

## *Northern Long-eared Bat UPDATE*

*FWS listed as "threatened"  
with 4(d) rule*

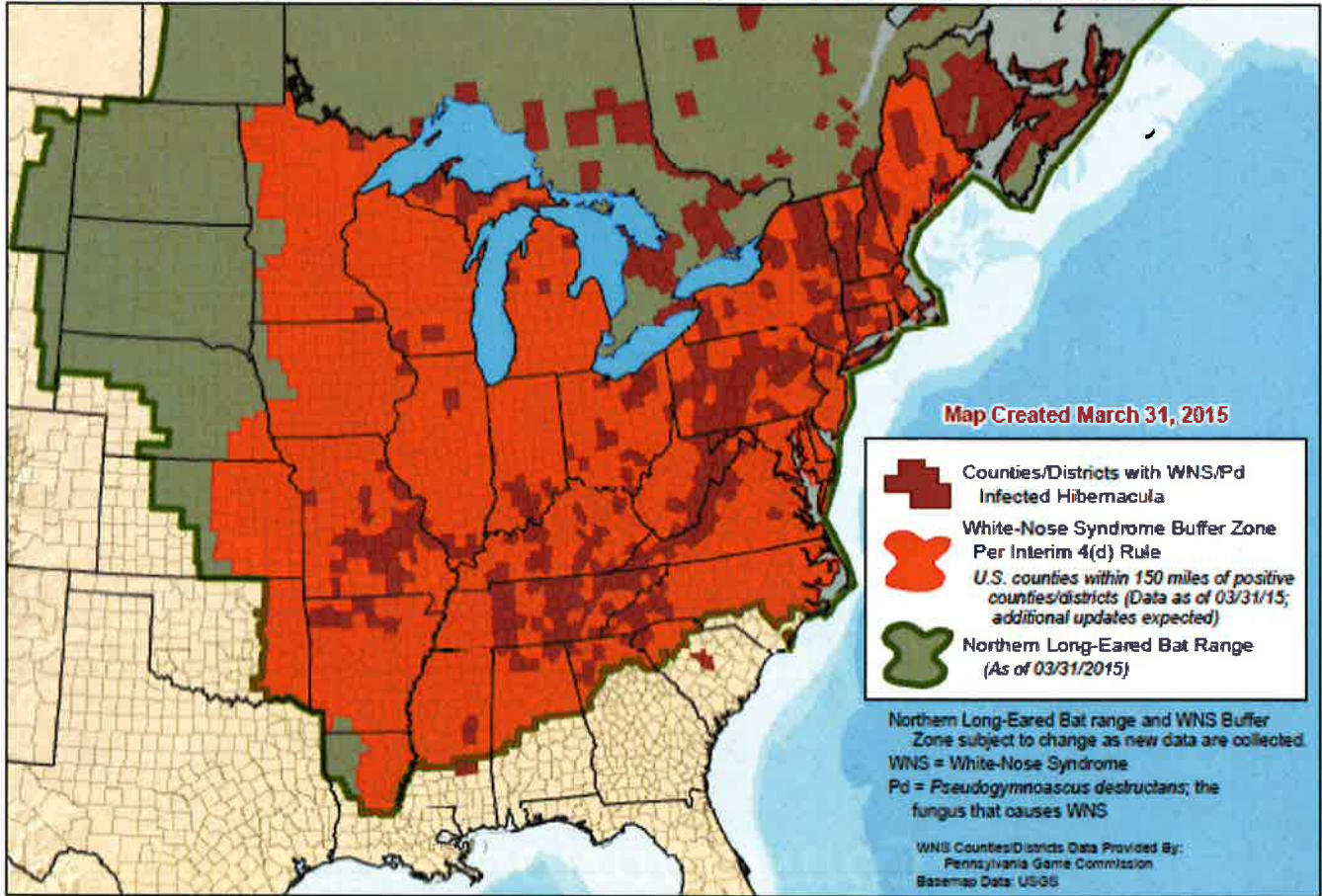
- Conservation measures*
- Critical dates (June-July)*
- New comment period*

