

# North Dakota



**Executive summary:** With nearly half of residents residing rurally and close to 30% in frontier areas, North Dakota has the third-largest frontier population. North Dakota is especially focused on workforce development initiatives, exploring new technology tools, and Make Rural America Healthy Again-focused initiatives.

Funding  
FY26

\$199M



## Goals & Key Themes

- **Rebuild and retain** rural health workforce through new residencies, grow-your-own workforce pipelines, recruitment and retention grants, and training to develop the existing workforce to work at the top of their license.
- **Prevent chronic disease**, restore health, and reduce cost by launching Eat Well ND and ND Moves Together to put evidence-based practices in nutrition, physical activity and behavioral health at the center of everyday life.
- **Transform care models** with new tech tools, such as telehealth hubs, mobile clinics, remote patient monitoring. Cut costs by modernizing tech infrastructure and bringing providers together to support shared infrastructure and improved data sharing.



## Spotlight Initiatives

- North Dakota brings forth a series of innovative **consumer-facing technologies**, such as automated pharmacy kiosks, self-collected lab specimen processing for at-home testing, and health apps/devices. They also propose **drones for rapid delivery** of supplies and laboratory samples.
- **Grow-your-own pipeline programs** such as “Scrubs Camp” and “Scrubs Academy,” 1-day and **overnight immersion experiences** for grades 5-12 as well as career education programs in high schools and shadowing/mentoring.
- Expansion of residency slots and creation of Tribal residency opportunities.



## Expected Impact

### Proposed Outcomes:

- 5 train-in-place programs engaging 200 students; 500 students participating in Scrubs Camp and Scrubs Academy
- Evidence-based wellness initiatives in at least 40 rural communities
- Over 90% compliance with shared protocols
- 10% reduction in preventable hospitalizations and 3-point reduction in readmissions

### State Policy Actions:

- Commitments to Presidential Fitness test, SNAP waiver restrictions, nutrition CME, and joining PA Compact