

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Sept. 2, 2020

Money Follows the Person Program stakeholders to meet Sept. 8 to hear updates on in-home and community-based services for people with disabilities

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program stakeholders will meet Sept. 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. Central Time to hear updates on new and ongoing efforts to support in-home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities.

The stakeholders group advises the department on in-home and community-based services for Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities. The virtual meeting will be held using Microsoft Teams and conference call at 701-328-0950, conference ID 514 077 523#.

The meeting agenda includes a review of Aging Services programs that help people with disabilities or chronic health conditions live more independently in their homes, including the Family Caregiver Support Program and respite services that can provide unpaid family caregivers a short break from caregiving responsibilities, and assistive safety device and telecommunications equipment distribution services.

A division representative will also discuss the Senior Companion Program, the Aging and Disability Resource Link at www.carechoice.nd.gov and 1-855-462-5465 that connects people to services and supports, and evidence-based health promotion programs, including Stepping On – a program to reduce the risk for falls, [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](#) and Tai Chi Quan.

In addition, stakeholders will be briefed on federal funding, the ongoing statewide implementation of person-centered practices, the MFP Tribal Initiative, caregiver workforce development and support during the pandemic, and the Innovation Accelerator Program Technical Assistance to enhance the department's ability to serve people experiencing homelessness by connecting people to housing together with needed support services. Other topics may be discussed. A Life Skills and Transition Center representative will provide an update. The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jacob Reuter at 701-680-9638, toll free 800-755-2604, 711 (TTY) or jwreuter@nd.gov.

To date, North Dakota's Money Follows the Person Program funds have helped 518 eligible Medicaid clients with disabilities move from nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center and other facilities to community settings, including apartments, a family member's home, or other types of living arrangements with supportive services. Participation is voluntary.

The federal government awarded the department an \$8.9 million Money Follows the Person grant in 2007 to support community living for individuals with disabilities.

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