**Mark Jacobs  
ACLD**



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Northern Long-Eared Bat Interim 4(d) Rule White-Nose Syndrome Buffer Zone Around WNS/Pd Positive Counties/Districts



**No White Nose Syndrome detected in MN**

**Pd “fungus” detected one year (2012)**

**Yet we are in the WNS buffer zone...**

**...Subject to the 4(d) rule**



## Do I Need A Permit?

### *A Key to Northern Long-eared Bat Interim 4(d) Rule for non-Federal Projects*

1. Using this map <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/nlebRangeMap.html>, does your project take place within the range of the northern long-eared bat?

**NO**

No further action is necessary.

**YES**

Continue to question 2.

2. Northern long-eared bats hibernate in caves during the winter and often raise their young in trees during the summer. They also migrate between their winter and summer habitats each year. With this in mind, is it possible that your project could harm, kill or otherwise harass (also known as "take") any northern long-eared bats? For example, are you clearing trees where northern long-eared bats could be living?

**NO**

No further action is necessary to comply with Endangered Species Act protections for the northern long-eared bat.

**YES**

Continue to question 3.

3. Will the action that causes take of bats be purposeful or incidental?

*Purposeful Take* – All or part of the purpose of the action is to handle bats in a way that may result in harm, harassment or killing of bats. An example of purposeful take would be removing bats that are roosting in the attic of your home.

**If action is PURPOSEFUL, continue to 4A.**

*Incidental Take* – When take of bats is a side effect of otherwise lawful actions. An example of incidental take would be if bats roosting in a tree are killed when the tree is cut for harvest or clearing purposes.

**If the action may cause INCIDENTAL take, go to 4B.**

4B. Is the action within the White-nose Syndrome Buffer Zone?

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nleb/WNSBuffer.pdf>

**YES**

Continue to question 5.

**NO**

No further action is necessary to comply with Endangered Species Act requirements to protect northern long-eared bats. Under the 4(d) rule, all incidental take outside the white-nose syndrome buffer zone is exempted from ESA prohibitions.

5. Is your activity (which may cause take of bats) any of the following actions?

- **Forest management**
- Maintenance or expansion of existing rights-of-way and transmission corridors (work occurs no further than 100 feet on either or both sides of existing right-of-way)
- Native prairie management
- Minimal tree removal
- Hazardous tree removal

**YES**

Continue to question 6.

**NO**

The incidental take that may result from your project is not exempted by the 4(d) rule and an incidental take permit may be necessary. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office nearest to your project area. Field Office locations and contact

6. Is your action hazardous tree removal?

**YES**

The incidental take that may result from your project is exempted by the 4(d) rule and no further action is necessary to comply with ESA prohibitions to protect northern long-eared bats.

**No**

Continue to question 7.

7. Has a northern long-eared bat maternity roost tree or hibernacula been documented on or near the project area?

**YES**

Continue to question 8.

**NO**

The incidental take that may result from your project is exempted by the 4(d) rule and no further action is necessary to comply with ESA prohibitions to protect northern long-eared bats.

**I DON'T KNOW**

We suggest that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office nearest to your project area. Field Office locations and contact information may be found at [www.fws.gov/offices](http://www.fws.gov/offices). If you are in Wisconsin, please contact the [Twin Cities Field Office](#).



**OR...**

7. Has a northern long-eared bat maternity roost tree or hibernacula been documented on or near the project area?

**YES**

Continue to question 8.

**NO**

The incidental take that may result from your project is exempted by the 4(d) rule and no further action is necessary to comply with ESA prohibitions to protect northern long-eared bats.

**I DON'T KNOW**

We suggest that you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office nearest to your project area. Field Office locations and contact information may be found at [www.fws.gov/offices](http://www.fws.gov/offices). If you are in Wisconsin, please contact the [Twin Cities Field Office](#).

