



Financial Statements
December 31, 2020 and 2019

North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Governor of North Dakota and the Legislative Assembly
North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program
Bismarck, North Dakota

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program, an enterprise fund of the State of North Dakota, as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program, as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, and the changes in financial position and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

Reporting Entity

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program are intended to present the financial position, the changes in financial position and cash flows of only that portion of the State of North Dakota that is attributable to the transactions of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of North Dakota as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019 and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 4 through 8 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated April 6, 2021 on our consideration of North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eide Sully LLP". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed text of the firm's name.

Bismarck, North Dakota
April 6, 2021

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS DECEMBER 31, 2020, 2019, AND 2018

The North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program (the Program) has been designated to act as a guarantor of private student loans originated by the Bank of North Dakota (the Bank). The Program is responsible for processing loans submitted for guarantee, issuing loan guarantees, paying lender claims for loans, and collection of loans on which default claims have been paid.

Note 1 to the financial statements provides a discussion of the organization and significant accounting policies of the Program. The financial statements of the Program provide accounting information similar to that of many other business entities. The Statement of Net Position summarizes the assets, liabilities and net position of the Program and provides the basis for analysis of the soundness and liquidity of the organization. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position summarizes the success of the organization in carrying out its business over the course of the most recent fiscal periods. The Statement of Cash Flows summarizes the flow of cash through the organization as it conducts its business.

The discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Program which follows is meant to provide additional insight into the Program's activities for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and fifteen months ended December 31, 2018. Please read it in conjunction with the Program's financial statements and footnotes which are presented elsewhere in this report. Please note that the Program continues to have adequate resources to act as a guarantor of student loans and the auditor's opinion which accompanies the financial statements is unmodified.

2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Alternative Loan Fund guarantees during the year ending December 31, 2020 were \$127 million compared to \$126 million during the year ending December 31, 2019 and \$170 million during the fifteen months ending December 31, 2018.

Alternative Loan Fund guarantees outstanding at December 31, 2020, 2019, and 2018 was \$1.163 billion, \$1.164 billion, and \$1.171 billion, respectively.

State law requires that the Program maintain a reserve fund on deposit with the Bank for all outstanding Alternative Loans. The fund level may be no less than the Bank of North Dakota historical default rate. The Statement of Net Position indicates that the Alternative Loan Fund has adequate resources to provide for new loan guarantees, claim payments to lenders, and continuing obligations.

**CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2020, 2019, AND 2018**

	2020	(In Thousands) 2019	2018
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents			
Unrestricted	\$ 50,011	\$ 43,949	\$ 42,125
Restricted	5	52	131
Receivables	-	616	774
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 50,016	\$ 44,617	\$ 43,030
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Allowance for future credit losses	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,742	\$ 4,356
Estimated future refunds of default aversion fees	5	52	131
Other	151	1,722	728
Total current liabilities	6,156	7,516	5,215
Noncurrent liabilities			
Allowance for future credit losses	23,338	17,259	18,275
Total liabilities	29,494	24,775	23,490
NET POSITION - UNRESTRICTED	20,522	19,842	19,540
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	\$ 50,016	\$ 44,617	\$ 43,030

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents increased \$6.0 million in 2020 primarily due to administrative fees received from BND and the suspension of default claim payments as of March 31, 2020. Cash and cash equivalents increased \$1.7 million in 2019 primarily due to administrative fees received from BND.

Receivables

The receivable balances consist of administrative fees due to the Program from the Bank of North Dakota as of the end of each year. The decrease in receivables from 2019 to 2020 was due to the suspension of in-state fees paid to the program by Bank of North Dakota from September 2020 to December 2020. Effective January 1, 2021, the in-state administrative fee will be reinstated.

Allowance for Future Credit Losses

As of December 31, 2020, the Program considers the allowance for future credit losses of \$29.3 million adequate to cover losses on Alternative loans. Allowance for future credit losses was \$23 million and \$22.6 million as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The increase in allowance requirements for 2020 is related to the increase in deferments and forbearances because of the COVID pandemic and other economic factors. In addition, allowance methodology was modified to better allow for specific concentrations between in-state and out-of-state loans based on historical performance and trends.

**CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019,
AND 15 MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	2020	(In Thousands) 2019	2018
OPERATING REVENUES			
Administrative fee	\$ 6,968	\$ 9,830	\$ 7,083
Fee revenues	5	22	28
Grant income	-	-	-
	<u>6,973</u>	<u>9,852</u>	<u>7,111</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Service and administrative expense	364	474	829
Credit loss expense	6,000	9,175	6,750
	<u>6,364</u>	<u>9,649</u>	<u>7,579</u>
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	609	203	(468)
NONOPERATING REVENUES			
Interest income	71	99	51
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE TRANSFERS	680	302	(417)
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	680	302	(417)
TOTAL NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF PERIOD	19,842	19,540	19,957
TOTAL NET POSITION - END OF PERIOD	\$ 20,522	\$ 19,842	\$ 19,540

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Note 1 to the financial statements contains discussion of several of the various operating revenue and expense items pertaining to Program operations. Administrative fees decreased \$2.9 million during the year ended December 31, 2020 primarily due to the reduction of the in-state rate paid by BND to zero as of September 1, 2020. Administrative fees increased \$2.7 million during the year ended December 31, 2019 primarily due to an increase in the in-state rate paid by BND.

Service and Administrative Expense - Bank of North Dakota

The Program has entered into a number of agreements as discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements pertaining to related party transactions. Several of these agreements resulted in payments between the various parties either to pay claims on student loans guaranteed by the Program or to fund operations of the Program.

Credit Loss Expense

Credit loss expense was \$6 million during the year ended December 31, 2020, \$9.2 million during the year ended December 31, 2019, \$6.7 million during the fifteen months ending December 31, 2018. The decrease from 2019 to 2020 was primarily due to the suspension of payment for default claims due to COVID. The increase from 2018 to 2019 was primarily due to a change in collection strategy to pay claims on the date of default per the promissory note.

Budgetary Information

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the North Dakota Century Code designates the Bank as the agency to administer the Program. The Bank's operations are funded under a biennial appropriation approved by the state legislature which encompasses the Bank's operations, including those of the Program. Section 15-62.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code also provides continuing appropriation authority to expend monies received and interest earned as may be necessary to implement and administer the Program. Since the legislature does not identify separate appropriation funding for the Program, it is not possible to prepare an analysis of actual performance to appropriation for the Program.

Contacting the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's Financial Management

The information in this report is intended to provide the reader with an overview of the results of the Program's operations along with the Program's accountability for those operations. If you have questions or require additional information, contact us at PO Box 5524, Bismarck, ND 58506-5524, or call us at 701-328-5654.

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents		
Unrestricted	\$ 50,011,804	\$ 43,948,984
Restricted	4,536	52,413
Receivables		
Administrative fee	-	616,392
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 50,016,340</u>	<u>\$ 44,617,789</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Due to BND	\$ 151,626	\$ 183,552
Payable to lenders	-	1,539,523
Allowance for future credit losses	6,000,000	5,742,000
Estimated future refunds of default aversion fees	4,536	52,413
Total current liabilities	<u>6,156,162</u>	<u>7,517,488</u>
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
Allowance for future credit losses	<u>23,337,976</u>	<u>17,258,432</u>
Total liabilities	<u>29,494,138</u>	<u>24,775,920</u>
NET POSITION - UNRESTRICTED	<u>20,522,202</u>	<u>19,841,869</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	<u>\$ 50,016,340</u>	<u>\$ 44,617,789</u>

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
OPERATING REVENUES		
Administrative fee	\$ 6,967,749	\$ 9,829,354
Referral income	<u>5,440</u>	<u>22,380</u>
	<u>6,973,189</u>	<u>9,851,734</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Service and administrative expense	364,286	473,584
Credit loss expense	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>9,175,000</u>
	<u>6,364,286</u>	<u>9,648,584</u>
OPERATING INCOME	608,903	203,150
NONOPERATING REVENUES		
Interest income	<u>71,430</u>	<u>98,561</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	680,333	301,711
TOTAL NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	<u>19,841,869</u>	<u>19,540,158</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION, END OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 20,522,202</u>	<u>\$ 19,841,869</u>

