

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **State Council on Developmental Disabilities is accepting grant applications now**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities reminds individuals and organizations that grants are available through the end of the month to fund innovative projects that improve the quality of life of people with developmental disabilities, support self-advocacy training, or help make schools and communities more welcoming for youth of all abilities.

The council will award small grants of up to \$500 per project for teens to work on projects that address a barrier or challenge or support young people with disabilities. In addition, the council will award grants for small innovation projects and self-advocacy groups of \$2,500 or less per project. Applications are due by 3 p.m. on July 30, 2015.

“We want to support applications that empower people, address stigma by showcasing talents and abilities, or that create opportunities for people of all abilities to live and work alongside each other in our communities,” said council Executive Director Cheryl Hess.

Two successful previous applicants for the Small Innovative Grants include Project G.R.O.W., a gardening and nutrition education program organized by a master gardener in Bismarck for people with developmental disabilities, and a community inclusive Toastmaster program supported by Development Homes in Grand Forks.

For grant details, Hess encouraged people to go to [www.ndcpd.org/SCDD/grants.shtml](http://www.ndcpd.org/SCDD/grants.shtml) or to contact the council office at 701-328-4847, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [chess@nd.gov](mailto:chess@nd.gov).

Grants are not intended to cover the full cost of projects, she said, and an in-kind or financial match is required. The council also will not approve applications that seek to use grant funds for existing programs or services, to supplant federal and state funds, or for capital expenditures.

Funds awarded during this grant period must be spent and grant-funded activities completed between Oct. 1, 2015, and Sept. 30, 2016.

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.

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