

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contacts: LuWanna Lawrence, Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl, Public Information Manager, 701-328-4933

## **Human Services Invites Input on Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Using Online Survey**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division is seeking public input through an online survey about statewide programs and services that help older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities. The department invites clients, their family members, service providers, partners, advocates, and other interested individuals to complete the survey by Mon., March 10, 2014, at 5 p.m. (central time). The survey is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/adultsaging/).

The survey contains 22 questions on healthy aging, nutrition services, caregiving, supportive services, employment, consumer choice, planning ahead for future care needs, elder rights, and other topics. The survey also seeks feedback on the current service delivery system and on future service needs. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete.

“The comments we gather will help us update our State Plan on Aging, which acts as a blue print for prioritizing services that will be provided with the federal Older Americans Act dollars the division receives every four years,” said Jan Engan, director of the Aging Services Division. “It’s very important for people to share their input because these services affect the quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities in our state.”

The Aging Services Division funds a variety of programs and services including a toll-free information phone line and website, home-delivered meals, meals at senior meal sites, senior legal assistance, assistive safety devices like grab bars and seat lifts, blood pressure screenings, foot care, medication set-up, options counseling, and the senior companion program. The division also funds the Family Caregiver Support Program, senior employment and training, dementia care, long-term care ombudsman services, and protective services to vulnerable adults at-risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

After reviewing comments from the survey, a draft state plan will be created and stakeholder meetings will be scheduled throughout the state in early spring to review input and outline areas that will be included in the plan and to hear additional comments. The draft state plan will be finalized in July and then submitted to the federal Administration on Aging for approval.

Engan said in federal fiscal year 2013, about 23,300 North Dakotans age 60 and older were served by programs funded under the Older Americans Act.

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