

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**Walsh County Social Services Receives Award**

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services recently recognized Walsh County for reviewing the highest percentage of food stamp case file reviews in its six-county region last year. State officials presented the award to one county from each of the state’s six administrative regions during the annual Spring Showcase training and recognition event held in Mandan, N.D.

“Reviews are a proven method of detecting errors early and preventing them,” said North Dakota Food Stamp Director Arlene Dura. “This award demonstrates the county’s commitment to providing accurate and timely food assistance benefits.”

County employees who received the award included: Director Twila Novak, Eileen Bolek, Leslie Carroll, Mary Dvorak, Josie Lopez, Rosa Milera, Susan Reck, Virginia Rodriguez, and Erin Youle. Diane Knauf, the department’s regional representative, also received a recognition certificate.

Other counties in the East Administrative Region include Cass, Grand Forks, Pembina, Steele, and Traill.

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. The program also serves low-income working families.

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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