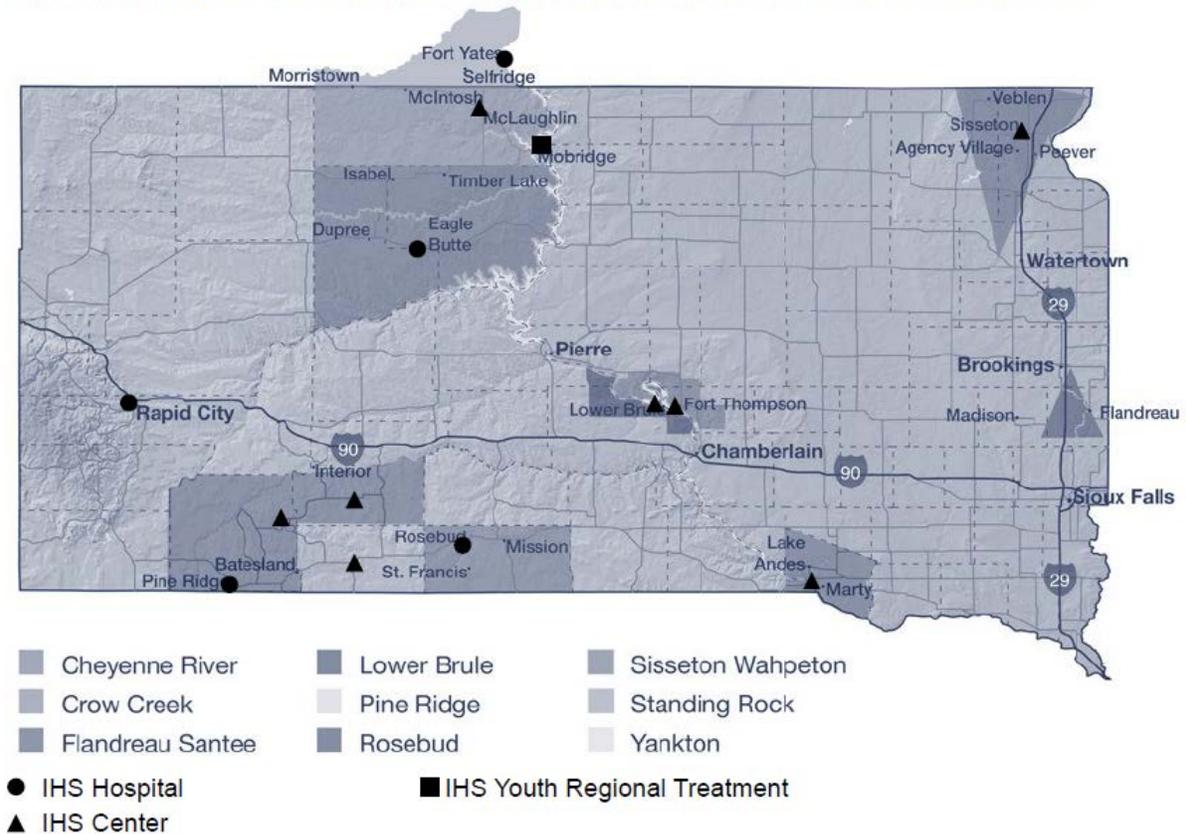
¹⁴ [North Dakota, ex rel. Olson, Appellee, v. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Appellants; Ellenbecker, Appellee, v. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Appellants, 403 F.3d 537 \(8th Cir. 2005\)](#)

IHS-ELIGIBLES AND NON-IHS PROVIDERS

IHS-eligibles in South Dakota are served by the Great Plains Indian Health Service and Tribal 638 Facilities. South Dakota is served by 9 IHS Service Units: Cheyenne River Service Unit, Standing Rock Service Unit, Fort Thompson Service Unit, Lower Brule Service Unit, Pine Ridge Service Unit, Rosebud Service Unit, Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Health Care Center at Sisseton, Yankton Service Unit, and the Rapid City Service Unit.

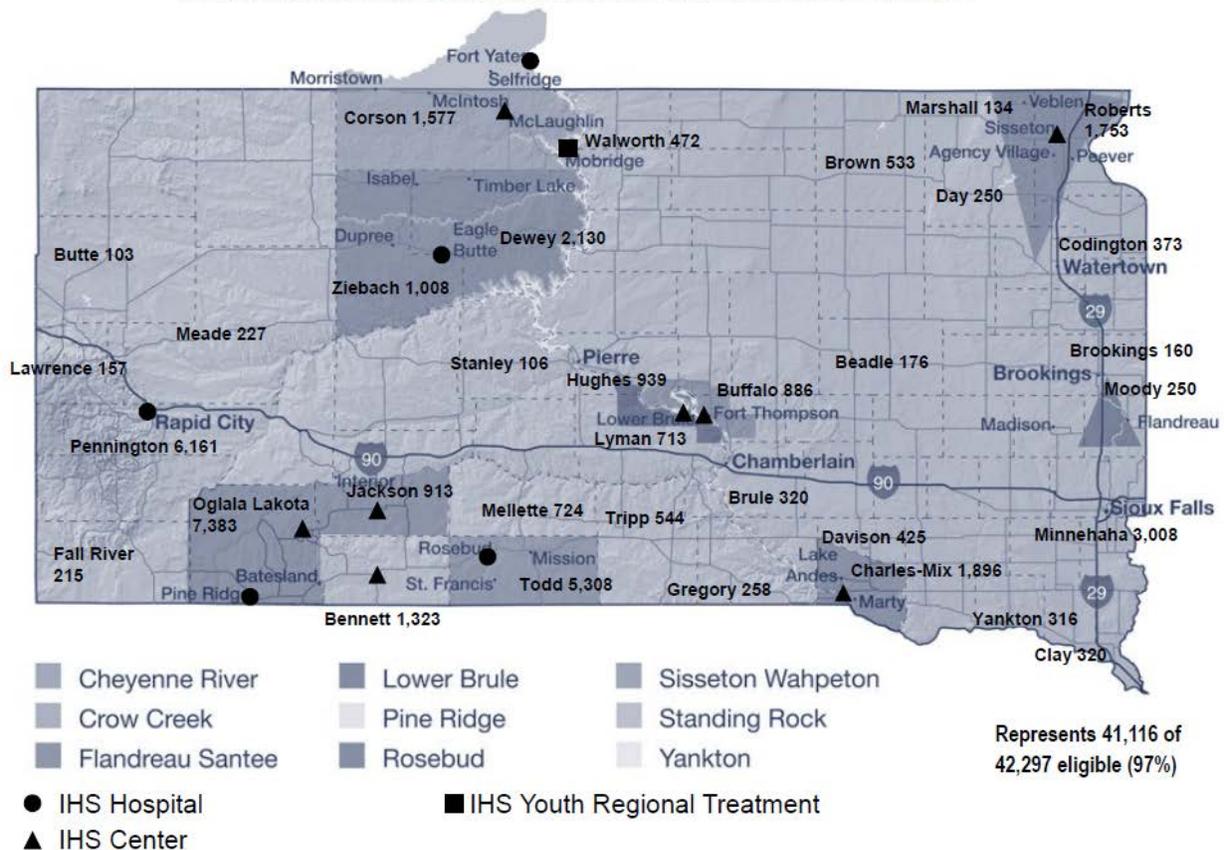
Although IHS provides an array of healthcare services, not all healthcare services are available directly from an IHS or Tribal 638 facility. IHS Hospitals offer the widest array of services, but are only located in four communities in South Dakota: Eagle Butte, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Rapid City. IHS Health Centers offer a range of ambulatory services that include primary care, nursing, pharmacy, laboratory and x-ray, but lack specialized care, emergency room services, round the clock urgent care, and hospital services. IHS Health Stations offer limited primary care services. Across South Dakota, specialized physician and hospital services such as neonatology are limited and not provided by IHS. Consequently, IHS-eligibles have to seek non-IHS providers for those services.

