

North Dakota Rural Health Issues

The North Dakota Rural Health Association (NDRHA) represents and advocates for rural North Dakotans on a range of health issues. Federal health policy does not always work well in rural areas. Nationally, only 20 percent of Americans are classified as rural; nevertheless, rural populations are more reliant on federal health and social service programming. A higher percentage of rural residents receive Medicaid than urban. In North Dakota, 54 percent of the people using Medicaid are rural. In rural North Dakota, people have pride in their communities. They care about their neighbors. The people they meet at the clinic are the same people they sit next to at the basketball game, or at church, or visit with in the grocery store. Rural communities tend to be collaborative, creative, and resilient. People band together for the good of the town. At the same time rural areas have barriers to deal with that impact both health and health care.

One barrier is access to care, which includes physical remoteness and isolation, the distance between services and resources; financial insecurity such as higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and less health insurance; lower and less reliable payment to health care providers and facilities; and health workforce shortages and maldistribution.

A second barrier is “mortar and brick” or the physical infrastructure of a community and a health system. The third barrier is technology, including broadband which is essential for modern health systems. And a fourth barrier is economics, including maintaining a viable local economy providing good paying jobs and growth opportunities.

What happens in Washington D.C. has an impact on us in our daily lives, affecting family and

friends. The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) is a massive federal policy change that impacts our health care system and even our personal health.

The OBBBA ushered in many health-related changes that can have a negative impact on rural North Dakota. This includes reducing access to care and contributing to poorer health outcomes. Over a ten-year period, OBBBA will cut Medicaid by \$1 trillion nationally. This includes a projected \$1.4 billion cut to North Dakota (source: North Dakota Legislative Council). The cause of reductions is related to a stronger work requirement. The new work requirement stipulation is not necessarily a bad idea; however, nationally, 67 percent of adult Medicaid recipients already work (72 percent in ND). Another 20-25 percent are either disabled/have medical issues preventing work or are family care givers and not required to seek employment.

Nationally, the federal government estimates that 12-17 million would lose Medicaid coverage, primarily those in Medicaid Expansion. Out of the 105,000 ND Medicaid recipients, upwards of 18 percent or 19,000 would lose access in the state (Legislative Council). The rea-



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:35 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a conditional use request filed by Landon & Cheryl Stern-Applciant/Landowner, for the purpose of placing a mobile home in an agricultural zone on a tract of land described as the NW1/4 of Section 9, Township 154 North, Range 94 West (**Unorganized Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments can be mailed to Mountrail County Planning & Zoning, PO Box 248, Stanley ND 58784-0248 and will be accepted until **Noon** on Friday, September 12th, 2025. Phone: 701-628-2909 or Email: melissav@co.mountrail.nd.us.

Mountrail County complies with Title VI Nondiscrimination Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act. These policies can be viewed at the Mountrail County Human Resources Office. If any special accommodations are required, please contact: Mountrail County Title VI Compliance & ADA Coordinator, Randi Schumaier, P.O. Box 69, Stanley, ND 58784-0069, phone: 701-628-8980, Fax: 701-628-2276, email: rschumaier@co.mountrail.nd.us.

September 22nd, 2025 P&Z meeting
Monday, September 22nd, 2025, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM (CDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/321677277>

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
Access Code: 321-677-277

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Dated at Stanley, North Dakota this 29th day of August, 2025.

Charlie Sorenson, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

ATTEST:
Melissa Vachal
Planning & Zoning Administrator
Sept. 3, 10, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:38 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a conditional use request filed by Smartlink Group o/b/o AT&T-Applciant in concurrence with Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative-Landowner, for the purpose of modifying existing cell tower in an agricultural zone, on a tract of land described as Outlot 1 of the NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 13, Township 153 North, Range 92 West (**Knife River Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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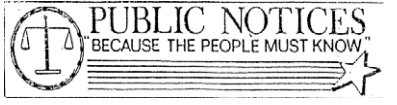
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son for the reduction in the number of Medicaid participants is directly related to implementing the work, and especially the reporting requirement, the administrative function is needlessly burdensome; applying twice a year, reporting work data, online, monthly to prove they are working, dealing with cumbersome online systems and technology, making re-application mistakes and/or administration burdens, having to wait to reapply, and added service costs/out-of-pocket expenses for those on Medicaid Expansion (\$35 service fee). Nationally, about 40 percent receiving Medicaid Expansion are expected to lose access. With rural North Dakota's high utilization of Medicaid this will have a profound impact in rural areas for patients and health providers. Future policy needs to ensure that work requirements help as opposed to harming rural communities.

In addition to Medicaid, there are serious modifications to the ACA Marketplace, the federally supported health insurance option. About 45,000 North Dakotans have insurance through the Marketplace. The OBBBA eliminates the expanded tax credit that buys down the cost to the subscriber. This will increase premium costs, some as high as 75



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The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:41 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose receiving comments on a subdivision plat filed by WSB LLC-Applciant in concurrence with Three Affiliated Tribes of Ft Berthold Reservation-Landowner, for the future sale of residential lots. Legal Description: A tract of land known as Parshall Bay Subdivision 2nd Addition consisting of lots 1-7 Block 1, located in part of the S1/2SE1/4 Section 1, Township 151 North, Range 91 West (**Liberty Township**).

