



NEWS

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North Dakota Receives Grant to Establish Senior Legal Hotline

BISMARCK, N.D. – The federal Administration on Aging has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the North Dakota Department of Human Services to establish and market a legal assistance hotline for low-income senior citizens. North Dakota is one of only six states to receive the federal funding. The department partnered with Legal Services of North Dakota to develop the proposal.

“The grant expands on the legal services we’ve been providing for the past 20 years through Older Americans Act funding and will make it easier for low-income senior citizens to access legal help,” Aging Services Division Director Linda Wright said.

According to Wright, the planned hotline may be answered by an attorney with expertise not only in elder law issues, but also Native American and immigration law. Program details and a provider need to be finalized. Wright said funding may also help expand pro-bono and reduced-fee legal services for low-income seniors.

Seniors typically have legal questions related to personal finance matters, advanced directives, and care issues, she said. The department plans to promote the hotline to immigrant/refugee communities and in rural areas including Tribal communities.

The department will establish an advisory committee to oversee the grant. Members could include representatives from University of North Dakota School of Law, the North Dakota Bar Association, community access television, the Immigration Law Advisory Council, Tribal judges, and other community organizations.

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