8. Northern long-eared bats use their maternity roost trees and hibernacula repeatedly for many years. Unless a survey or other information indicates otherwise, if the habitat around a roost is intact and the tree is suitable, we would conclude that the tree is likely an occupied maternity roost during the pup season (June 1 - July 31). Similarly, we would assume that a hibernaculum remains occupied unless a survey or other information indicates otherwise.

Therefore, if you have a northern long-eared bat roost tree or hibernacula documented on or near your project area, any incidental take of bats will be exempted by the 4(d) rule if you follow these conservation measures:

- Do not conduct any activities within ¼ mile of known, occupied hibernacula;
- Do not cut or destroy a known, occupied roost tree from June 1 to July 31 (the pup season);
- Do not clearcut (and similar harvest methods that cut most or essentially all trees from an area, e.g., seed tree, shelterwood, and coppice) within a ¼ mile of known, occupied roost trees from June 1 to July 31.

Are you going to follow the above listed conservation measures?

**YES**

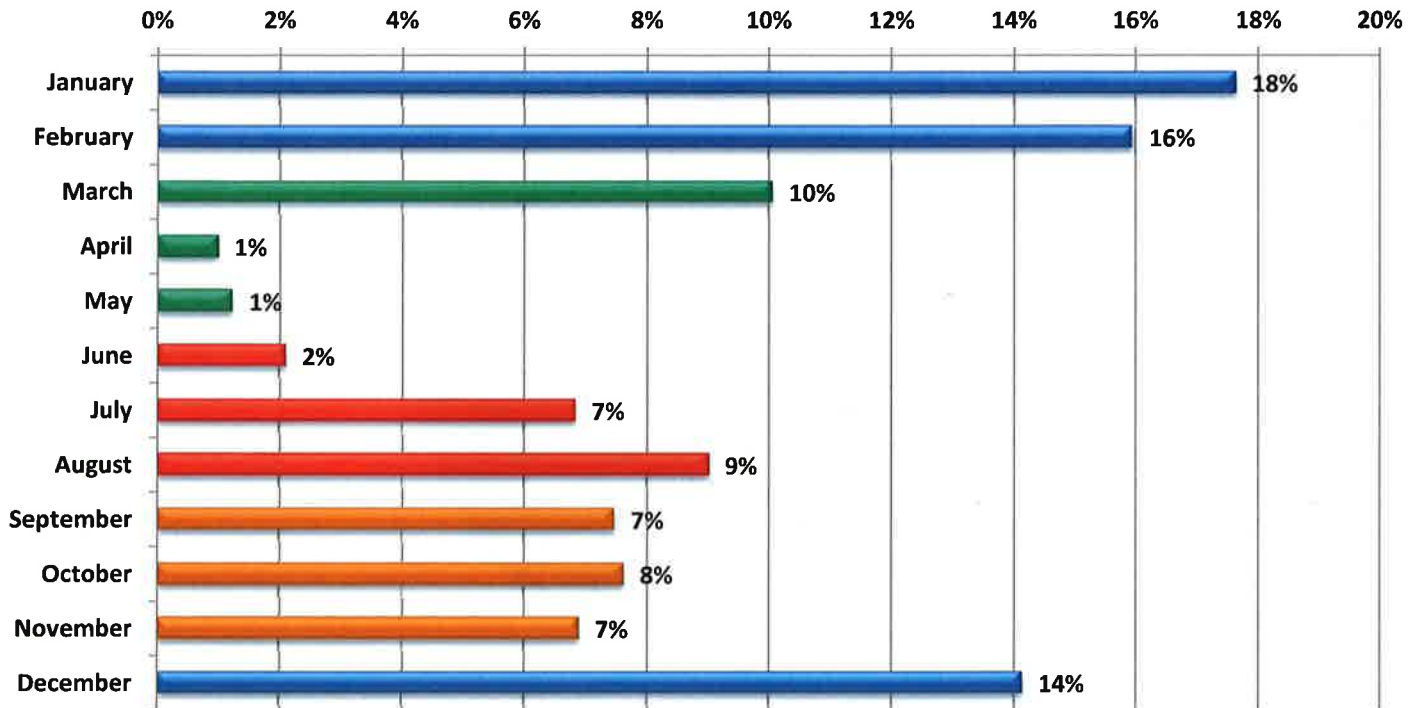
The incidental take that may result from your project is exempted by the 4(d) rule and no further action is necessary on your behalf in order to protect northern long-eared bats.

