



EBCI TRIBAL OPTION

[For Providers](#)



April 2025 Provider Newsletter

What is the EBCI Tribal Option?

EBCI Tribal Option assists approximately 5,100 Tribal-eligible Medicaid beneficiaries, primarily in Cherokee, Haywood, Swain, Jackson, and Graham counties.

[Learn More](#)

1915(i) Resources Ready for Download!

Toolkit: 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services

Bilingual resources about 1915(i) services for Medicaid members with serious mental health needs, severe substance use disorders, traumatic brain injuries or intellectual/developmental disabilities.



Essentials
Presentation



Social Media
Posts & Graphics



Email Templates



Explainer Flyers



Website Guide

Learn more at medicaid.nc.gov/1915i.



The **1915(i) Toolkit** was recently launched to help share information about local home and community-based services within your community.

1915(i) services are for certain people with NC Medicaid. They are for people who have intellectual/developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, serious mental health conditions or severe substance use disorders. Some people on the waitlist for the NC Innovations Waiver may qualify. These Medicaid services support people in their own homes or communities, instead of care facilities.

1915(i) services are available to eligible people with NC Medicaid through NC Medicaid Direct, Tailored Plans or the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Option.

Please share these bilingual and accessible resources to help your community get the answers they need. The 1915(i) Toolkit is available in **English** and **Spanish**.

The 1915(i) Toolkit includes:

- NEW! **PowerPoint with essential details about 1915(i)**
- NEW! **1915(i) Flyer**
- NEW! **1915(i) Community Living and Supports Flyer**
- NEW! **Social media copy and graphics**
- NEW! **Email templates and newsletter graphic**
- Webinar: **“Accessing Home and Community-Based Services through 1915(i)”**
- and related **Questions and Answers**

Download the toolkit

Also added: New web pages about 1915(i) at **[medicaid.nc.gov/1915i](https://www.medicaid.nc.gov/1915i)**.

NCDHHS and Positive Childhood Alliance Hold Public Event to Recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Children and Families welcome to attend celebration at Pullen Park in Raleigh

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services along with Positive Childhood Alliance is holding an event as Governor Josh Stein proclaims April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in North Carolina. Recognizing the role everyone plays in helping North Carolina's children reach their full potential, this Child Abuse Prevention Month, community organizations, government agencies, businesses, faith groups and other stakeholders will come together to amplify a message of hope for strong families and supportive communities. A free family-friendly public event will be held on Tuesday, April 1, at Pullen Park in Raleigh, North Carolina, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes free food and entertainment while supplies last.

The 2025 national campaign theme, "Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention," highlights the importance of working together to create the conditions that build a stronger future for all.

"Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment with hope for the future," said NC Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Dev Sangvai. "By ensuring families have the resources, support and connections they need before challenges become crises, we can build a stronger North Carolina where all children and families can thrive."

In collaboration with statewide partners like NCDHHS, Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina (PCANC) is committed to driving systems change and building a strong family support ecosystem across North Carolina. We are working to create the conditions where children grow up with positive experiences and nurturing relationships—while also equipping local communities with the tools and support they need to strengthen all families.

"For every \$10 spent on child welfare in the U.S., only \$1.50 goes toward prevention—we can and must do better," said Sharon Hirsch, President and CEO of Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina. "By investing in family resource centers and community-based solutions, we can ensure families have the support they need before challenges become crises. When we shift our focus to prevention, we create a future where all children grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environments, surrounded by positive experiences and hope."

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, PCANC and NCDHHS are joining the national effort to reshape the narrative around child maltreatment prevention and increase investments in programs and policies that prioritize children and families. This month, and all year long, communities and individuals can help NCDHHS and PCANC advance family-centered prevention programs and policies by taking action in the following ways:

- Attend a Pinwheel Planting hosted by NCDHHS and PCANC on Tuesday, April 1, 11 a.m., at Pullen Park (520 Ashe Ave. Raleigh, NC). [Learn more.](#)
- The public and media are invited to attend. Speakers include NCDHHS Secretary Dr. Dev Sangvai, NCDHHS Director of Human Services Lisa Tucker Cauley, PCANC

President and CEO Sharon Hirsch, and Parent Leader Sanaa Sharrieff. Food and drink will be provided while supplies last.

- Wear blue on Friday, April 4 – Wear Blue Day – to show support for children and families. Post a photo or video on social media and include the #WearBlueDay2025 and #NC hashtags.
- Participate in digital advocacy day on Tuesday, April 9, to advocate for increased federal investment in community-based child abuse prevention grants that provide states and communities with the resources to implement community-based solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Follow PCANC on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) and share our posts throughout April. Encourage friends and family to do the same. [Click here](#) to follow NCDHHS on all social media platforms.

For more ways to get involved in Child Abuse Prevention Month, please visit PositiveChildhoodAllianceNC.org.

About Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina

Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina connects organizations and individuals with what they need to help children and families meet their full potential. Founded in 1979 (as Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina), Positive Childhood Alliance North Carolina has demonstrated 46 years of commitment to nurturing positive childhoods for all. Through data-driven coaching, professional development, advocacy efforts and building public understanding PCANC strives to build and share solutions that work for all families. In partnership with state and local level child advocates and network members, PCANC is creating a state where families live in connected, supportive communities and as a result, all North Carolina children will live purposeful lives, filled with positive experiences and hope for the future. PCANC is the North Carolina chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, the National Family Support Network, and Circle of Parents®. It is a proud recipient of Charity Navigator's prestigious 4-star rating and GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency. For more information, contact Kris Demers, Director of Communications and Marketing, at (919) 829-8009, ext. 619 or kdemers@positivechildhoodnc.org.

About North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

The NC Department of Health and Human Services manages the delivery of health- and human-related services for all North Carolinians, especially our most vulnerable people – children, elderly, disabled and low-income families. In collaboration with partners, NCDHHS provides essential services to improve the health, safety and well-being of all North Carolinians. The department works closely with health care professionals, community

leaders and advocacy groups; local, state and federal entities; and many other stakeholders to make this happen.

April 2025 Tribal Option Awareness Campaigns



Acronym of the Month

AHA
American Hospital
Association

CHEROKEE LANGUAGE

COLORS
tsulvsiwisda
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North Carolina Prepares for Measles Prevention Amid National Increase in Cases

Urges people and families to stay up to date on vaccinations

As measles cases continue to rise across the country, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is taking proactive steps to ensure the state remains prepared for any potential cases or outbreaks. While there have been no reported cases of measles in North Carolina so far in 2025, public health officials are urging residents, health care providers and child care centers to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, their communities and those at highest risk, especially unvaccinated children.

"Although we currently have no cases of measles in North Carolina, the increase in cases across the nation and the world means we must be vigilant," said Dr. Zack Moore, NCDHHS State Epidemiologist. "Vaccination is the best way to protect against measles. We encourage all North Carolinians to ensure they are up to date on their MMR vaccinations,

and we are working with local health departments to ensure our state is prepared for any potential outbreaks."

In the United States, measles cases surged from 59 cases in 2023 to 285 cases in 2024. As of March 27, 2025, a total of 483 confirmed measles cases were reported by 20 jurisdictions. Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can lead to serious health complications, especially in babies and young children. The virus spreads through the air when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes. The virus can also be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces or objects and can remain airborne for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area. The virus can spread before and after the presence of symptoms, putting unvaccinated individuals at high risk.

The more infectious a virus is, the higher the percent of the population that needs to be vaccinated to prevent an outbreak. For measles, a population vaccination rate of at least 95% is needed to protect the community from an outbreak. The state's measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination rate for kindergartners was 93.8% for the 2023-2024 school year, just below the 95% threshold, but vaccination rates are even lower in some counties and schools. For 2023-2024 school-specific coverage and exemption rates, please visit the [North Carolina Kindergarten Immunization Data Dashboard](#).

Key Preparedness Measures for North Carolina:

Vaccination: NCDHHS strongly urges all residents to ensure they are up to date on the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. Children should receive the first dose of the vaccine at 12-15 months and the second dose at 4-6 years of age. Adults who have not been vaccinated or are unsure of their status should consult their health care provider. Please see the [CDC's measles FAQ and vaccinations page](#) for more information.

Public Awareness: The state and local health departments are working closely with health care providers, schools and child care centers across the state to ensure that they are aware of the risks and prepared for potential cases of measles.

Guidance for Child Care Centers and Schools: NCDHHS encourages schools, childcare centers and community organizations to review vaccination records and ensure that all children and staff members are up to date with their vaccinations. Early identification and action are essential if an outbreak were to occur. For detailed vaccination recommendations, please refer to the [NCDHHS measles webpage](#).

Preparedness and Monitoring: The state's public health officials are closely monitoring trends in other states and globally. NCDHHS has issued guidance for health care providers to be on the lookout for measles symptoms and to immediately report suspected cases.

What Residents Can Do:

- Ensure children and adults are vaccinated or have evidence of immunity to measles. For more information, visit the [CDC Measles Vaccine Considerations](#) page.
- Be aware of measles symptoms, including fever; cough; runny nose; red, watery eyes; and a red rash that usually begins on the face and spreads to the rest of the body.
- If you suspect you or your child may have been exposed to measles, call your health care provider immediately. Do not visit the doctor's office or emergency room without notifying them in advance to prevent exposure to others.
- If you are planning to travel internationally or to an area with a known outbreak domestically, tell your health care provider about your travel plans.

For more information on measles prevention and vaccination resources, visit the NCDHHS website and see the page dedicated to [measles and measles prevention](#).

Questions - Contact Live Help Desk

Submit questions to the Help Desk via email at openpayments@cms.hhs.gov or by calling 1-855-326-8366 (TTY Line: 1-844-649-2766), Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (ET), excluding Federal holidays.

The Help Desk refers media inquiries to CMS' Press Office for response.

Visit the [Resources](#) page on the Open Payments website for many of the above resources.





241 Cherokee Hospital Loop

Cherokee, NC 28719

MEMBER/PROVIDER: 800.260.9992

[Connect With Us](#)

