

# State Medical Review Team (SMRT)

Referrals For People with Disability

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# Topics

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1. Who is SMRT ?
2. Who needs a SMRT referral?
3. How does the SMRT process work?
4. What can be done to make this go faster?

# Who is SMRT?

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The State Medical Review Team is a group of highly trained professionals who follow the Social Security Administration's criteria to determine disability and assess Level of Care (TEFRA) for individuals seeking eligibility in the state Medical Assistance (MA) programs or disability services in other DHS programs.

# What has happened with SMRT?

## Why the backlog?

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- January 2015- counties began processing “potential SMRT Referral” tasks driving up the number of referrals.
- March 2015- SMRT discovers that 30% of those referrals did not need to be referred. This created additional work.
  - In response SMRT created a screening tool to help guide county workers
  - Hired additional case managers
- Implementation of the new ISDS – SMRT CURAM
  - Requires extensive training & testing for each release
  - Slower processing until system is fully implemented

# Who needs a SMRT Referral?

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## TEFRA (Tax Equity Fiscal Responsibility Act)

- Children not eligible for MAGI-based MA
  - Infants 283% FPG
  - Ages 2-18 275% FPG
- Children not receiving HCBS (Home and Community Based Service) waivers
- Must apply on MNsure or with DHS-6696 first

# MA Eligible - Certification of Disability Needed to get **Specific Services**

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- Home and Community-Based Waiver Services
  - CAC (community alternative care), CADI (community access for disability inclusion), BI (brain injury)
- Community Support Grant
- MA-EPD (Medical Assistance for employed persons with disabilities)

# MA Eligible - **Managed Care**

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## Get out

- Exclusion from Managed Care

## Get in

- Enrollment in Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC)
  - Care coordination
  - Plan perks like gym membership, discounts
  - Copay reductions

# Other Program Eligibility

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- Family Support Grant – Cash grant program
  - Available to families of children with any type of disability
    - PRE 2011 - only for DD – no SMRT referral necessary
    - 2011 Expanded beyond DD
  - Social Security and SMRT are acceptable resources for verification of disability.



# How Does the SMRT Process Work?

## Current

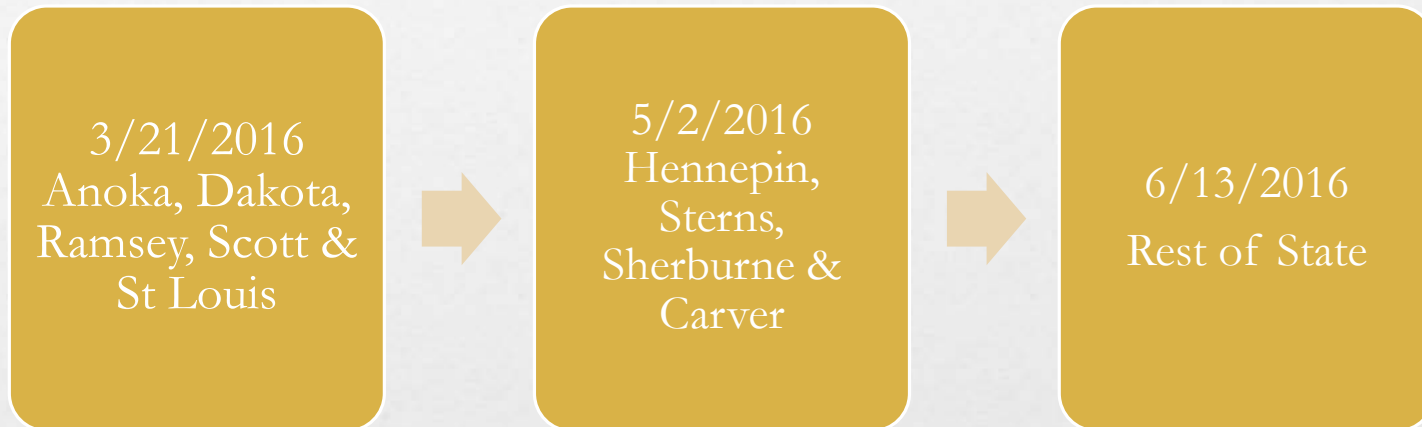
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- County **financial worker** submits SMRT referral
  - DHS SIR Mail or Fax – 651-431-7461
  - ISDS SMRT – Statewide by 6/13/2016
    - Submit referral, see status and track progress
- SMRT receives the referral & mails Welcome Packet.
  - Contact information, a disability worksheet & an Authorization to Release Medical Records

# How Does the SMRT Process Work?

## Future-ISDS-SMRT Curam

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# How Does the SMRT Process Work?

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- SMRT Case Manager Assigned
  - Calls the client and conducts an informal interview
  - Collects medical records from providers and schools
  - Follows the 5 step sequential process (similar to SSA)
  - Certifies or denies disability
    - Decision letter to the client and the county
    - Can also be viewed on ISDS SMRT

# Disability & The 5 Step Sequential Evaluation Process

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- Inability to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of medically determinable impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or longer or result in death.
- Step 1- Is the individual engaged in Substantial Gainful activity?
- Step 2- Does the individual have a severe impairment?
- Step 3- Does the individual meet/equal a medical listing?
- Step 4- Can the individual perform their past relevant work?
- Step 5- Can the individual perform other work?

# Approval/ Denial Rate

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## TEFRA

- 90% Approved
- 10% Denied
- 1,221 Total Cases

## Non- TEFRA

- 82% Approved
- 18% Denied
- 2,878 Total Cases

## Total

- 4,099 Case Decisions made ~2015

# Denied - What next?

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- Client's have 30 days from date of the denial letter to file an appeal in writing.

**Minnesota Department of Human Services**

**State Appeals Office**

**P.O. Box 64941**

**St Paul, MN 55164**

- For Questions, call the State Appeals office at:

Metro~651-431-3600 or Outstate~ 800-657-3510

# Approved – What next?

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- Individuals that apply for SMRT review should also apply for Social Security Disability if eligible
- SMRT currently assists our clients in answering questions for clients, refers clients to resources that may assist them in the application process & provides clients with the SMRT case rationale and medical records to bring to their Social Security interview.

# What Can Make This Process Go Faster?

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- Expedited Policy
  - Navigator Handout
- See handouts