SOUTH DAKOTA FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES



IHS-eligibles also experience geographic barriers when accessing IHS healthcare. Some IHS-eligibles do not live in an IHS Health Service Delivery Area or close to an IHS or Tribal 638 facility. Large concentrations of IHS eligibles live in South Dakota population centers that do not have an IHS facility or Tribal 638 facility. South Dakota's most populous city does not have an IHS facility, but Sioux Falls is home to 22%¹⁵ of Medicaid-eligibles. IHS-eligibles may access South Dakota Urban Indian Health in Pierre, and Sioux Falls for primary care services, but must seek non-IHS providers for specialized physician, emergency room, urgent care, and hospital services. Services provided by South Dakota Urban Indian Health are not eligible for 100% FFP.

AMERICAN INDIANS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID AND IHS BY COUNTY



SOUTH DAKOTA MEDICAID EXPANSION CONCEPT PAPER

Early in 2015, key stakeholders including legislators, health care providers, and staff from the Department of Social Services and Governor Dugaard's office engaged in discussions about opportunities within the existing Medicaid Program to fund Medicaid Expansion in South Dakota. Stakeholders saw an opportunity to leverage more federal funding for American Indian health care in South Dakota if the current CMS interpretation of services "received through" IHS could be expanded to include additional IHS services and contract care services provided by non-IHS providers. The state savings from increased FFP for services "received through" IHS could be directed towards the state costs of Medicaid expansion.

Senator Corey Brown (District 23) posed the question to the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during a meeting with regional representatives from HHS regarding state flexibility for Medicaid Expansion. In March 2015, South Dakota submitted a [Concept Paper](#) to CMS explaining three goals: provide better health care access to American Indians for services provided through IHS, improve health outcomes for American Indians eligible for Medicaid, and increase access to health care for the entire expansion population in South Dakota. At CMS' request, South Dakota identified examples of strategies to improving health care access for American Indians and other rural populations in South Dakota. The concept paper outlined use of telehealth services which already have a strong presence in South Dakota to be expanded within IHS to promote access to high quality health care for American Indians. Development of a Community Health Representative (CHR) model was suggested as an effective strategy to help individuals access necessary medical services and supports. Partnerships with IHS to develop joint venture clinics or expand IHS clinic services to increase access to primary and other specialty care. These were examples of the type of strategies that could be used to promote better health outcomes and, if provided through IHS, could leverage cost savings through increased federal financial participation.

In August 2015, CMS indicated interest in the concept paper and intent to conduct tribal consultation on the proposals described in South Dakota's concept paper. Governor Dugaard directed Department of Tribal Relations Secretary Steve Emery to hand deliver letters explaining the concept paper to each Tribal Chairman. During the October 8, 2015 South Dakota Medicaid Tribal Consultation the concept paper was reviewed and feedback for the concept was positive.

During the month of September, CMS conducted tribal consultation and held calls with State Medicaid Directors. Tribal Consultation for South Dakota Tribes was conducted during a meeting of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board in North Dakota. In late September, Governor Dugaard met with HHS Secretary Burwell in Washington

DC. Secretary Burwell indicated interest at the federal level to pursue federal action to expand the availability of FFP for health care in American Indian communities.

Governor Dugaard formed the [Health Care Solutions Coalition](#) to explore options to improve access to care for American Indians in collaboration with the Tribes, Indian Health Service (IHS) and health care providers in South Dakota.

FUNDING CHANGES PROPOSED BY CMS

CMS WHITE PAPER

In October 2015, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [white paper](#) proposing to update policy on funding for services provided to Medicaid eligible American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) enrollees. Currently, CMS policy allows AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries to choose any provider participating in a State's Medicaid program, including hospitals, clinics and qualified I/T/U facilities, which include:

- 1) Indian Health Services (IHS); and
- 2) Tribal Health Providers (Tribal 638).

If an individual seeks a service at one of these facilities, the federal government pays 100% of the costs. However, if the service is provided outside of an IHS or Tribal facility (I/T), the state is required to pay up to half of the service. Under CMS's proposed policy change, more services would be eligible for 100% federal funding, which would increase access to care for AI/AN Medicaid beneficiaries while generating savings to the state budget that could be used to help fund Medicaid Expansion.

MODIFICATION TO INTERPRETATION OF SECTION 1905(B) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

The CMS white paper proposes three substantive changes that would have significant impact for South Dakota. Changes would affect payment for services for AI/AN Medicaid eligibles and the state would claim the 100% federal match.

The most far reaching is the ability for IHS and Tribal facilities to contract with providers outside of the physical "four walls" of the facility that, to date, has limited services that can be provided with 100% FFP. This provision has the potential to greatly expand access for American Indians. Secondly, expansion of the services that qualify for 100% federal match to include any service covered through the Medicaid State Plan. One potential opportunity for South Dakota is the provision of NEMT services which are now provided under administrative services rather than as a state plan service. Third, the ability for IHS-contracted providers to be able to bill Medicaid directly for services will eliminate some of the variability in payment methodologies that currently exist. The white paper also contemplates changes to the reimbursement rates paid to IHS

suggesting that some services be reimbursed at the IHS encounter rate and others at the state’s Medicaid state plan rates.

Section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act requires the federal government to pay 100% of all services received through an IHS and tribally operated facility. CMS is considering modifications to the interpretation of these conditions as follows:

CURRENT INTERPRETATION	PROPOSED CHANGE
1) The service is furnished to a Medicaid eligible AI/AN;	No change
2) The service is a “ <u>facility service</u> ” within the scope of services at various facilities that meet Medicaid law and regulations, such as: a) Inpatient and outpatient hospitals b) Clinics c) Federally Qualified Health Centers, and d) Nursing facilities;	Expands the definition of “facility service” to include any service provided within the Medicaid State Plan , including transportation services.
3) The service is rendered in an IHS or Tribal facility or by its employees or contractual agents and included as part of the facility’s services; and	Expand the meaning of a contractual agent to include a qualified individual or entity that is enrolled as a Medicaid provider and who provides items or services not within the scope of a Medicaid “facility services” benefit but within the IHS/Tribal facility authority
4) The IHS or Tribal facility maintains responsibility for provision of service and bills the state Medicaid program directly for the service.	Enable IHS and Tribal facilities to include provisions in their contracts with providers that would allow them to bill the State Medicaid program directly

APPLICATION TO MEDICAID

Under a Fee-For-Service (FFS) delivery system, like South Dakota’s, the state Medicaid agency reimburses IHS and Tribal facilities under an all-inclusive rate (AIR). These rates are set federally for inpatient and outpatient settings. CMS’ proposal to expand would impact fee-for-service payments in two major areas:

1. For services that are part of the applicable facility benefit, the IHS/Tribal facility would be reimbursed at the IHS facility rate under the Medicaid state plan regardless of whether they are provided by IHS facility employees or their contracted providers.