**NO**

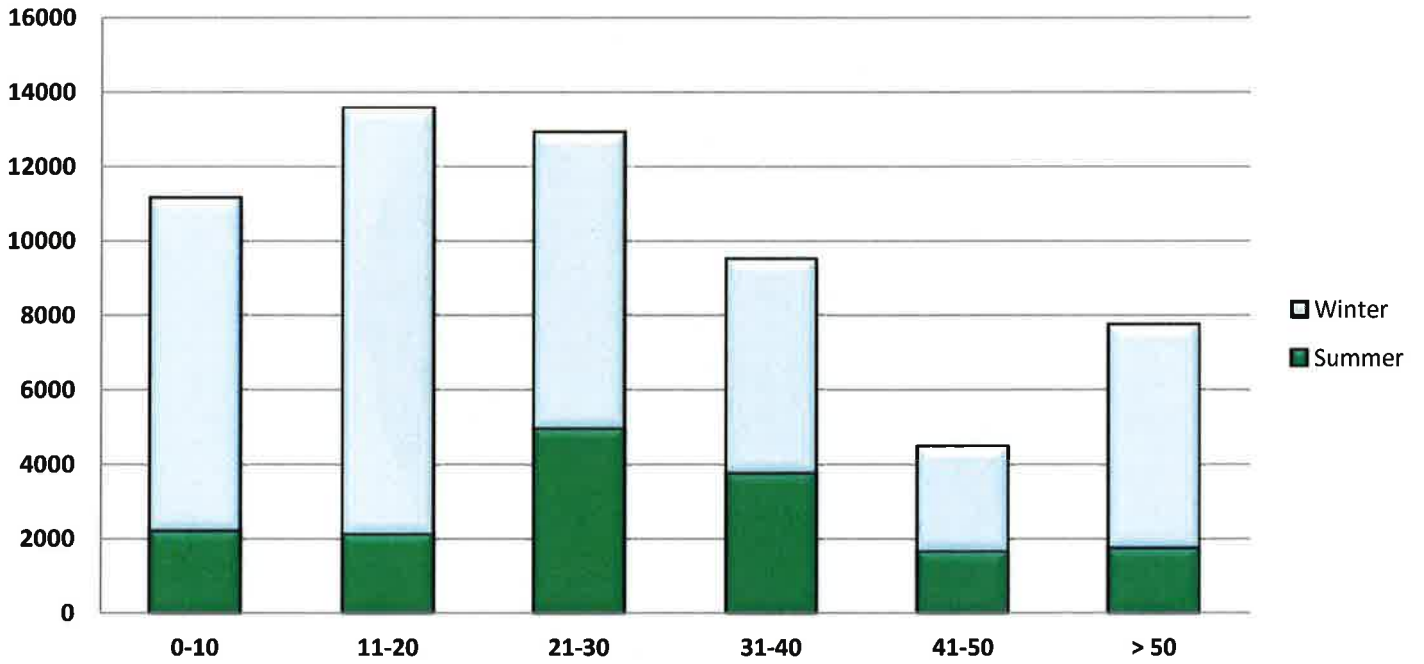
The incidental take that may result from your project is not exempted by the 4(d) rule and an incidental take permit may be necessary. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office nearest the project area. Field Office locations and contact information may be found at [www.fws.gov/offices](http://www.fws.gov/offices).



