

HELPING HAND GRANT DOLLARS APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION

BISMARCK –The Industrial Commission of North Dakota has approved the distribution of \$250,000 in grant funds through the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency’s (NDHFA) Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) program.

“Helping HAND dollars support the housing needs of individuals with lower-incomes,” said Governor John Hoeven. "Used in conjunction with local housing program dollars, the funds boost a community's ability to meet critical construction or rehabilitation issues in single and multifamily dwellings."

“During the past four years, the program has leveraged almost \$4 million in additional funding to address the needs of lower-income households,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “The most popular use of the program dollars for groups like Community Action is the rehabilitation of existing housing.”

“Helping HAND funds distributed in 2003 supported the construction or rehabilitation of 148 units of single and multifamily housing,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “Since the program began in 1996, NDHFA has provided more than \$2 million in funds that have assisted 3,000 North Dakota households.”

Distribution of the \$250,000 was approved as follows:

- Rebuilding Together/Christmas in April Affiliates, \$5,000 (maximum of \$2,500 per affiliate)
- Habitat for Humanity Affiliates, \$25,000 (maximum of \$10,000 per affiliate)
- Native American Reservations, \$40,000 (maximum of \$10,000 per reservation)
- Community Action Agencies, \$180,000 (proportion based on regional population below poverty level.)

Community Action & Development Program, Inc., Williston	\$8,867
Community Action Opportunities, Inc., Minot	\$25,205
Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency, Devils Lake	\$21,428
Red River Valley Community Action Agency, Grand Forks.....	\$24,840
Southeast ND Community Action Agency, Fargo.....	\$37,238
Community Action Region IV, Jamestown	\$17,079
Community Action Program Region 7, Bismarck	\$33,661
Community Action & Development Program, Inc., Dickinson.....	\$11,682

The Helping HAND program requires a nominal local match of 25 percent to access the grant dollars. The money cannot be used for an organization’s general operating expenses, and it must be utilized within 12 months of grant notification. Community Action Agencies and Native American grantees are encouraged to use funding to benefit the largest number of households.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, oversees the NDHFA. For more information about the NDHFA or the Helping HAND program, contact the agency at (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366-6888 (TTY). Information is also available online at www.ndhfa.org.