

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**Mountrail County Social Services Receives Awards**

Bismarck, N.D. – Food Stamp Program officials from the North Dakota Department of Human Services recently presented Mountrail County with three performance awards during the annual Spring Showcase training and recognition event held late last month in Mandan, N.D.

Food Stamp officials honored county social service office employees for reviewing the highest percentage of food stamp case files in its seven-county administrative region last year. The county was also recognized along with Dickey, McKenzie, and Wells counties for achieving the most improved error rate among like-type counties that have between 101 and 200 food stamp cases per month.

In addition, Mountrail County earned a third award at the conference as a member of the North Administrative Region. The county, along with Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McHenry, Renville, and Ward counties, received the Conrad J. Moe Award, a traveling trophy that is presented annually to the administrative region with the lowest error rate. North Dakota has six administrative regions for the Food Stamp Program.

State Food Stamp Director Arlene Dura said, “These awards demonstrate the county’s commitment to providing accurate and timely food assistance benefits to clients.”

County employees who received the award included: Director Bryan Quigley, Deloris Brown, Judy Cvancara, Dorothy Goodall, LaDonna Lawton, Grace Lystad, Colleen Rohde, and Sandra Vance. Sue Satterthwaite, the department’s regional representative, and Joan Irwin, a department quality control reviewer, also received recognition certificates.

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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