

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Developmental Center prepares to shelter veterans

BISMARCK, ND – The Developmental Center in Grafton is preparing to shelter a new group of flood evacuees. The North Dakota Veterans Home plans to transfer 36 veterans who usually reside in its basic care unit along with 12 staff to the Developmental Center’s New Horizons building on Wednesday, April 15. An advance team from the Veterans Home arrived in Grafton today to prepare for the veterans’ arrival.

This is the second time this spring that the Center has provided shelter to vulnerable persons displaced by flooding concerns. Two weeks ago, 55 Friendship Inc. clients and their caregivers evacuated from Fargo and sought shelter there. Those individuals have returned to Fargo.

Families and guardians of veterans temporarily relocated to the Grafton facility can call 701-352-4327 or 701-352-4265 for information or to talk to their loved ones.

The New Horizons building is a residential unit that is currently unoccupied. It has semi-private rooms, as well as lounge and recreation areas. Currently, 124 individuals with developmental disabilities reside at the Developmental Center.

“Governor Hoeven and the state have committed all necessary resources to assist North Dakotans, especially vulnerable individuals, impacted by flooding,” said North Dakota Department of Human Services Executive Director Carol K. Olson. “Department staff members have assisted local emergency management officials with shelters for vulnerable persons and have provided disaster mental health services, and will continue to be a resource for North Dakota communities.”

In late March, the department’s State Hospital triaged and temporarily admitted 21 adults evacuated from Prairie St. John’s hospital and three residents evacuated from Manor Care nursing facility in Fargo. In addition, mental health, nursing, social work, and direct care staff from several of the department’s regional human service centers also provided direct care and support at a supportive care shelter established March 29 in West Fargo during the Red River’s first crest in Fargo. The 89 individuals sheltered there returned to their homes in Fargo on April 1.

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