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Loan recoveries received from borrowers	\$ 737,179	\$ 586,834
Credit loss claims paid to BND	(1,939,158)	(8,445,718)
Credit loss claims paid to North Dakota Student Loan Trust	-	(8,115)
Administrative fee received from borrowers	7,584,141	9,986,477
Referral fees received	5,440	22,380
Service and administrative expense paid to BND	(396,212)	(416,181)
Refunds of default aversion fees	(47,877)	(79,182)
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>5,943,513</u>	<u>1,646,495</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Interest received	<u>71,430</u>	<u>98,561</u>
NET CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>71,430</u>	<u>98,561</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	6,014,943	1,745,056
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	<u>44,001,397</u>	<u>42,256,341</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	<u>\$ 50,016,340</u>	<u>\$ 44,001,397</u>
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating income	\$ 608,903	\$ 203,150
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash from operating activities		
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Administrative fee receivable - BND	616,392	157,123
Allowance for future credit losses	4,798,021	1,308,001
Refunds of default aversion fees	(47,877)	(79,182)
Due to BND	(31,926)	57,403
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>\$ 5,943,513</u>	<u>\$ 1,646,495</u>

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Operations

Section 15-62.1 of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) designates the Bank of North Dakota (the Bank) as the agency for the administration of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program (the Program). The Program shall expend monies received and interest on the reserve funds established pursuant to this section of the NDCC as may be necessary to implement and administer the Program. The Program has been designated to act as a guarantor of private student loans originated by the Bank. The Program is responsible for processing loans submitted for guarantee, issuing loan guarantees, paying lender claims for loans, and collecting loans on which default claims have been paid. Program funds may also be used for application processing, loan disbursement, enrollment and repayment status management, default aversion activities, default collection activities, school and lender training, financial aid awareness and related outreach activities, compliance monitoring, and other student financial aid related activities as selected by the Program.

Reporting Entity

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus*, the Program should include all component units over which the Program exercises such aspects as (1) appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (2) has the ability to impose its will on that organization, or (3) the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the Program. Based on that criteria, no organizations were determined to be part of the Program. The Program is included as part of the primary government in the State of North Dakota's reporting.

Accounting Standards

The Program follows the pronouncements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which is the nationally accepted standard setting body for establishing generally accepted accounting principles for governmental entities.

Fund Accounting

The Program is an enterprise fund and uses the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

Basis of Accounting and Measurement Focus

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All enterprise funds are accounted for using the economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with the operation of these funds are included on the statement of net position. Net position is segregated into net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted components. The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position present increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in total net position. The statement of cash flows presents the cash flows for operating activities, investing activities and non-capital financing activities.

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

Use of Estimates

In preparing financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the statement of net position and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Material estimates that are particularly susceptible to significant change in the near-term relate to the determination of the allowance for future credit losses and claims payable to lenders.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Program considers all cash and time deposits with original maturities of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents for purposes of reporting cash flows.

Administrative Fee Revenue

Administrative fee revenue is to be used by the Program to insure loans and to cover costs incurred in the administration of the Alternative Loan Fund. The revenue is recognized at the time of loan disbursement.

Estimated Future Refunds of Default Aversion Fees

As discussed in Note 3, the Program entered into an agreement with Great Lakes Higher Education to refund default aversion fees on loans that entered claim status that had been earned by the Program prior to the transfer of guaranteed federal student loans.

Credit Loss Expenses

The Program estimates the allowance for future credit losses based on management's evaluation of a number of factors, including recent credit loss experience, continuous evaluation of outstanding loans guaranteed, current and anticipated economic conditions, and other pertinent factors.

Restricted Assets

The Program has restricted cash for the estimated future refunds of default aversion fees obligated to Great Lakes Higher Education.