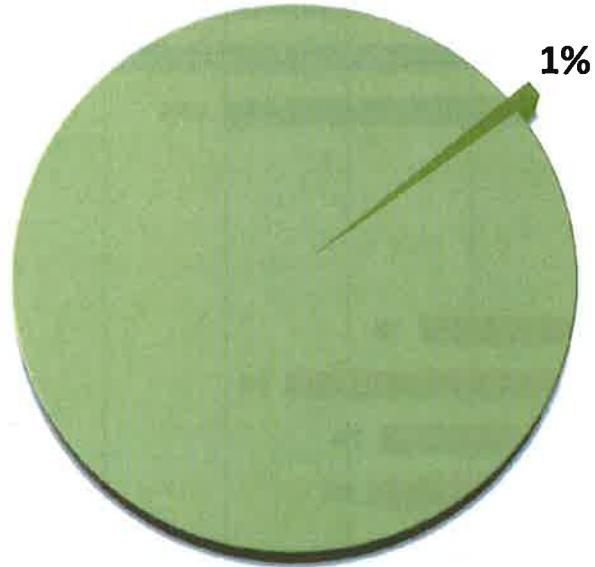
### Timber Harvest - % by month ACLD 2009-2013



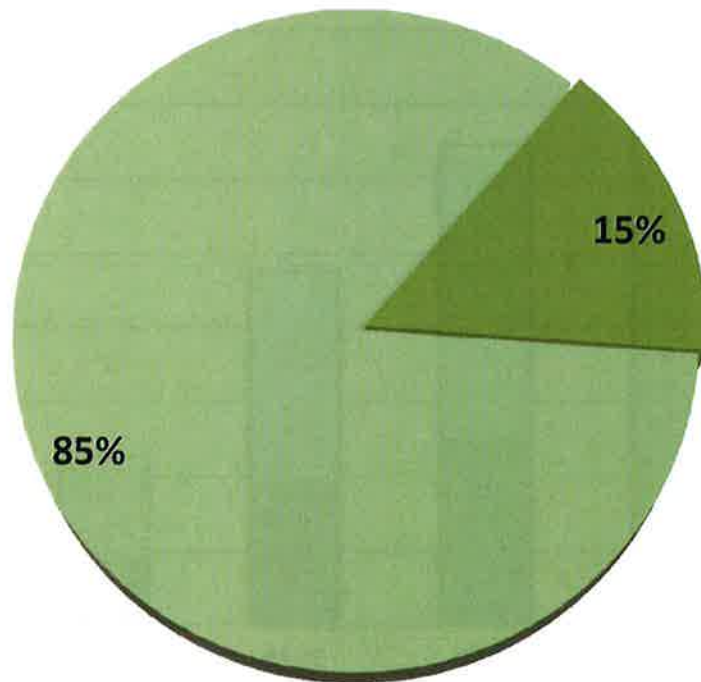
### ACLD Aspen Potential Summer / Winter Access



**MN Annual Timber Harvest = 1% of forest**



**MN Timber Annual Harvest - June/July = 15% (+/-)**





## ***Putting it in perspective***

***15% of 1% of MN forest impacted by  
timber harvest in June-July***

***That is less than 1/660<sup>th</sup> of MN forest  
impacted June-July***

***Seemingly low-risk of “take”***

***1% Annual MN Timber Harvest  
= 3,000,000 cords***

***15% = 450,000 cords (June-July)***

***Logger/trucker capacity issue...  
potential of truncated  
harvest season***

# The future...

**FWS listened to scientific input...**

- Limited the dates in 4(d) rule
- Protect flightless “pups” June/July
- Still little data on NLEB and others

**They will determine “critical habitat”**

- More data needed...
  - Types of forest utilized
  - Health (signs of WNS)
  - Reproductive status

**If WNS continues to spread**

- It will be listed as “endangered”
- Much tighter restrictions
- Need to plan for that (more data)

APR 13 2015

OUR GOAL IS TO...

**ENSURE**

**EVERY RESIDENT**

HAS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION  
MEDICATIONS

The Prescription Discount Card Program provides uninsured and underinsured residents an opportunity to save on prescriptions when they are required to pay the full cash price.

