

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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N.D. food stamp program receives bonus from USDA
State to receive \$213,251 high performance bonus

BISMARCK, N.D. – It pays to be accurate. The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it is awarding North Dakota's Food Stamp program a \$213,251 high performance bonus for achieving the eighth best payment accuracy rate in the country.

“This performance bonus recognizes that county and state public employees in North Dakota do a superior job of not only helping qualified individuals access food assistance, but also assuring that they receive the appropriate amount of benefits,” said N.D. Department of Human Services Executive Director Carol K. Olson.

The award is based upon 2004 federal fiscal year results involving overpayments and underpayments. North Dakota achieved a 4.15 percent error rate. The national average was 5.88 percent. Authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill, high performance bonuses support the USDA's program integrity goal by recognizing the best performing and most improved states.

The food stamp program assists about 45,000 low-income North Dakotans, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and many in need of temporary help, by providing \$3.8 million in federal funding each month, which is used to purchase food at about 424 participating grocers.

The N.D. Department of Human Services' 2005-2007 food stamp budget totals \$105.8 million in federal funds.

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