2. If an IHS/Tribal facility opts to provide Medicaid services that are of a type that could be funded through the IHS/Tribal authority but are not within the scope of the applicable facility benefit, such as personal care, waiver services, or non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), those services will be paid at the applicable Medicaid state plan rates.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Nationwide, many tribal organizations, state and federal agencies, health plan organizations and universities have commented on the proposed CMS regulatory changes. Comments are available to the public [online](#). There is overwhelming support for this initiative from stakeholders. The proposed changes have implications for all American Indians to help address health care disparities, access to care and the burden of disease that adversely affect American Indians residing in South Dakota. In addition to the SD HCSC, support in South Dakota came from the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board (GPTCHB), Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, and Urban Indian Health.

The Great Plains Tribal Health Board (GPTCHB) and Tribal leadership submitted [comments](#) strongly supporting the broader interpretation of Section 1905(b) but stressed the importance of flexibility as states and tribes collaborate on this initiative. In their comments, the GPTCHB recommended that CMS retain and highlight language it used in the proposal that “states retain flexibility in establishing economic and efficient payment rates to sufficiently reimburse for the provision of services.” The GPTCHB did not support changes to current IHS reimbursement that would impact IHS and Tribal facilities by implementing variable rates depending on the service provision and the “applicable facility benefit” determination. Further, the Board indicated they would like to explore reimbursement for services rendered by Traditional Practitioners that are widely used in Tribal Mental Health Services today.

[South Dakota Urban Indian Health](#) also provided support, noting that as a Title V contractor with IHS, Urban Indian Health should be recognized for their shared obligation, and along with IHS and Tribes should be entitled to receive the 100% FMAP “consistent with their standing within the Indian Health system.”

The [Oglala Sioux Tribe](#) noted their support for these policy changes also highlighting that “CMS proposal to make 100% FMAP available to the State for services received through the Indian Health System is consistent with the United States treaty obligation and trust responsibility.”

The [Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe](#) offered their support indicating that the policy changes will improve coordination of care for Medicaid-eligible American Indians, but noted the

importance of contracted providers remaining accountable to the originating IHS or Tribal facility. The Tribe strongly supported CMS's broader interpretation of the definition of facility services.

The [Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate](#) agreed that health care for American Indians is a federal responsibility and supports the ability to provide services beyond the “bricks and mortar” of the IHS/Tribal facility. They stressed that I/T facilities must retain the ability to oversee and control services eligible for 100% FMAP.

HEALTH CARE COALITION COMMENTS

The South Dakota Health Care Solutions Coalition submitted [written comments](#) to CMS stating appreciation of the proposed changes. These changes can increase programmatic flexibility, minimize unneeded bureaucracy, and maximize health care options for all South Dakotans. While supporting expanded access to 100% FFP to be applicable to providers outside of the IHS and Tribal facility systems, the HCSC requested that CMS provide clarification on two key provisions:

1. How services being “arranged and overseen” by IHS will be defined, particularly in areas where the nearest provider is geographically removed from IHS or Tribal service programs.
2. Reimbursement for facility-based services –100% FMAP should be available for all services that meet the requirements of being coordinated by IHS and provided by a contractual agreement between the IHS or Tribal provider and the non-Indian provider.

Relative to care being arranged and overseen by IHS or Tribal programs the Coalition noted that many South Dakotans are located in urban areas geographically distant from IHS or Tribal programs and these individuals receive primary care outside IHS today. The comments provided Sioux Falls as an example. Sioux Falls is the largest population center of the State but the nearest IHS or Tribal 638 Facilities are located in Wagner and Flandreau respectively. The closest IHS-operated facility in Wagner is over 110 miles away. Without public transportation between these two cities, it would not make sense to disrupt current care coordination and have care directed by the IHS-operated facility. The coalition suggested that the “arranged and overseen” provision could be met through the contractual agent arrangement where non-IHS providers could contract for care coordination and any services provided through the non-IHS provider or referrals by the non-IHS provider would be eligible for 100% federal reimbursement. Another suggestion was to leverage use of the state's Health Information Exchange or other integrated electronic health record tool as a way to meet this requirement.

The Coalition requested flexibility to determine the most appropriate contracting mechanism between the IHS or Tribal provider and non-IHS providers and suggested that this be incorporated into the Medicaid State Plan. The Coalition requested the

ability to develop a master area wide contract between IHS and non-IHS providers and also specifically requested flexibility and alternatives to the current IHS procurement process citing challenges with the current process.

The Coalition also sought clarification on the definition of “facility based services,” noting that all services that meet the requirements of being coordinated and overseen by IHS or Tribal programs should qualify for the 100% federal match. The Coalition provided an illustrative example of an individual who received prenatal care through the Pine Ridge IHS facility and due to complications was referred to a non-IHS provider for perinatology services in Rapid City. The baby developed complications and was in the neonatal intensive care unit. Assuming a contract is in place between IHS and the perinatology provider, the Coalition requested that all services provided outside IHS be eligible for 100% federal match.

Furthermore, the Coalition strongly recommended that non-IHS providers be reimbursed at the state plan rate rather than IHS encounter rates. Generally, providers view Medicaid reimbursements to align with actual service provision. There can be great variation between the South Dakota Medicaid reimbursement rate and the IHS encounter rate as is illustrated in the following examples.

SERVICE	SD MEDICAID RATE	IHS ENCOUNTER RATE
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)	\$950	\$350
Inpatient Stay for 3 Days	\$1,053	\$7,329

Although the Coalition agreed with many of the changes in the white paper, they indicated that extending the encounter rate to non-IHS providers would infringe upon the intent of federal policy. The encounter rate is a unique provision to all Indian Health providers as an extension of the federal trust responsibility to I/T/U's and should remain exclusive to Indian Health programs.

Overall, the Coalition supported the CMS proposal but stressed the importance of maintaining flexibility in how the State and IHS and Tribal facilities would implement the provisions in a way that best meets the needs of South Dakota.

COST OF MEDICAID EXPANSION

Implementation of Medicaid expansion will provide health care coverage to South Dakotans up to 138% federal poverty level (FPL). The State’s goal is to seek flexibility in federal regulations to better meet health care needs of all South Dakotans, including those who are currently eligible for services at Great Plains Area Indian Health Service. In 2013, South Dakota commissioned studies to estimate the impacts of a Medicaid expansion in the State. Leif and Associates conducted an actuarial study estimating future enrollment and per capita expenditures under an expansion scenario. Their work

was complemented by a survey conducted by Market Decisions to estimate the insurance status of South Dakotans, including those without insurance and the number of adults potentially eligible for coverage under Medicaid expansion. The State recently updated these estimates to reflect the results of a new Market Decisions survey, as well as increased actual per capita expenditures.

