

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505-02501**

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## **More organizations receive autism training grants; Training scheduled**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Autism Services Division has awarded autism-specific training grants to four more organizations bringing the total number to seven.

New grantees include the Red River Valley Asperger-Autism Network of Fargo, Red Door Pediatric Therapy of Bismarck, the Upper Valley Special Education Unit based in Grafton, and the Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership – Child Care Aware North Dakota, which has offices in Moorhead, Minn.

Grant funding supports autism training in North Dakota for service providers, educators, parents, and first responders. Funds are still available, and organizations can apply through June 1 for grants of up to \$1,500 each. See details at [www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html) .

Department Autism Services Coordinator Trisha Page said, "Training is crucial as we build the state's capacity to serve children with autism and their families. We are pleased with the response, and hope additional organizations apply."

### **New grant-funded training**

**Red River Valley Asperger-Autism Network** is holding supervised Lego groups for children who have autism to promote social skill development including turn taking, cooperation, sharing, and communication. Concurrent **parent education sessions** will provide information from community agencies, professionals, and educators, as well as an opportunity to connect with other parents to share successes and concerns. Sessions will be held at Olivet Lutheran Church, 1330 University Dr. S., in Fargo one Saturday per month. For details, contact RRVAN at 701-566-1675 or via the "contact us" area of their website: [www.rrvan.org](http://www.rrvan.org).

**Red Door Pediatric Therapy** is holding three monthly **parent education sessions** at 9 a.m., in the gym at the Bismarck Early Childhood Education Program, 720 N. 14th St. Topics include "Sensory System Overview and Strategies" on **April 24**, "Picky Eaters and Problem Feeders" on **May 15**, and "How to Embrace the Visual Learner" on **June 12**. For details, contact them at 701-222-3175, or email Jess Oswald, MS, OTR/L at [jessicaoswald@reddoorpediatric.com](mailto:jessicaoswald@reddoorpediatric.com).

The **Upper Valley Special Education Unit** of Grafton intends to build collaboration and knowledge by **supporting training for four teams** comprised of teachers, parents, agency representatives, administrators, and service providers that represent Cavalier, Park River, Grafton, and Midway schools. Teams will attend training on **May 4** in Fargo on "Social Skills for Building Social Competence in Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder" led by Jay Berk, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist affiliated with PESI, a continuing education service provider. Teams will share their knowledge with peers.

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**Child Care Aware of North Dakota**, a program of Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership in Fargo-Moorhead, is offering **training for child care providers** in Bismarck and Grand Forks. Participants will learn about considerations for caring for children with autism including communication, physical safety, and self-care issues, as well as strategies for communicating with parents about developmental concerns, and community resources for families and providers. Training will be held on **May 19**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Grace Lutheran Brethren Church, 2400 E. Ave. A, Bismarck, and on **June 9**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at La Quinta Inn and Suites, 4051 Garden View Dr., Grand Forks. Training is approved for licensed child care providers on the Growing Futures registry. Training information is online at [www.ndchildcare.org/events/calendar.html](http://www.ndchildcare.org/events/calendar.html).

The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Autism Services Division administers the Medicaid autism waiver and a voucher program, and supports statewide training.

For information about the grants and programs and services, go online to [www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html) or contact the division at 701-328-8912, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or via e-mail at [dhsautism@nd.gov](mailto:dhsautism@nd.gov).

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