Operating and Non-Operating Revenues

Operating revenues consist of administrative fees, quasi-external operating transactions with other funds, grant revenue for specific activities that are considered to be operating activities of the grantor, receipts from other agencies for reimbursement of operating transactions and other miscellaneous revenue. Grants that would qualify as an operating activity are those that do not subsidize an existing program, rather they finance a program the agency would not otherwise undertake. All other revenues that do not meet the above criteria are classified as non-operating.

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Program has moneys invested in securities or deposits allowed by state regulations. North Dakota Century Code Section 15-62.1-05 states that securities in which moneys of the Program may be invested must meet the same requirements as those authorized for investment under the state investment board.

Deposits

As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Program had cash deposits held at the Bank of \$50,016,340 and \$44,001,397, respectively.

Custodial and Concentration of Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Program will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Program does not have a formal policy that limits custodial credit risk for deposits. None of the Program's deposits are covered by depository insurance. The Program's deposits are uncollateralized, and all of the deposits are held at the Bank of North Dakota and are guaranteed by the State of North Dakota (NDCC Section 6-09-10).

NOTE 3 – DEFAULT AVERSION FEES AND ESTIMATED FUTURE REFUNDS

Upon the transfer of all Federal guarantees to Great Lakes Higher Education, the Program agreed to pay Great Lakes \$354,143 for future refunds at the time of the transfer, with the potential of an additional transfer of up to \$167,900 reserved through September 30, 2024.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 52,413	\$ 131,595
Payment to Great Lakes	<u>(47,877)</u>	<u>(79,182)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 4,536</u>	<u>\$ 52,413</u>

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

NOTE 4 – ALLOWANCE FOR FUTURE CREDIT LOSSES

Changes in the allowance for future credit losses for the years ending December 31, 2020 and 2019 are as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$23,000,432	\$ 22,629,765
Credit loss expense	6,000,000	9,175,000
Recoveries	737,179	586,833
Claims paid	(399,635)	(9,391,166)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$29,337,976</u>	<u>\$ 23,000,432</u>

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA		
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$50,011,804	\$ 43,948,984
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	4,536	52,413
Administrative fee receivable	-	616,392
Due to BND	151,626	183,552
Payable to lenders	-	1,539,523

During the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Program paid \$396,212 and \$469,800, respectively, to the Bank for reimbursement of expenses paid by the Bank on behalf of the Program, which includes \$396,212 and \$469,800 for direct costs specifically identifiable with the Program. The payable to the Bank for such expenses, amounting to \$151,626 and \$183,552 at December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, is included in "Due To BND" on the statement of net position. The Program received administrative fees from the Bank of \$5,933,205 and \$8,503,476 during the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. This decrease was due to a reduction of the in-state rate paid by BND to zero effective September 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

As of December 31, 2020 and 2019, the Program has guaranteed approximately \$1.16 billion and \$1.16 billion of loans owned by the Bank and the Trust, respectively. The Program paid claims of approximately \$2.0 million and \$8.5 million to the Bank and the Trust for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. Some of those loans were subsequently rehabilitated and sold to the Bank.

NORTH DAKOTA GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Program is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts and errors and omissions. The Program is administered by the Bank and, therefore, is eligible to the same funds/pools established by the State for risk management issues. These include:

The 1995 Legislative Session established the Risk Management Fund (RMF), an internal service fund, to provide a self-insurance vehicle for funding the liability exposures of State Agencies resulting from the elimination of the State's sovereign immunity. The RMF manages the tort liability of the State, its agencies' employees, and the University System. All State agencies participating in the RMF and their fund contribution was determined using a projected cost allocation approach. The statutory liability of the State is limited to a total of \$250,000 per person and \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

The State Bonding Fund currently provides the Bank with blanket employee fidelity bond coverage in the amount of \$2,000,000. The State Bonding Fund does not currently charge any premium for this coverage.

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year and settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage.

NOTE 7 – CONTINGENCY

COVID-19

During 2020, the world-wide coronavirus pandemic impacted national and global economies. The Program is closely monitoring its operations, liquidity, and capital resources and is actively working to minimize the current and future impact of this unprecedented situation. As of the date of the issuance of these financial statements, the current and future full impact to the Program is not known.



Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

To the Governor of North Dakota and
the Legislative Assembly
North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program
Bismarck, North Dakota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program, an enterprise fund of the State of North Dakota, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 6, 2021.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not yet been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eide Bailly LLP".

Bismarck, North Dakota
April 6, 2021



**Independent Auditor's Comments Requested by the
North Dakota Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee**

The Industrial Commission
State of North Dakota
Bismarck, North Dakota

The Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee require that certain items be addressed by independent certified public accountants performing audits of state agencies. The items and our responses are as follows:

Audit Report Communications:

1. What type of opinion was issued on the financial statements?

Unmodified

2. Was there compliance with statutes, laws, rules, and regulations under which the agency was created and is functioning?

Yes

3. Was internal control adequate and functioning effectively?

Yes

4. Were there any indications of lack of efficiency in financial operations and management of the agency?

No

5. Has action been taken on findings and recommendations included in prior year audit reports?

N/A – There were no findings in the prior year's audit report.

6. Was a management letter issued? If so, provide a summary below, including any recommendations and the management response.

No

Audit Committee Communications:

1. Identify any significant changes in accounting policies, any management conflicts of interest, any contingent liabilities, or any significant unusual transactions.

None

2. Identify any significant accounting estimates and the process used by management to determine those estimates.

Management's estimate of the allowance for future credit losses is based on management's evaluation of a number of factors, including recent credit loss experience, continuous evaluation of outstanding loans guaranteed, current and anticipated economic conditions, and other pertinent factors.

3. Identify any significant audit adjustments.

None

4. Identify any disagreements with management, whether or not resolved to the auditor's satisfaction, relating to financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matters that could be significant to the financial statements.

None

5. Identify any significant difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

None

6. Identify any major issues discussed with management prior to retention.

None

7. Identify any management consultations with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters.

None

8. Identify any high-risk information technology systems critical to operations based on the auditor's overall assessment of the importance of the system to the agency and its mission, or whether any exceptions identified in the six audit report questions to be addressed by auditors are directly related to the operations of an information technology system.

Based on the audit procedures performed, the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's critical information technology system is the University Accounting Service (UAS). There were no exceptions identified that were directly related to this application.

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, Bank of North Dakota Advisory Board, and management of the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Eide Bailly LLP

Bismarck, North Dakota
April 6, 2021

April 6, 2021

To the Governor of North Dakota and the Legislative Assembly
North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program
Bismarck, North Dakota

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities of North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program for the year ended December 31, 2020. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated December 21, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2020. We noted no transactions entered into by the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimated affecting the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's financial statements were:

- Management's estimate of the allowance for future credit losses is based on management's evaluation of a number of factors including recent loan loss experience, continuous evaluation of the loan portfolio quality, current and anticipated economic conditions, and other pertinent factors. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

- Management’s estimate of claims payable is based on management’s evaluation of delinquent loan pools reduced by estimated loan recalls. Estimated loan recalls are calculated based on prior years actual claims paid compared to estimated claims payable taking out the maximum and minimum as outliers. We evaluated the key factors and assumption used to develop the estimate in determining that is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgement and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program’s financial statements relate to Note 4 for Allowance for Future Credit Losses.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures that required correction by management.

The following summarizes uncorrected financial statement misstatements whose effects in the current and prior periods, as determined by management, are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole and each applicable opinion unit.

Operating Expenses	\$ 39,294	
Accrued Expenses		\$ 39,294
Administrative Fee Receivable	\$131,304	
Administrative Fee		\$131,304

The effects of these uncorrected misstatements, including the effects of the reversal of prior year uncorrected misstatements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, are as follows:

- Overstatement of net change in fund balance and overstatement of fund balance of \$39,294.
- Understatement of net change in fund balance and understatement of fund balance of \$131,304.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain written representations from management which are included in the management representation letter dated April 6, 2021.

Management's Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to Management's Discussion and Analysis, which is required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

This information is intended solely for the use of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, Bank of North Dakota Advisory Board, and management of North Dakota Guaranteed Student Loan Program and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Bismarck, North Dakota