In other states, actual expenditures and uptake rates exceeded initial cost estimates and enrollment for the expansion population. Therefore, the cost estimates used for Medicaid expansion in South Dakota are based on conservative assumptions that take the experiences of other states into account. The cost estimates assume 54,693 eligibles, providing a 10% buffer over the 49,721 estimated by a survey of the expansion population. The estimate also assumes rapid enrollment of the expansion population, with 100% uptake by SFY2018. Furthermore, the cost estimates assume an average Medicaid cost per person of \$7,744, a 20% increase over state fiscal year 2015 actual costs in order to account for inflation and provide a cost buffer. None of the cost estimates assume the expansion population will be eligible for 100% FFP for services received through IHS, even though 30% of the expansion population is American Indian. The cost estimates also ignore economic impact to tax revenue, which is estimated at \$8.6 million for SFY 2021. Using these assumptions, \$57 million will be needed by 2021 to fully fund the costs of Medicaid Expansion.

The estimates used in Governor Dugaard's FY17 budget proposal include a number of conservative assumptions as a way to mitigate financial risk, ensure the cost estimates for expansion consider experience of other expansion states. Key estimates and assumptions include:

- Estimated 54,693 eligible individuals. This number is based on the 2015 survey of 49,721 plus 10%;
- Estimated 30% of expansion population are American Indian, however no consideration for 100% FFP for this population was considered;
- Accelerated enrollment projected to be 90% in Year 1 and 100% in Year 2;
- The average cost per Medicaid Eligible is projected to be \$7,744 in SFY 2017 with an annual increase of 5%. This rate is based on the actual cost for Low Income Family (LIF) members in SFY 2015 with a 20% adjustment; and
- Administrative expenditures will increase by 5% and require DSS to hire an additional 55 employees.

In calendar years 2014 through 2016, the federal government assumed 100% of the benefit costs for Medicaid expansion members. However, the amount of federal funding reduces beginning in 2017, declining to 90% by 2020. Because the State Fiscal Year begins in July of each year, the blended funding percentages for each state fiscal year are different than those used in the calendar year.

CALENDAR YEAR	FMAP
2017	95%
2018	94%
2019	93%
2020 & beyond	90%

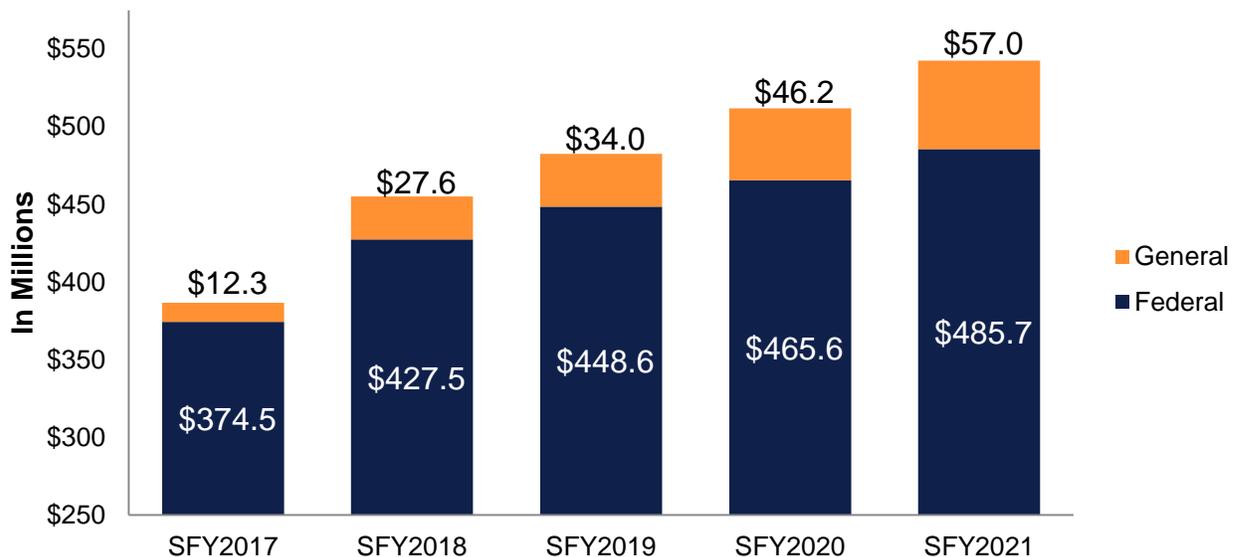
STATE FISCAL YEAR	BLENDED FMAP
SFY2017: 7/1/16-6/30/17	97.5%
SFY2018: 7/1/17-6/30/18	94.5%
SFY2019: 7/1/18-6/30/19	93.5%
SFY2020: 7/1/19-6/30/20	91.5%
SFY2021 & beyond	90.0%

As a result, the cost to South Dakota in state funds will increase over time for the new population. The projected expenditures and necessary savings are detailed below.

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES AND NECESSARY SAVINGS

Cost projections are based upon assumptions like projected eligibles, rate of enrollment, cost of benefits, healthcare system capacity and administrative impact and costs. South Dakota has assumed a conservative approach to the budget to ensure that the costs of Medicaid expansion can be managed without jeopardizing other general fund responsibilities. The ability to receive additional federal funding for services provided to American Indians is critical to the State’s Medicaid expansion. Total projected costs over the next seven years, without any new federal IHS dollars, are projected to be over \$3.5 billion with South Dakota having responsibility for just over \$300 million. The details by year are detailed below. By SFY 2021, South Dakota will need to generate \$57 million dollars in general fund revenue.

PROJECTED MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS, SFY 2017- 2021

