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Special Health Services Financial Coverage Program

Special Health Services (SHS) is a unit within the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services that works to promote a system of care and services that improves the health and well-being of children with special health care needs and their families. According to the 2020-2021 National Survey of Children's Health, 19.4% of children in North Dakota, ages 0 through 17, have a special health care need. Therefore, enhancing systems of care across the state to promote the health and development of children with special health care needs is essential for optimal health outcomes. SHS is comprised of four overarching programs that include the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) System Enhancement Program, Coordinated Services Program, Financial Coverage Program, and the Newborn Screening and Follow-Up Program. Health care providers play a critical role in the care management of children. Because children with special health care needs may require a comprehensive plan of care, it is essential that providers are aware of the many services and resources that SHS offers children and families across the state. The aim of this presentation is to provide an overview of each of these programs and explore the steps health care professionals can take to connect families with SHS.