

NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities Awards Grants to Local Organizations

BISMARCK, N.D. - The N.D. State Council on Developmental Disabilities has awarded nine grants totaling over \$319,000 to five North Dakota organizations that serve individuals with developmental disabilities and family members. Grant funds are intended to support employment, education, early intervention, and community supports for persons with developmental disabilities.

The **Arc of Bismarck** was awarded grant funding to support two projects including an educational video series called "Capability Chronicles" featuring people with disabilities and their contributions to their communities, and "Partners in Policymaking," a leadership training program for adults with disabilities and for parents of children with disabilities.

Family Voices of North Dakota in **Edgeley** received funding for its Parent to Parent Project, which provides emotional and informational support to families of children with disabilities and families with children who have special health care needs.

The **March of Dimes** in **Fargo** received support for its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Family Support Project. The project provides information and support to parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members when an infant is born prematurely or with other medical conditions.

The **N.D. Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University** was awarded grant funding to support three projects that improve employment outcomes for people with significant disabilities, educate North Dakotans about disability-related topics through a statewide outreach campaign, and strengthen the direct support workforce by offering professional training and certification to those who support people with disabilities.

Pathfinder Parent Center of **Minot** also received grant funding from the council for the creation of a user-friendly website for parents of special education students and for its 2013 Parent Involvement Conference.

"The financial assistance these grants provide to organizations support services and programs that make a world of difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families," said Cheryl Hess, the council's executive director.

The council advocates for policy changes that promote choice, independence, productivity, and inclusion for North Dakotans with developmental disabilities. It also supports projects and activities that maximize opportunities in these areas for consumers and families. For information about the council, go online to www.ndcpd.org/SCDD/ or contact Hess at 701-328-4847 or chess@nd.gov.

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