

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2008

Burke County Social Services Receives Award

Bismarck, N.D. – Food Stamp Program officials from the North Dakota Department of Human Services recently recognized Burke and Dunn counties for the lowest error rate among nine like-type counties. To determine the award recipient, state officials reviewed data from 2005 to 2007 for all counties that handle 1- 50 food stamp cases per month. The department presented the award during the annual Spring Showcase training and recognition event held April 23-25 in Mandan, N.D.

County Social Service Director Tami Chrest and employees Joy Beard, and Suzette Greenfield received the award. The department also presented recognition certificates to Regional Representative Sue Satterthwaite and Quality Control Reviewer Joan Irwin, who are both employed by the state agency.

North Dakota Food Stamp Director Arlene Dura said, “County employees, regional representatives, and quality control staff have worked hard to reduce errors. They deserve recognition for striving to ensure that people receive correct benefits.”

Dura said the award is based on caseload size, percentage of state food stamp caseload, and quality control data.

Currently the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food Stamp Program helps about 49,000 qualifying low-income North Dakotans pay for food. Almost half of the program participants are children; many others are elderly or have disabilities.

Individuals apply for the Food Stamp Program at their county social service office. If they qualify, individuals receive a special debit card, which can be used to purchase food items only.

Each month, the federally-funded program provides about \$4.8 million in benefits in North Dakota that can be used to purchase food at over 400 grocers.

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