

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **North Dakota communities hold events to support children and families during Child Abuse Prevention Month**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Burgum has proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota have awarded mini grants to 16 entities to hold community events and activities that support families, educate parents and other caregivers, and raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

"Communities both large and small are really the eyes and ears for children, and they play a critical role in helping families raise children in healthy environments and reduce family stressors," said Chris Jones, executive director of the Department of Human Services. "Little things can make a big difference like letting a mom with a hungry, crying baby ahead of you in the grocery checkout line."

Community grantees receiving the mini grants include Slope and Bowman County Social Services, **Amidon** and **Bowman**; Golden Valley and Billings County Social Services, **Beach** and **Medora**; Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, **Bismarck**; Grant County Social Services, **Carson**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; Foster, Eddy, and Wells County Social Services, **Carrington**, **New Rockford**, and **Fessenden**; West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center – North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service, **Dickinson**; Red River Children's Advocacy Center and Region 5 Parent Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Fargo**; Dunn County Social Services, **Killdeer**; Cavalier County Social Services and Region 3 Parent Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Langdon**; Emmons County Social Services, **Linton**; Region 7 Parent Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Mandan**; Region 2 Parent Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Minot**; Rolette County Social Services, **Rolla**; Kidder County Social Services, **Steele**; and Region 6 Parent Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Valley City**.

The mini grants range from \$300 to \$1,500 and are intended to supplement other local support and in-kind donations grantees receive from private entities or community partnerships. At least 75 percent of mini grant funding must be spent on direct prevention services that expand parent and caregiver knowledge and skills related to child abuse and neglect prevention.

Each community coalition will use the mini grants to coordinate educational events and activities like parenting classes and trainings, conferences and workshops, a 5K prevention awareness fun run and walk, yoga calm classes for children, and other family-focused activities.

"These activities show that our communities are united against child abuse," Prevent Child Abuse Executive Director Sandra Tibke said. "Only by working together can we make a lasting difference in the lives of the children and families who need us most."

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Some community activities include:

**Bismarck**

- Family Day Make and Take event including kids yoga, April 14, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bismarck Public Library, 515 N. Fifth St.

**Devils Lake**

- Active Parenting: First Five Years parenting class, April 10, 17, and 24, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Blooming Prairie Center, 211 Fourth St., N.E.
- Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce educational workshop, April 21, 1 to 5 p.m., Village Family Service Center, 224 Fourth St., N.W.

**Fargo**

- Training on child sexual abuse prevention, Tuesdays in April, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Family Wellness Fargo, 2960 Seter Parkway.

**Mandan**

- Conscious Discipline parenting classes, April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Mandan Brave Center, 901 Division St., N.W. Registration required. Individuals can also participate through video conference sites at the Emmons County Courthouse in Linton and the Grant County Courthouse in Carson.

**Minot**

- Kids, Parents and Power Struggles: Secrets to Effective Discipline evening workshop for parents and professionals, April 19, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Grand Hotel, 1505 N. Broadway.

**Valley City**

- Nurtured Heart Approach parenting classes, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 6 to 8 p.m., Jefferson Elementary School, 1150 Central Ave., N.

A full calendar of events is online at [www.pcand.org/events.html](http://www.pcand.org/events.html).

Individuals can also participate in Wear Blue Day on Friday, April 6 and follow *#gretchildhoods* on social media or Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see photos of child abuse prevention events from around the state.

The Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division supports and funds numerous statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programs and activities in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, the NDSU Extension Service – Parent Education Network, and other public and private partners.

If individuals suspect a child is being abused or neglected, they should call their county social services office. If a child is in immediate danger, contact law enforcement.

County contact information is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/). The 53 county social services offices serve as the department's authorized agents for child protection services.

View the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily).

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