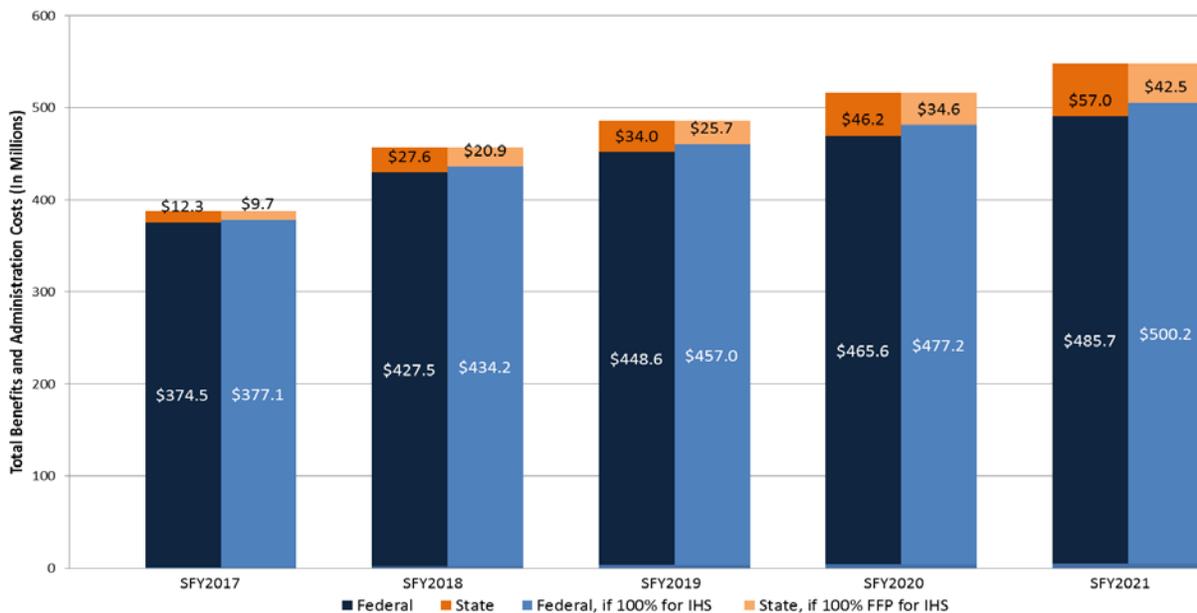


However, South Dakota has been discussing possible changes to how the federal government funds services to American Indians. These changes offer the opportunity to refinance some services currently funded with state funds. If South Dakota obtains CMS approval to claim 100% FFP for services provided to American Indians eligible for IHS-funded services, the costs to the state will be greatly offset. As depicted in the figure, the projected state share could be reduced to \$42 million through SFY 2021.

PROJECTED MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS WITH 100% FFP FOR AMERICAN INDIANS IN EXPANSION POPULATION, SFY 2017 – 2021



COMPARISON OF PROJECTED MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS WITH AND WITHOUT 100% FFP FOR AMERICAN INDIANS IN EXPANSION POPULATION, SFY2017-2021



The State hopes to leverage sufficient savings across the Medicaid program to free up general funds to apply to expansion of coverage. In order to remain budget neutral, the recommendations put forward by the Coalition will need to garner a growing amount of savings each year.

MEDICAID EXPANSION IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Governor Dugaard supports expansion with a solution that ensures costs to the state now and in the future are covered within existing general funds. The [South Dakota Medicaid Expansion Concept Paper](#) requested the ability to leverage additional federal funds through services received through Indian Health Service (IHS). Discussions in this area with the federal government have been promising; CMS released a [White Paper](#) describing [proposed IHS funding changes](#). However, these changes have yet to take effect and still require collaboration from many stakeholders. Governor Dugaard remains committed to ensuring that an expansion plan for South Dakota includes input and buy-in from South Dakota's nine tribes and support from the legislature. To move forward, the following considerations must be met:

- No general fund increase is required, expansion costs must be covered by current general fund budget;
- Tribes must support the expansion proposal; and
- South Dakota Legislature must support the expansion proposal through passage of the Governor's recommended budget.

SOUTH DAKOTA HEALTH CARE COALITION

Governor Daugaard formed the Health Care Solutions Coalition as a partnership between South Dakota Tribes, Legislators, health care providers, relevant State agencies, and other stakeholders. The Coalition was tasked with the development of a solution that supports increased access to healthcare for American Indians and improves health outcomes for American Indians in South Dakota, while leveraging general fund savings to finance expansion in the long term.

This broad stakeholder group appointed by the Governor was co-led by Kim Malsam-Rysdon from the Governor’s Office and Jerilyn Church from the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board.

A consensus approach to decision-making, inclusive of all Coalition members, was employed to identify agreed-upon strategies. The Coalition held its first meeting on October 7, 2015 and met six times to work toward final recommendations. All presentations, documents, and meeting minutes of the Coalition are archived [online](#).

COALITION MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION
Kim Malsam-Rysdon	Governor’s Senior Advisor/Secretary of Health
Jerilyn Church	Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board
Willie Bear Shield <i>Evelyn Espinoza</i>	Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council <i>Rosebud Sioux Tribal Health Program, Alternate</i>
Sen. Corey Brown	South Dakota Legislator District 23
Dr. Mary Carpenter	South Dakota Medicaid Medical Director
Sunny Colombe	Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board
Ron Cornelius <i>Kathaleen Bad Moccasin</i>	Indian Health Service <i>Alternate</i>
Rep. Justin Cronin	South Dakota Legislator District 23
Mike Diedrich	Regional Health
Jason Dilges	Governor’s Budget Director
Terry Dosch	Council of Community Mental Health Centers and Community Substance Abuse Providers
Scott Duke <i>Gil Johnson</i>	South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations <i>Alternate</i>
Steve Emery	Secretary of Tribal Relations
Deb Fischer-Clemens <i>Dr. Tad Jacobs</i>	Avera Health <i>Alternate</i>
Rep. Don Haggar	South Dakota Legislator District 10
Rep. Spencer Hawley	South Dakota Legislator District 7
Sen. Troy Heinert	South Dakota Legislator District 26

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION
Monica Huber <i>Nick Kotzea</i>	Sanford Health <i>Alternate</i>
Richard Huff	Indian Health Service
Sen. Bernie Hunhoff	South Dakota Legislator District 18
Janet Jessup	Department of Tribal Relations
Sen. Deb Peters	South Dakota Legislator District 9
Charlene Red Thunder	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Tribal Health Consultant
Bruce Renville <i>Sara DeCoteau</i>	Chairman of Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate <i>Sisseton Wahpeton Tribal Health Coordinator, Alternate</i>
Barb Smith <i>Mark East</i>	South Dakota State Medical Association <i>Alternate</i>
Sen. Deb Soholt	South Dakota Legislator District 14
Jennifer Stalley	Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas
Sen. Billie Sutton	South Dakota Legislator District 21
Justin Taylor	Flandreau Santee Sioux Health Clinic
Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger	Deputy Secretary of Social Services
Lynne Valenti	Secretary of Social Services
Tony Venhuizen	Governor's Chief of Staff
Sonia Weston	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council

COALITION STRUCTURE AND CHARGE

The Coalition was organized to align with the goals and strategies outlined in the concept paper submitted to CMS in March 2015. Three subcommittees were formed to address specific issues outlined in the concept paper:

- **INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS THROUGH IHS-TRIBAL PROGRAMS SUBCOMMITTEE:** Charged with analyzing more efficient ways to deliver services currently covered by Medicaid through IHS and Tribal programs.
- **NEW SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE:** Charged with identifying innovative ways to provide new services not covered by Medicaid today to reduce more costly care.
- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE:** Charged with identifying solutions to address behavioral health service gaps.

Each subcommittee included a mix of people from the larger Coalition, as well as others from the community with specific subject matter expertise or knowledge about particular issues. The membership of each subcommittee is contained in [Appendix 1](#). All presentations, documents, and meeting minutes of the subcommittees are archived [online](#).

INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS THROUGH IHS-TRIBAL PROGRAMS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Access subcommittee was charged with identifying specific strategies that increase access to services provided through Indian Health Service and tribal health programs. The group targeted its efforts to identify specific strategies that could be put forward to CMS as examples of increasing access. Two major considerations included the use of telehealth to increase access to care at IHS facilities and expansion of specialty services through partnerships with non-IHS providers, particularly prenatal care and behavioral health.

