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## UCare Individual and Family Plans expand to Todd and Wadena Counties in 2019

*Monthly rates for plans decrease an average of 10%*

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – October 2, 2018** – Today, with the release of lower 2019 individual and family plan rates, UCare announces an expansion of its service area to two additional counties in north central Minnesota – Todd and Wadena. UCare Individual and Family Plans are now available in 28 counties spanning the metro and northeastern/north central Minnesota. UCare Individual and Family Plans with Fairview continue to be available in 10 metro counties in 2019.

Highlights for 2019 include:

- **Free online and retail visits:** Online care and Nurse Line are available 24/7; plan options also have low copays for office visits.
- **Community Education Discount:** Members get up to a \$15 discount on eligible community education classes (limit of three classes per year).
- **Healthy Savings:** Introduced in September 2018, Healthy Savings provides members with savings up to \$200 a month on healthy foods at participating grocery stores.
- **5-Star Rating:** The plans were awarded the highest possible rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services based on member experience, quality of care and health outcomes.
- **Simplified communications:** Working with UCare’s Member Advisory Committee, we redesigned the 2019 monthly invoice and Explanation of Benefits (EOB) documents to be clearer and easier to understand.
- **Operational improvements:** Process and system improvements will bring increased claims accuracy, efficiencies and automation.

Serving Minnesotans for more than 30 years, UCare offers a variety of Medicare, Medicaid and Individual and Family health plan options for people of all ages and stages. Currently, about 29,000 individuals are enrolled in UCare Individual and Family Plans – about 30% of the MNsure market (on-exchange). UCare Individual and Family Plans provide a path for Minnesotans turning 65 to UCare Medicare Plans.

“Since our start in 1984, we’ve focused on **individuals in all life stages** and breaking down barriers to health care – from single individuals to individuals with families,” said Mark Traynor, President and CEO of UCare. “We are learning every day about how to best serve Minnesotans who purchase their health coverage on MNsure, and are excited to bring our ‘people powered’ individual and family plans to Todd and Wadena counties. We’ll continue to offer members a high-quality experience and communications that de-complicate health coverage.”

Open enrollment begins November 1 and is extended to January 13 this year. The cut-off date for January 1, 2019, coverage is December 15, 2018.

To learn more about UCare and its health plan options beyond individual and family plans, visit [www.ucare.org](http://www.ucare.org).

### About UCare

[UCare](http://www.ucare.org) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 400,000 members throughout Minnesota. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver:

- [5-Star Individual and Family Plans and partnership with Fairview](#) available on [MNSure](#)
- [Medicare plans](#) with an “Excellent” NCQA rating, and [partnerships with Fairview and North Memorial Health in the metro and](#) with Essentia Health in northern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
- [Coverage for adults with disabilities](#), [MinnesotaCare](#) and [Prepaid Medical Assistance](#) programs
- Programs for [older Minnesotans with Medical Assistance](#), or with both [Medical Assistance and Medicare](#).

UCare addresses health care disparities and care access issues through its [UCare Foundation](#) grants and a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for nine consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

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