

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Sheryl Pfliger, Program Administrator, Aging Services Division, 701-328-4645, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933

Draft State Plan On Aging Services Available For Review And Comment
Comment Period Ends July 19, 2006

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota ranks in the top ten states for the percentage of population that is age 65 or older, and is arguably the leader in the proportion of state residents age 85 and older. These demographics impact the planning and delivery of important health and human services that help people live independently in their homes and communities.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services Aging Services Division is seeking public comments through July 19, 2006, on a draft state plan outlining how it will provide important supportive services to people who are elderly or who have physical disabilities.

Required under the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), which helps fund the services, the four-year plan describes how the state intends to provide senior meals that are home-delivered or served at senior meal sites, health screenings, outreach, family caregiver support services, long-term care ombudsman services, adult protective services, legal services, and senior companion services. It was developed after an extensive effort to gather public input.

The draft plan is available online at <http://www.nd.gov/humanservices/info/pubs/docs/oa-state-plan-on-aging-draft-2007-2010.pdf> or by contacting the N.D. Department of Human Services – Aging Services Division at 600 E Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505-0250, or through the Senior Info-Line at 1-800-451-8693. State residents can send comments to the division by e-mail at sopfls@nd.gov or by mailing them to the address listed above.

According to department data, 29,377 state residents received Older Americans Act services in 2005. The human services department also administers and pays for other services through its Medical Services Division to help sustain senior citizens and people with disabilities in their homes and communities.

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