

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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State Council on Developmental Disabilities awards grants to local organizations

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities has awarded 11 grants totaling over \$334,000 to organizations throughout the state that serve individuals with developmental disabilities. Grant funds are intended to support employment, education, early intervention, and community supports for people with developmental disabilities, as well as quality assurance efforts.

“Council grants enrich the lives of people in North Dakota,” said Andrea Peña, the Council’s executive director. “The financial assistance these grants provide enable non-profit advocacy organizations to make a difference through programs serving infants, young children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities.”

Organizations receiving funding for the 2011 project period include: The Arc of Bismarck and ND Disabilities Advocacy Consortium, **Bismarck**; Family Voices of ND, **Edgeley**; March of Dimes North Dakota Chapter, Community Living Services and IPAT - Interagency Program for Assistive Technology, **Fargo**; L.I.S.T.E.N. Inc. and *Summa Labore*, **Grand Forks**; Pathfinder Parent Center, and North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, **Minot**.

Council Chairperson Mary Simonson said the grants provide resources to operate programs that otherwise may not exist such as neonatal family supports, medical home care coordination, advocacy training for individuals with disabilities and their family members, transitional employment programs, assistive technology for work, school and home, and a publication which promotes disability awareness.

The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities advocates for policy changes that promote choice, independence, productivity, and inclusion for North Dakotans with developmental disabilities. The council also supports projects and activities that maximize opportunities in these areas for consumers and families. For information, visit the Governor’s Web site at <http://governor.nd.gov/boards/> or contact Peña at 701-328-4847 or apena@nd.gov.

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