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Contact: Pamela Sagness, Prevention Administrator, N.D. Department of Human Services, 701-328-8824, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933.

Dept. of Human Services has funding for up to 75 communities to hold alcohol-free New Year's Eve events

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is encouraging communities and organizations in North Dakota to apply for funding to conduct alcohol-free New Year's Eve events for all ages.

Up to 75 communities can apply for \$1,000 to host an event taking place on the night of Dec. 31, 2010. Events must last a minimum of four consecutive hours to include midnight, and must be alcohol and drug free, family-friendly, and suitable for all ages.

"New Year's Eve is often associated with alcohol use. We want to provide opportunities for communities to host alcohol and drug free events for residents," said Pamela Sagness, prevention administrator for the division. "This is part of an ongoing effort to provide substance abuse prevention resources at the local level."

Sagness encourages community organizations to fill out the New Year's Eve event application. It is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/mentalhealth/prevention/community-services.html and to *Take a Closer Look* at their New Year's Eve Plans. The deadline to apply is December 3.

The Department's Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is a leading resource for substance abuse information and prevention efforts in the state. The division operates the North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center, which offers free materials to individuals, schools, and communities.

For more information on the services or materials offered, contact the Prevention Resource and Media Center at 701-328-8918, TTY: 701-857-8666, Toll-Free 800-642-6744 or visit our Web site www.nd.gov/dhs/prevention.

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