

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck ND 58505-02501**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Agency awards autism training grants; funding is still available

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Autism Services Division has awarded small community education and training grants totaling \$14,860 to three organizations that serve individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families in North Dakota.

"We are pleased to be able to provide funding to Development Homes Inc., of Grand Forks, N.D.; the North Dakota Autism Center, West Fargo, N.D.; and Family Voices of North Dakota, Edgeley, N.D., for parent and provider training and education events," said Autism Services Coordinator Trisha Page.

Page said the department will continue to accept applications now through June 1, 2015, for autism-specific education and training for service providers, parents, and first responders, peer-to-peer education, and related activities. Activities must be completed by June 30, 2015, she said. Details about grant requirements are online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html.

Grant-funded training

The North Dakota Autism Center is hosting a workshop for parents and professionals on **April 13, 2015**, 5-8 p.m., at Sheyenne High School in West Fargo, featuring Barbara Haas-Givler, M.Ed., a behavior analyst and training consultant with Geisinger's Autism and Developmental Medicine Institute in Lewisburg, Pa. Haas-Givler will share information on genetic factors and testing and the impact of diagnoses for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder. Details are online at <http://ndautismcenter.org/>.

Development Homes Inc. received funding to support a community autism education event on **April 25, 2015**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at the University of North Dakota Wellness Center in Grand Forks. The event will feature an information resource fair where parents and others can learn about available services, supports, and therapeutic approaches. See details at www.developmenthomes.org

Family Voices of North Dakota received funding to support individualized family consultation for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder. For information, contact Family Voices of North Dakota at 1-888-522-9654 or 701-493-2634, or go to their website at <http://fvnd.org>.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Autism Services Division administers the Medicaid autism waiver and a voucher program, and supports statewide training. Information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html or by contacting the division at 701-328-8912, toll-free 800-755-2719, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or via e-mail at dhsautism@nd.gov.

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