Telehealth is one of South Dakota's strengths; a strong telehealth presence already exists as a way for individuals in rural areas to access high quality health care. The subcommittee evaluated a variety of telehealth options that could be utilized by IHS including Avera eCare, Sanford OneConnect, and CareSpan's Primary Care E-Health System. Each telehealth platform offers a unique way to connect individuals in remote locations to high quality health care. The subcommittee encouraged IHS to pursue a multi-award contracting process to ensure that American Indians maintained access to existing sources of care and to ensure that new telehealth services would not interrupt existing referral patterns and partnerships.

The subcommittee also discussed ways to increase access to primary care, especially obstetric and gynecological care. Regional Health presented their work to embed certain family practice and other physicians within IHS facilities and Regional's current partnership with IHS. The subcommittee evaluated several existing programs focused on promoting healthy birth outcomes and recommended utilizing telehealth and community health workers to increase access to prenatal care.

NEW SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

This subcommittee was charged with increasing access through development of new services through IHS and Tribal Organizations not currently covered by Medicaid. While identifying ways to increase access, the subcommittee was mindful of the impact of new services to all Medicaid recipients. This group focused on two key ideas for new Medicaid services: leveraging the Community Health Worker model (CHW) and discussing Medication Therapy Management (MTM) services. Both of these services have the potential for a positive impact on costs and quality of care.

The coalition discussed the importance of integrating CHWs into a collaborative delivery team. The coalition recommended that services be recommended by a physician and provided face-to-face in the individual's home or community. A physician could mean any primary care provider like a physician, physician assistant, certified nurse practitioners, behavioral health provider, etc. The coalition further recommended that

CHWs work under the supervision of licensed health care professionals including physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners.

The coalition discussed targeting CHWs to care for specific individuals who need assistance to implement a care plan after discharge from a hospital or inpatient behavioral health or substance abuse treatment. The coalition also recommended using CHWs to support pregnant women who need access to prenatal or postpartum care. Since care coordination is already available through the Medicaid Health Home program and Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers, the coalition recommended targeted CHW services to individuals not eligible for other care coordination services.

The committee discussed mechanisms to access MTM services. South Dakota Medicaid has expanded the role of pharmacy services in Health Homes. The subcommittee agreed that Health Homes should provide MTM services to their patients, and that IHS should maximize their Health Homes to provide necessary MTM services.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

This subcommittee focused on increasing additional capacity for behavioral health services for current Medicaid recipients, especially American Indians. The group took the behavioral health services likely to be needed by the Medicaid expansion group under consideration. If South Dakota expands Medicaid, there are certain behavioral health services the Affordable Care Act (ACA) defines as [essential health benefits](#) (EHBs) that are not currently funded through Medicaid. South Dakota will need to ensure that recipients can access all required services. The group started by focusing on understanding the behavioral health system in place for Medicaid today, including the services available from Community Mental Health Centers and Behavioral Health Health Homes. The group identified strategies to increase capacity for behavioral health services provided through IHS and Tribal Organizations.

COALITION DISCUSSION

In addition to the work of the subcommittees, several key themes emerged from coalition discussions, including:

- Ensure access to primary care services across South Dakota while maintaining individuals' relationships with current providers and existing referral patterns;
- Maximize the use of telehealth in Medicaid across South Dakota for both primary and specialty care;
- Leverage existing Medicaid service delivery models like Health Homes, Community Mental Health Centers, and Tribal 638 programs to maximize health promotion and management services in the state;

- Encourage partnerships between IHS and other health care providers through sharing of electronic health records, provider credentialing, and interaction through the state Health Information Exchange; and
- Direct increased revenue to IHS from Medicaid Expansion and other cost savings to IHS's Purchased/Referred Care program.

The coalition discussed other benefits of expansion, including savings to counties for poor relief expenditures, reduced charity care for hospitals, and the benefits of health coverage for South Dakota's uninsured.

The coalition also discussed Medicaid Expansion and the experiences of other states relative to options for Medicaid Expansion in South Dakota. The coalition discussed the ability of states to purchase qualified health plans through the Marketplace as a method for expansion. Since Medicaid-eligible individuals are not eligible for premium tax credits, the state must pay the full cost of commercial premium rates as well as other costs associated with out-of-pocket expenses in excess of those allowed under Medicaid and other Medicaid services not covered by the Marketplace, like dental benefits and non-emergency medical transportation. The total estimated cost of providing QHP services exceeds the average cost of providing care via Medicaid. The coalition determined QHPs to be cost prohibitive as an expansion mechanism. However, there was broad consensus for expanding the Medicaid's program to cover premium assistance associated with Employer Sponsored Insurance to the extent that it is cost effective.

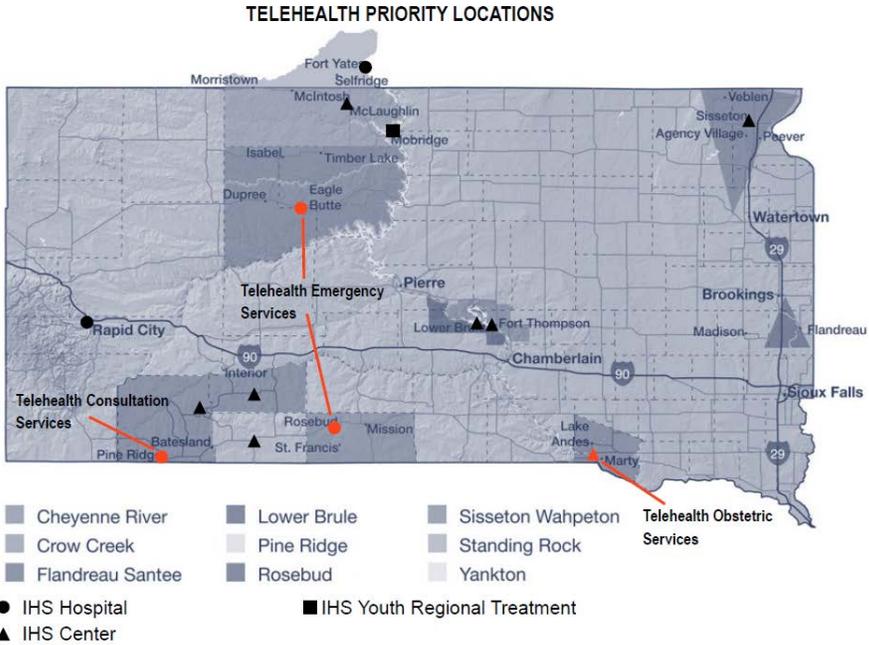
The coalition also discussed health savings accounts (HSAs) and other similar programs employed by other states. Only three states have pursued this option, and all have seen significant administrative costs associated with HSAs with limited outcomes. Other states have already scaled back HSAs in their states due to concerns regarding cost effectiveness. The coalition agreed that the high costs of this option exceed the limited benefits available under Medicaid. Instead, the coalition agreed to further evaluate incentives tied to healthy behaviors. For example, there may be opportunities to incentivize healthy behaviors like chronic disease management by tying wellness activities to reduced co-payments or cost sharing. States are not allowed to tie Medicaid eligibility to work requirements; however the coalition agreed that work referral or training opportunities for the expansion population should be explored.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION STEPS

RECOMMENDATION 1: INCREASE USE OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND INCREASED ACCESS TO PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE CONSULTATION AND TREATMENT THROUGH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE and TRIBAL PROGRAMS.

