

## Women's Way Expands Program Eligibility

*Women's Way*, North Dakota's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, provides a way to pay for breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up for low income women who are underinsured or uninsured. *Women's Way* has been available for women between the ages of 40 through 64, but there has been a gap in coverage for younger women who are in need of preventative services but cannot afford to pay. To address this concern, *Women's Way* announces the expansion of program eligibility for women 21 to 39 years of age who meet the following specific criteria:

A woman ages 21 to 39 can be enrolled in *Women's Way* if she:

- Is low income up to 200 percent of federal poverty level, and is uninsured or underinsured (health insurance does not fully cover screening services or diagnostic services) **and**
- Is *symptomatic* for a breast abnormality (includes a breast abnormality self-reported by a woman or a health-care provider-documented abnormality) **or**
- Is due for a Pap test according to the current United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines (has not had a Pap test within the last three to five years) **or**
- Is in need of a breast or cervical diagnostic procedure

Eligible women ages 21 to 39 can receive:

- Clinical breast exam to determine if there is a breast abnormality
- Mammogram or breast ultrasound, **only if** a breast abnormality is found and documented by a health-care provider during a clinical breast exam; abnormalities include a palpable lump, bloody discharge, nipple inversion, ulceration, dimpling or inflammation of the skin
- Pap test, if due or past due for screening, as indicated in the USPSTF Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines for this age group
- Pap test as a follow-up to a previous abnormal result
- HPV test (women ages 21 to 29) only if the woman has had a documented abnormal Pap test and HPV test is indicated according to the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) guidelines
- HPV test (women ages 30 to 39) as part of co-testing along with Pap test or if needed due to an abnormal Pap test result
- Breast and/or cervical diagnostic services

Eligible women ages 40 to 64 can receive:

- Annual clinical breast exam and mammogram
- Conventional or Liquid-Based Pap test every three years with Pap test alone or every five years with combination of Pap test and HPV test for women who want to lengthen the screening interval
- Breast and/or cervical diagnostic or consultation services

Call the *Women's Way* local coordinator at 1.800.449.6636 for eligibility determination and enrollment.

If you are unable to reach the local coordinator, please call 1.800.280.5512 or 701.328.2306 to reach the *Women's Way* state office. Information is also available online at the *Women's Way* website – [www.ndhealth.gov/womensway](http://www.ndhealth.gov/womensway).

Women who report an income of 138 percent or less may be eligible to enroll in either Medicaid Expansion or Traditional Medicaid, both of which cover essential health benefits. These women can be referred to their local county social services office.

