

MEAP FAQs

Q: What is MEAP?

A: The North Dakota Medical Expense Assistance Program (MEAP) provides financial assistance to first responders and frontline healthcare workers for COVID-19 related expenses. MEAP funding is provided through CARES Act dollars received by the state of North Dakota.

Q: What is the application timeframe?

A: The online application opened at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 and is now closed, as the dollars have been reached.

Q: Why is the application timeframe so short?

A: Due to federal regulations the State of North Dakota must spend the federal CARES Act dollars by the end of 2020.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: Frontline healthcare workers and first responders covered in [Executive Orders 2020-12](#) and [2020-12.2](#).

1. **Frontline health care workers** This group includes medical providers extending direct patient care that exposes them to contact with the virus. The following lists who is considered and not considered frontline health care workers; it is not inclusive but shows the intention of the executive order.

a. **Frontline health care workers include** doctors, nurses, certified nursing assistants, lab personnel and technicians, radiology/imaging personnel and technicians, physical therapist, occupational therapist, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, social workers, chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, dietary aids, custodial staff, patient registration staff, laundry attendants, coroners, receptionists and patient intake coordinators, hospital social workers, hospital security staff and national guard members on state deployment if acting as a frontline health care role.

b. **Frontline health care workers do not include** billing and coding staff, document processing staff, administrative office personnel, and information technology staff.

2. **First responders** This group includes licensed, certified, or recognized responders whose job duties expose them to COVID-19 from direct citizen contact while in the act of first response. The following lists who is considered first responders; it is not inclusive but shows the intention of the executive order.

a. **Medical first responders include** emergency medical technicians, ambulance personnel, state troopers, police, or deputies (paid or volunteer), firefighters (paid or volunteer), national guard members on state deployment if acting as a medical first responders.

b. **Non-medical first responders include** court and judicial personnel including judges, judicial referees, bailiffs, court staff, Bureau of Criminal Investigation investigators, state troopers, police or deputies (paid or volunteer), parole and probation officers, parks and recreation officers, firefighters (paid or volunteer),

department of corrections staff, jailers, crime lab personnel, and staff of the North Dakota jails and prisons having direct inmate exposure, including janitorial and food service personnel.

3. **Care providers of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities** This group includes frontline employees providing direct care or services to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities who expose the employee to the virus. The group specifically includes employees of a facility licensed under North Dakota Century Code chapter 25-16 or employees of the Life Skills and Transition Center as defined in North Dakota Century Code chapter 25-04. It does not include employees exposed to the virus outside of providing direct care or services to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Q: What are the requirements?

A: The applicant must:

- be a first responder or frontline health care worker infected with COVID-19 (employee or volunteer), and
- have received a positive COVID-19 medical diagnosis on or after March 13, 2020, and
- have not applied for or has a denied claim for workers compensation benefits from Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI), and
- Submit a completed application, and
- Upload required supporting documentation with application submission:

Q: What is the period for the program?

A: The applicant must be a first responder or frontline healthcare worker at the time of the positive COVID-19 diagnosis. The positive COVID-19 diagnosis must have occurred on or after March 13, 2020.

Q: How do I apply for MEAP?

A: Go to the ND Response website, www.ndresponse.gov, and click on the Medical Expense Assistance Program. Once on the MEAP page, click on "Sign In" located in the upper right-hand corner. On the next screen select "Register". You **must** register to be able to submit an application. After completing the registration form you will receive an email to confirm your email address. Once your email is confirmed you may sign in and complete a MEAP application.

Q: What do I need to submit with my application?

A: Applicants must submit the following documentation.

- Documents must be clear, legible, and high-resolution, e.g. PDF, JPG etc.
- If medical treatment for COVID-19 was received include billing statements (must clearly indicate the treating medical provider's name, billing address, facility phone number), dates of service, amount charged, and amount covered by insurance.
- COVID-19 test results must be in writing and indicate the applicant's name and the date testing and/or notification occurred.
- Handwritten documents are not allowed

Q: How do I make edits to my application?