Telehealth quickly emerged as a key strategy to increase access to care for American Indians in South Dakota. The flexibility of telehealth to meet diverse healthcare needs and the innovation already at work in South Dakota were key to developing recommendations in this area. A survey of IHS CEOs indicated access needs in behavioral health, cardiology, internal medicine, psychiatry, and emergency medicine.

The coalition identified Eagle Butte and Rosebud as priority locations to pilot telehealth emergency services, and Pine Ridge as a priority site for specialty care consultations. The coalition also spent time evaluating the ability to support prenatal care for high risk pregnant women through telehealth. The Wagner IHS Center is a priority location for telehealth consultation services to link providers with high risk obstetric patients. Across South Dakota, access to Behavioral Health services is limited; the coalition also recommended leveraging telehealth for existing behavioral health services and providers.



ACTION STEPS:

1. Great Plains Area Indian Health Service will implement an area wide standardized approach for the provision of telehealth services.
 - IHS will develop a menu of services all IHS locations may pick from to support access to primary and specialty care consults and treatment within IHS facilities.

- IHS will publish a request for proposals and multiple providers may be selected to support this service. IHS publication of a formal solicitation for telehealth services is targeted for late February 2016. Providers will have 30 days to respond. IHS anticipates provider selection in early May 2016.
 - IHS will gather the necessary information to formulate area wide service contracts. Individual IHS service areas will be able to choose the specialty care services most suited to their populations and communities.
2. Explore the ability to expand the use of telehealth in behavioral health and substance abuse services through existing providers and services eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.
 3. Analyze fiscal impact. Costs in this area are expected to grow due to increased utilization of services as a result of better access to primary and specialty care consultation and treatment. However, cost savings are also expected from the reduced need for non-emergency medical transportation associated with consultation travel, decreases in costly emergency transfers, and better health outcomes for pregnant women. Additional cost savings may result from the provision of services through IHS to the extent that services will be eligible for 100% FFP.

RECOMMENDATION 2: DEVELOP A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER/COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM UNDER THE MEDICAID STATE PLAN.

Some individuals need assistance to navigate the health care system and address barriers to accessing health care. Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted members of the community and help individuals access health care services. Services typically provided by CHWs include health promotion and health education, arranging for transportation, disease-specific education, specific direct services, assisting individuals in navigating the health care system, and connecting individuals to other community services and supports. The target population would be individuals discharging from hospital or inpatient behavioral health and services for pregnant women. The coalition also discussed the different roles and areas of overlap between CHWs and providers of similar services like Home Health Aides, Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs), and Certified Medical Assistants (CMAs). The coalition recommended a tiered service delivery model that integrates the roles of various health professionals to ensure services are not duplicated.

ACTION STEPS:

1. If funding is available, the Department of Social Services will implement a Community Health Worker benefit under Medicaid.

- DSS will collaborate with a small group of members of the coalition to develop a Medicaid State Plan Amendment proposing the service.
 - DSS will solicit feedback from tribes and other stakeholders during the drafting process.
2. Analyze fiscal impact. Implementation will be dependent on the availability of funds generated by increased 100% FFP for services for American Indians. The amount of funds necessary is dependent on expected utilization of the service, and if CHW services provided by tribal organizations or IHS will be eligible for 100% FFP.

RECOMMENDATION 3: EXPAND SUPPORT FOR PRENATAL AND POSTPARTUM CARE TO SUPPORT HEALTHY BIRTH OUTCOMES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS.

The coalition discussed the need for more prenatal and postpartum care to support healthy birth outcomes for American Indians. The coalition analyzed several on-going programs and initiatives and recommended that Community Health Worker services incorporate prenatal and postpartum services for pregnant women, as part of Recommendation 2. The coalition also recommended utilizing telehealth to support specialty prenatal care for high risk pregnant women as part of Recommendation 1. The Wagner IHS Center is a priority location for telehealth consultation services to link providers with high risk obstetric patients.

RECOMMENDATION 4: EXPAND CAPACITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY SERVICES THROUGH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE AND TRIBAL PROGRAMS.

Access to behavioral health, psychiatric care, and substance use disorder (SUD) services, is a priority of tribes and IHS CEOs. The coalition discussed strategies to leverage existing programs and infrastructure to meet the needs of American Indians in South Dakota.

Almost 1/3 of the individuals in the Medicaid Health Home program are served through IHS primary care health homes. The coalition discussed leveraging this existing infrastructure and developing partnerships with tribal and community behavioral health programs to develop behavioral health homes for American Indians.

The coalition also recommended exploring the ability for IHS and Tribes to develop a Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) model. Collaboration between Tribes and IHS will be necessary to meet all of the federal service requirements for CMHCs.

Services provided by IHS or Tribal programs are currently eligible for 100% FFP, but few Tribal programs are enrolled as Medicaid SUD providers. The coalition

recommended providing assistance to IHS and Tribal programs to expand SUD services through Medicaid.

ACTION STEPS:

1. The Department of Social Services will provide technical assistance to develop IHS Behavioral Health Health Homes.
 - IHS and Tribal programs will partner to leverage existing infrastructure to support Behavioral Health Health Home model.
2. The Department of Social Services will provide technical assistance for IHS and Tribal programs to better understand CMHC model and requirements.
3. The Department of Social Services will assist IHS and Tribal programs to expand substance use disorder services through Medicaid.
4. Analyze fiscal impact. IHS Health Homes are already able to access 100% FFP. The CMHC partnership between IHS and Tribal programs needs further development before a cost estimate may be developed, but it is anticipated that services provided by IHS or a Tribal Program will be able to access 100% FFP. IHS and Tribal programs providing SUD services are already able to access 100% FFP.

RECOMMENDATION 5: EXPAND MEDICAID ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) TREATMENT SERVICES.

The coalition analyzed the ability to increase access to behavioral health services by leveraging providers not currently eligible to enroll in Medicaid but who possess similar qualifications to other Medicaid providers. The coalition identified Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Professional Counselors under a formal supervision plan from the Board of Counselor Examiners as new providers of behavioral health services. Expanding providers of behavioral health services is not a requirement of expansion, but will be necessary to ensure access to care due to the increased number of Medicaid recipients.

Substance use disorder (SUD) services are a required benefit for the expansion population but are limited to children and pregnant women in South Dakota's current Medicaid program. Medicaid-eligible adults who require SUD services not funded by Medicaid typically access care through South Dakota's Federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant today. The coalition discussed that services should be consistent across funding sources, and recommended SUD services for the current Medicaid population alongside the expansion population. Expanding capacity for chemical dependency services in IHS and Tribal Programs in Recommendation 4 will be necessary to ensure access to care for American Indians.

