

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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Contacts: Andrea Peña, Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, 701-328-4847, or LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, N.D. Dept. of Human Services, 701-328-1892

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities awards grants to local organizations**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities has awarded 15 grants totaling over \$450,000 to organizations throughout the state that serve individuals with developmental disabilities. Grant funds are intended to support employment, education, early intervention, and community supports for persons with developmental disabilities, as well as quality assurance efforts.

“These Council grants enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in North Dakota,” said Andrea Peña, the Council’s executive director. “The financial assistance these grants provide to non-profit advocacy organizations makes a world of difference to infants, young children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities.”

Organizations receiving funding for the 2010-2011 project period include: March of Dimes North Dakota, Fargo; North Dakota State University, Fargo; Pathfinder Parent Center, Minot; Community Living Services, Fargo; Head Injury Association of North Dakota, Valley City; Family Voices of ND, Edgeley; Open Door Center, Valley City; Missouri Valley Family YMCA, Bismarck; North Dakota Centers for Persons with Disabilities, Minot; Arc of Bismarck; ND Disabilities Advocacy Consortium, Bismarck; and L.I.S.T.E.N. Inc. of Grand Forks.

Council Chairperson Mary Simonson said the grants provide important resources to operate programs that otherwise may not exist such as neonatal family supports, parent education curricula for parents with developmental disabilities, medical home care coordination, after-school programming for adolescents with developmental disabilities, advocacy training for individuals with disabilities and their family members, transitional employment programs, disaster preparedness planning, and more.

The Council advocates for policy changes that promote choice, independence, productivity, and inclusion for North Dakotans with developmental disabilities, and supports projects and activities that maximize opportunities in these areas for consumers and families. For information about the Council, visit the Governor’s Web site at <http://governor.nd.gov/boards/> or contact Peña at 701-328-4847 or [apena@nd.gov](mailto:apena@nd.gov).