**Savings:**

- 10-20% off Name Brand Medications
- 20-70% off Generic Medications

**PROACT** INC.<sup>®</sup>  
A PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT COMPANY

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION  
DISCOUNT CARD



Accepted at over 62,000 pharmacies nationwide

**LET US HELP SAVE YOUR RESIDENTS MONEY!**

CONTACT US NOW:

TERRENCE O'NEILL (315)413-7780 EXT. 3211  
OR [TERRENCEONEILL@PROACTRX.COM](mailto:TERRENCEONEILL@PROACTRX.COM)



## THE PROACT PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

Our program is completely free and open to everyone.  
Participants save an average of 52% on their prescriptions at over 62,000 participating pharmacies!

### ABOUT PROACT

This program is administered by ProAct, Inc., a Pharmacy Benefit Management Company with many years of experience administering prescription discount card programs. ProAct's extensive pharmacy network provides for access to thousands of pharmacies that offer a discount off their retail prices. As prescription drug benefit needs change over time, ProAct is dedicated to providing employers with the most effective, up-to-date solutions crafted to improve their employees' health and optimize the value of each healthcare dollar.

### DESCRIPTION

The ProAct Prescription Drug Discount Card program helps residents save money on their prescription medications anytime their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. Discount cards are distributed in participating counties and may be used at any participating retail pharmacy. County residents can also print a card by visiting [www.ProActRxSavings.com](http://www.ProActRxSavings.com).

### SAVINGS

Participants can expect to save 52% on average. Discounts will vary depending on the drug and quantity purchased. Discount cards can also be used to save on medications prescribed to your pet that can be filled at participating retail pharmacies.

### WHO'S ELIGIBLE

The cards may be used by all county residents regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. There are no enrollment forms, no membership fees, and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members are encouraged to use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

### WHAT IT COSTS

This program is completely free of charge to both the county and participating residents. Simply take the discount card along with a prescription to a participating pharmacy and start saving.

### PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

More than 62,000 pharmacies nationwide accept the card, including most chain pharmacies and many independent pharmacies. There is a 98% pharmacy participation rate amongst participating counties.

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Discounts are available on vision, hearing, and LASIK services. Discounted dental plans are now available as well.



[www.ProActRxSavings.com](http://www.ProActRxSavings.com)



## ProAct's County Discount Card Program Offers 3 Additional Benefits!

\*As a ProAct Discount Card participant, you are now also an EyeBenefits Member

### VISION BENEFITS

Participants will now receive the following discounts on Eye Exams, Frames, Lenses and Contacts:

Eye Exams	Up to 20% off the usual and customary fee
Frames	Up to 50% off the retail price
Lenses	Up to 50% off the retail price
Online	Up to 20% off the retail price

**For participating providers visit [www.EyeBenefits.com](http://www.EyeBenefits.com) and click on *Optical Locations***

### LASIK BENEFITS

Participants seeking to have laser vision correction procedures can receive:  
Up to 50% off the national average pricing.

To find a provider and to schedule an appointment call 877-201-3852

**\*Simply mention to the customer service representative that you are a participant in ProAct's Discount Card Program.**

### HEARING BENEFITS

Hearing Products & Services are now discountable using your discount card.  
Savings of 35% to 65% on Brand Name Hearing Aids and Products.

To find a provider and to schedule an appointment call 866-956-5400

**\*Simply mention to the customer service representative that you are an EyeBenefits Member through ProAct's Discount Card.**

*For more details on the above benefits visit [www.ProActRxSavings.com](http://www.ProActRxSavings.com)*





**JUST A DIME A DAY**



## DENTAL NETWORK CARD PROGRAM

For only \$36.50 per year – just a Dime a Day – you can have access to hundreds of dentists, thousands throughout the country, who have agreed to accept low fees as payment in full.

Include your entire family along with yourself for only \$52.00 per year. That's just a Dollar a Week!

The Dental Network Card program is not insurance. However, it is a way for you to get the dental care you need at fees that are among the most affordable in your area and anywhere you need treatment.

Selection of a dentist, like selection of any health care provider, should be based upon many factors. Included in this list of factors is cost. The Dental Network Card program encourages necessary dental treatment by removing uncertainty concerning the cost of dental care.