The provision regarding a subdivision is contained within the Mountrail County Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:50 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on a conditional use filed by Terry Clayton-Applciant in concurrence with LVH-15 LLC-Landowner, for the purpose creating a retail space in a commercial zone, a tract of land described as a Replat of Outlot 4 being portions of Outlot 4 & Outlot 6 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 17, Township 152 North, Range 91 West (**Van Hook Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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percent for the 90 percent of North Dakotans who have their insurance through the Marketplace.

Other OBBBA concerns impacting health are cuts and changes to “safety net” programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), home weatherization, fuel assistance, and other services. This will negatively affect specific rural populations such as seniors, moms with children, veterans, and people with disabilities.

We recognize that these changes not only affect rural citizens but also your local health system. The national projection is that over 300 rural hospitals will close, with North Dakota looking at projected three closures. Due to cutbacks in payment and in the number of people having insurance through Medicaid and/or the ACA Marketplace, rural hospitals and clinics will have to cutback services offered and will see staff and provider reductions.

As one North Dakota Critical Access Hospital CEO commented “people will still get sick. They will come to our emergency room, and we will treat them. But there will not be any funding to cover the cost, it will go to our bad debt. Also, emer-



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The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:53 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on a Conditional Use filed by Terry Clayton-Applciant in concurrence with LVH-15 LLC-Landowner, for a Country Store in a commercial zone, a tract of land described as a Replat of Outlot 7 being portions of Outlots 4, 6 & 7 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 17, Township 152 North, Range 91 West (**Van Hook Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:56 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on a Variance request filed by Terry Clayton-Applciant in concurrence with LVH-15 LLC-Landowner, to request for a setback 167'3" off of HWY 23 rather than the required 250', to place the new building in the same place as the old building for a Country Store. A tract of land described as a Replat of Outlot 7 being portions of Outlots 4, 6 & 7 located in the SE1/4SE1/4 of Section 17, Township 152 North, Range 91 West (**Van Hook Township**).

The provision regarding a variance is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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gency care is not primary care, there will be no continuation of prevention, wellness, and disease management. People will just get sicker.”

We encourage you to discuss your concerns with your local providers. NDRHA will stay committed to improving health and access to care for rural North Dakotans.



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 8:59 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on a renewal of a conditional use request filed by Fritel Construction-Applciant in concurrence with Sam Fritel-Landowner to use agricultural land to mine gravel on a 22.00 acres, more or less, tract of land in the NW1/4NW1/4, Gov't Lots 2 & 3 less Outlot 1 of Section 22, Township 157 North, Range 90 West (**Clearwater Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 9:02 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments on a renewal of a conditional use request filed by Gravel Products Inc-Applciant in concurrence with Smokey Nelson LLP-Landowner to use agricultural land to mine gravel on a 40.00 acres, more or less, tract of land in the SE1/4NE1/4 of Section 30, Township 156 North, Range 90 West (**Palermo Township**).

The provision regarding a conditional use is contained within the Mountrail County Zoning Land Development Code. The Land Development Code may be viewed at the Mountrail County Planner's Office during office hours or online at www.co.mountrail.nd.us under the Planning & Zoning section.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION APPLICATION FOR APPROPRIATION OF WATER FROM GROUND WATER

TAKE NOTICE that H2O CONNECTIONS, LLC, WATFORD CITY, ND, has submitted Water Permit Application No. 7420 to the North Dakota Department of Water Resources for a permit to divert and appropriate water from ground water.

The application requests an annual appropriation of 500.0 acre-feet of water for Industrial use at a pumping rate of 1,500 gallons per minute, utilizing point(s) of diversion located in the NW1/4 of Sec. 12, T. 155 N., R. 091 W., Mountrail County.

TAKE NOTICE that written comments regarding the proposed appropriation must be filed in the Department of Water Resources, 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504-5262, by 5 o'clock p.m., on the 10 day of October 2025. The Department of Water Resources shall consider all written comments received and prepare a recommended decision which will be provided to the applicant and any person who filed written comments. Those persons may file additional comments with the Department of Water Resources, request an adjudicative proceeding on the application, or both.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, on August 26, 2025.

/s/ John Paczkowski, P.E.

State Engineer
Department of Water Resources
1200 Memorial Highway
Bismarck, ND 58504-5262
Sept. 10, 17, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mountrail County Planning & Zoning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 22nd, 2025 at 9:05 A.M.** via GOTOMEETING or in the Commissioners room in the Mountrail County Courthouse located at 101 North Main Street, Stanley, North Dakota, for the purpose of discussing a conditional use request filed by Jonathan Patten-Applciant in concurrence with Salgado Estates LLC-Landowner, for the purpose of placing a manufactured home in a residential zone, on a tract of land described as Lot A of the Replat of Schmidt's Country Estates located in the S1/2NE1/4 of Section 9, Township 156 North, Range 91 West (**Idaho Township**).