

Testimony
Long-Term Care Committee
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Senator Dever, Chairman
May 20, 2008

Senator Dever and members of the Long-Term Care Committee, I am Linda Wright, Director of the Aging Services Division, Department of Human Services.

As many of you are aware, the Department of Human Services, Aging Services Division, submitted a grant application to the Administration on Aging last fall to establish Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's) in North Dakota. The ADRC initiative is a joint effort of the Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Administration on Aging (AOA) has funded 43 states to establish ADRC's as required in the 2006 amendments to the Older Americans Act. As of this date, funding has not been available through AOA to fund the remaining seven states including North Dakota.

The good news, however, is that CMS has announced a grant opportunity under the description of Real Choice Systems Change and Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

The grant opportunity has two components:

1. "Promote the development and implementation of enhanced Person-centered Hospital Discharge Planning Models that meaningfully engage Medicaid-eligible, and potentially Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities (and their informal caregivers) to increase the opportunity for individuals to receive home and community-based services.
2. Increase the capacity of existing and develop new single entry points (including ADRC's) to provide critical linkages to available long-term care services in the community and much needed supports for informal caregivers themselves."

Approximately ten grants will be awarded to States for developing and implementing a person-centered hospital discharge planning model, not to exceed \$800,000 with additional funding available to expand an existing ADRC or develop a new ADRC. The additional funding for developing a new ADRC will be granted to two or three states in an amount not to exceed \$800,000. The grant would be available for a 3 year time period from September 30, 2008 to September 29, 2011.

The grant application is due by July 17, 2008. The Department of Human Services has submitted an intent to apply for the grant to CMS.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.