ACTION STEPS:

1. If funding is available, the Department of Social Services will add Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) under a formal supervision plan from the Board of Counselor Examiners to eligible providers under the Medicaid State Plan.
 - As a new benefit, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and LPCs under formal supervision services will be associated with an increase in Medicaid costs and implementation will be dependent on the availability of funds generated by increased 100% FFP for services for American Indians.
2. Analyze the potential financial impact of use of Medicaid funds for current services.
 - Analyze Fiscal Impact. Services currently provided through South Dakota's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant are subject to a federal maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement. The MOE requires South Dakota to maintain the same amount of general fund expenditures for SUD services. To the extent that individuals would receive services from Medicaid instead of the block grant, the priority would be to repurpose existing general funds made available through Medicaid expansion to provide the same non-Medicaid eligible services available today.

RECOMMENDATION 6: ADD EVIDENCED BASED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY AS A MEDICAID STATE PLAN SERVICE.

Functional family therapy (FFT) is an evidence-based, short-term, behavior oriented family therapy program that targets youth with severe behavior programs. Trained FFT therapists provide intensive family therapy to change patterns of family interaction that are contributing to problem behavior. The coalition discussed the expansion of the current pilot programs as a Medicaid-eligible service in order to access federal funds to replace state general funds currently dedicated to the program.

The coalition also discussed other opportunities to provide less intensive behavioral health and SUD services in settings other than inpatient facilities. The coalition recommended evaluating school-based services and day treatment (partial hospitalization) services as part of the full continuum of services for children and youth. Day hospital services could also be targeted as a service for adults.

ACTION STEPS:

1. If funding is available, the Department of Social Services will add Functional Family Therapy as a Medicaid State Plan service.

- Analyze fiscal impact. FFT is currently funded entirely with state general funds as part of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Implementing FFT as a Medicaid State Plan service will allow South Dakota to access federal funds through the state’s regular FMAP to provide the service to eligible youth.
2. If funding is available, consider feasibility of behavioral health school-based services for children and day treatment services as part of the full continuum of services for children, youth, and adults.
- Analyze fiscal impact. Further evaluation of the feasibility of new day hospital and school-based services is necessary to determine a fiscal impact.

NEXT STEPS

South Dakota’s Medicaid expansion funding strategy hinges on expanded access to federal dollars for services for American Indians. If South Dakota obtains CMS approval to claim 100% FFP for services provided to American Indians eligible for IHS-funded services, the costs to the state will be greatly offset.

CMS has not yet issued final guidance on the proposed policy to expand 100% federal reimbursement for all IHS eligibles receiving services whether provided directly through IHS or by non-IHS providers.

Some of the SD HCSC recommendations require further analysis to determine the fiscal impact. That information, coupled with the final CMS guidance will be analyzed to determine if funding to support the cost of expansion in 2021 and any new services recommended is available within the current budget.

CONCLUSION

In order to expand Medicaid coverage to adults with incomes up to 138% FPL, South Dakota must find a way to offset new costs. Governor Daugaard has adopted a conservative estimate of costs, taking into account the experiences of states that have already expanded Medicaid, to ensure that South Dakota will have sufficient resources to fund the expansion in State Fiscal Year 2021 when South Dakota becomes responsible for 10% of costs. In SFY 2017, the cost of expansion to the state would be \$12 million but would increase to \$57 million by SFY 2021.

The Coalition, through its recommendations, has paved a path for moving forward to increase access to services and strengthen capacity in IHS and Tribal programs. While in the long run these initiatives have the potential to produce long-term cost savings, some recommendations will incur costs for implementation. The HCSC will consider which recommendations are most cost-effective and will work to implement them in an efficient manner, as funding is available.

South Dakota's Medicaid expansion funding strategy hinges on expanded access to federal dollars for services for American Indians. If South Dakota obtains CMS approval to claim 100% FFP for services provided to American Indians eligible for IHS-funded services, the costs to the state will be greatly offset. However, Governor Daugaard will only move forward with Medicaid expansion with the support of South Dakota's tribes and the state legislature.

CMS has not yet issued final guidance on the proposed policy to expand 100% federal reimbursement for all IHS eligibles receiving services whether provided directly through IHS or by non-IHS providers. South Dakota will continue its dialogue with CMS in this area and finalize this report after formal guidance is released.

APPENDIX 1: Coalition Subcommittee Membership

INCREASING ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION
Jerilyn Church	Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board
Sunny Colombe	Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board
Ron Cornelius	Indian Health Service
Sara DeCoteau	Sisseton Wahpeton Tribal Health Coordinator
Mike Diedrich	Regional Health
Scott Duke	South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations
Senator Troy Heinert	South Dakota Legislator District 26
Monica Huber	Sanford Health
Richard Huff	Indian Health Service
JoEllen Koerner	CareSpan, Inc.
Kim Malsam-Rysdon	Governor's Office
Charlene Red Thunder	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Tribal Health Consultant
Rachael Sherard	Avera Health
Bryan Slaba	Wagner Community Hospital
Angelia Svihovec	Mobridge Hospital
Justin Taylor	Flandreau Tribal Health Administrator
Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger	Department of Social Services
Tim Trithart	Community Health Center of the Black Hills
Lynne Valenti	Department of Social Services

NEW SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION
Willie Bear Shield	Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council
Jerilyn Church	Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board
Michael Coyle	Coteau Des Prairies Health Care System
Evelyn Espinosa	Rosebud Sioux Tribal Health Program
Deb Fischer-Clemens <i>Dr. Tad Jacobs</i>	Avera Health <i>Alternate</i>
Monica Huber <i>Nick Kotzea</i>	Sanford Health <i>Alternate</i>
Edmund Johnson, Jr.	Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Council
Donna Keeler	Urban Indian Health
Bernie Long	Indian Health Service, Ft. Thompson
Kim Malsam-Rysdon	Governor's Office

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION
John Mengenhauen <i>Pam Locken</i>	Horizon Health Care <i>Alternate</i>
Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger	Department of Social Services
Lynne Valenti	Department of Social Services
Sonia Weston	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER	ORGANIZATION
Richard Bird	Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Chemical Dependency Treatment Center
Jerilyn Church	Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board
Evelyn Espinosa	Rosebud Sioux Tribal Health Program
Sandra Fortuna	Southern Plains Behavioral Health Services
Dan Foster	Rosebud Sioux Tribe Behavioral Health
Jill Franken <i>Alicia Collura</i>	Falls Community Health <i>Alternate</i>
Dr. Dan Heinemann	Sanford Health
Amy Iversen-Pollreis	Department of Social Services
Donna Keeler	Urban Indian Health
Steve Lindquist <i>Deanna Larson</i>	Avera Health <i>Alternate</i>
Kim Malsam-Rysdon	Governor's Office
Richard Moves Camp	Oglala Sioux Tribe
Belinda Nelson	Community Counseling Services
Betty Oldenkamp	Lutheran Social Services
Delores Pourier	Oglala Sioux Tribe
Charles Sitting Bull	Oglala Sioux Tribe Behavioral Health
Tom Stange	Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services
Dr. Matt Stanley	Avera Behavioral Health Services
Brenda Tidball-Zeltinger	Department of Social Services
Lynne Valenti	Department of Social Services
Marlies White Hat	Rosebud Systems of Care Program