

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Food assistance program conference features food drive and more**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Hundreds of county eligibility workers and about a dozen N.D. Department of Human Services employees who work with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program devote their professional lives to ensuring that qualifying low-income North Dakotans do not go hungry. This passion does not stop when they are away from their offices. The annual Spring Showcase, a professional development conference set for April 27-29, at the Seven Seas Inn of Mandan, includes a food drive.

“People enjoy the *Making a Difference Food Drive*,” said Arlene Dura, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Director for North Dakota. “Last year, people donated 1,685 items, weighing about 1,400 pounds. The regions get a little competitive, and it isn’t unusual for co-workers to send donations with their colleagues who are attending the conference.”

Dura said all food drive donations will be collected and distributed by the Great Plains Food Bank to food pantries across North Dakota.

In addition to the food drive, the Showcase includes motivation presentations about managing stress, balancing work and life, energizing the workplace, excelling in customer service, and enhancing organizational skills, among other topics.

County and state employees and individual county social service offices will also receive recognition awards.

The conference is co-sponsored by the N.D. Department of Human Services along with the North Dakota Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and the Dacotah Foundation.

For information, contact the N.D. Department of Human Services’ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program at 701-328-2328.

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