

Helping HAND Funds Available

BISMARCK – The Industrial Commission has approved \$250,000 from the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) for the Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) Program to meet housing needs for low-income people at the local level.

“Housing is a high priority across the state,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “This program is designed to assist local communities in addressing their critical housing needs.”

In the past, rehabilitation of existing housing has been the most common usage of the funds. A nominal local funds match is required to access the funds.

“The program provides great flexibility and allows local agencies to use the funds to meet the specific housing needs in their area,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

The funds will be distributed as follows:

- \$25,000 to Habitat for Humanity affiliates to support their homebuilding efforts,
- \$40,000 to Native American reservations, and
- \$185,000 to the eight North Dakota Community Action Agencies (CAA) in support of local housing programs. The funds will be distributed proportionately based on population below poverty level.

“These funds can be used for a wide variety of projects -- from home repairs to new home construction,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “It can also be used to benefit renters.”

For more information about the Helping HAND Program, interested persons should contact their local community action agency or the Housing Finance Agency directly at (701) 328-8080, 1-800-292-8621, 1-800-366-6888 (TTY) or through the Internet at www.ndhfa.org.

The Housing Finance Agency is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.