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FAIR Health, Inc., and others, have pointed out that dentists typically charge some patients considerably more than they charge other patients. Patients who are charged the least tend to be those who have dental insurance coverage and who are eligible for “network” fee schedules. Patients not eligible for network fees usually are billed the most. For an explanation of the importance of dental networks and dental insurance, and for information about fees, see the materials prepared by FAIR Health, Inc. at [www.fairhealthconsumer.org](http://www.fairhealthconsumer.org).

This program utilizes the DenteMax network that consists of more than 100,000 dentists and dental practices (access points) throughout the United States.

**For information about the Dental Network Card program, go to the ProAct website, [www.ProActRxSavings.com](http://www.ProActRxSavings.com) or contact Health Economics Group at 800/666-6690 x505.**



## Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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Date: April 2, 2015  
To: Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners  
Subject: Single Audit Act of 1984 and Amendments of 1996 Federally Mandated Audit Resolution Procedures

Dear Chairperson:

The Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 and the Amendments of 1996 requires counties, if they meet certain federal funding requirements, to have an annual financial and compliance audit that includes all federal funds expended during the year. The State of Minnesota (State) is required to review all county reports and verify that audit findings related to federal funds are resolved within a six-month time limit. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has been designated by the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget to serve as the state cognizant agency for all counties. It is our responsibility to monitor the resolution of county single audit findings related to cross-cutting findings and human services funds. A cross-cutting audit finding is a finding that impacts more than one federal program.

DHS has designated the Internal Audits Office to work with County Boards to resolve all applicable single audit findings. Annually, the Internal Audits Office reviews each county's audit report for federal audit findings. If a county audit report includes cross-cutting or human services findings, the Internal Audits Office will request the County Board to prepare a written corrective action plan resolving the findings. Because the corrective action plan is a federal requirement, it will have to be submitted even though a county may have already provided a response to the findings in the audit report. If no human services or cross-cutting audit findings are included in the audit report, the Internal Audits Office will confirm that no action is needed.

If your county audit report is not completed by the Office of the State Auditor, you will need to send a copy to the Internal Audits Office, at the following address, as required by the federal reporting requirements. Federal reporting requirements state that the audit submission deadline is 9 months after the end of the County fiscal year. This means that your audit should be submitted to the Internal Audits Office prior to October 1, of the year following the most recently audited fiscal year. Annual audit reports may be submitted electronically to the email address listed below to meet the submission requirements. Audit reports are received by the Internal Audits Office directly from the Office of State Auditor (OSA) for counties where OSA performs the annual audit. The address for submission of your County audit report is:

Margaret Brotherton, Single Audit Coordinator  
DHS Internal Audits Office  
PO Box 64964  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0964

The cooperation of the County Board is greatly appreciated when corrective action plans are requested by the Internal Audits Office. If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact Margaret Brotherton, Single Audit Coordinator, DHS Internal Audits Office at [margaret.brotherton@state.mn.us](mailto:margaret.brotherton@state.mn.us) or at (651) 431-3622.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Johnson, Internal Audit Director



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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April 6, 2015

Mr. J. Mark Wedel, Chair  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
217 2nd Street NW  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Commissioner Wedel:

It is my pleasure to commend you and your staff for perfect performance in meeting DHS Human Service financial reporting requirements for calendar year 2014. All key quarterly fiscal reports for programs your county participates in were submitted to our Financial Operations Division on or before the report deadlines and in perfect order. This effort required submission of 32 major reports covering the four calendar quarters of 2014. These reports are:

- LCTS Cost Report (local collaborative)\*
- Income Maintenance Expense
- MFIP Consolidated Fund
- Social Service Fund
- Client Statistics
- Title IV-E
- SEAGR
- BRASS—Based Grant Fiscal Report

\* If your county participates in a "local collaborative", submission of this report may require the collection of multiple local partner reports for consolidated submission to DHS.

I know this accomplishment requires planning, an efficient operation, and teamwork within your county Human Services Department. The result is timely revenue for your county and compliance with federal reporting for us at the State. Please congratulate your management and staff on this superb effort.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Jesson  
Commissioner

*Congratulations!*

cc: Tom Burke, Aitkin County Director