A: Applicants may make edits to an application before clicking on the Submit button, please review your application carefully. Once an application has been submitted, application edits cannot be made. If more information is needed, an applicant will be contacted.

Q: How do I print a copy of my application?

A: Applicants may print the completed MEAP application by going to the web browser print page option.

Q: If I qualify, how much money will I receive?

A: Applicants may be eligible to receive \$1,000 if they:

- are a first responder or frontline health care worker (employee or volunteer)
- have received a positive COVID-19 medical diagnosis on or after March 13, 2020
- have not applied for or has a denied claim for workers compensation benefits from Workforce Safety & Insurance (WSI)

Applicants may be eligible for an additional \$4,000 award if they did not have private health insurance coverage at the time they received treatment for COVID-19.

Q: When will I receive the money?

A: Awards will be issued by check after verification of the social security number provided on your application. Your check will be sent to the mailing address provided on your application within 72 hours of **final** approval. All awards will be issued/mailed no later than December 30, 2020. Direct deposit is not an option for MEAP awards.

Q: I received an email telling me my MEAP application was approved. It stated my Social Security Number needs to be verified. What do I need to do?

A: Nothing. The verification is an internal process to ensure accurate social security numbers have been provided, and reduce possible fraud.

Q: I received a check, why is it made out to me and a medical provider?

A: All awards for \$4,000 will be made payable to the applicant and the medical provider where COVID-19 treatment was received to assist you in the payment of outstanding medical bills you may have with the medical provider. A qualified representative of the provider will need to endorse the check and determine whether an outstanding balance may be resolved, or if payment may be released back to you.

Q: How is MEAP being funded?

A: The Department of Commerce recently received reallocated federal CARES Act dollars for a program to provide medical expense assistance to support first responders and healthcare workers. This was approved by the Emergency Commission on November 23, 2020. The Medical Expense Assistance Program will focus on first responders and healthcare workers who are eligible for expanded worker's compensation benefits under Executive Orders 2020-12 and 2020-12.2. During this COVID-19 pandemic, these workers risk their lives to protect the lives of others.

Q: May I apply for MEAP on behalf of a family member who has passed away from COVID-19?

A: Yes, you may apply for MEAP on behalf of a immediate family member who passed away as a result of their COVID-19 diagnosis. Documentation of caused of death will be required.

Q: What if I tested positive for COVID-19 twice, may I apply for MEAP twice?

A: No, MEAP is a one-time award.

Q: Who do I contact if I have questions about the MEAP?

A: Contact the MEAP Hotline at meap@nd.gov or 701-328-6004.

Q: I am a traveling nurse or doctor from out-of-state, can I apply for MEAP?

A: Unfortunately no, MEAP is for a citizen of North Dakota and those who are a full time benefited employee of a North Dakota based employer.

Q: If I received COVID-19 related medical treatment, can my insurance company back bill me for these payments?

A: The \$1,000 award is a personal payment payable to the individual to offset any costs they may have incurred. The \$4,000 award is only payable to the uninsured. To the extent an applicant has any other legal obligations it is their responsibility to confirm those.

Q: I was asked to submit additional documentation. How do I do this?

A: You can sign in to the application portal and upload the information. <https://ndcom-prod.powerappsportals.us/meap/>. Once you have signed in, please scroll to the bottom of the page to upload documents. You may also email the documents to meap@nd.gov.

Q: How do I check the status of my application?

A: You can sign in to the application portal and upload the information. <https://ndcom-prod.powerappsportals.us/meap/>. Once you have signed in, please scroll to the bottom of the page to view the status of your application.

Q: Can I appeal the MEAP denial decision?

A: No, all MEAP decisions are final. At the time your application was submitted you were asked to agree with the following acknowledgment: "I understand this is a one-time award and distributed on a first come first serve basis, and all decisions are final."