

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Governor and First Lady invite North Dakotans to register and participate in *A Day for Prevention* on April 11

BISMARCK, N.D. – Substance abuse and related consequences inflict a heavy human and financial toll on North Dakota communities.

Gov. Doug Burgum, First Lady Kathryn Helgaas Burgum and the state’s Department of Human Services invite North Dakotans to *A Day for Prevention* on April 11, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT, to learn how they can be a part of solutions that improve the quality of life of all North Dakotans by preventing substance abuse.

There is no cost to register, and people interested in participating in the *Day for Prevention* event at Bismarck State College’s National Energy Center of Excellence are encouraged to register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-day-for-prevention-tickets-43171381765>. *A Day for Prevention* will also be webcast live at www.nd.gov, so people across the state can participate.

Substance abuse prevention is an important part of the state’s comprehensive approach to addressing behavioral health needs. Experts estimate that prevention can save an average of \$64 for every \$1 invested.

“People understand that preventing drug and alcohol abuse is important, and that effective prevention programs are a good investment,” Burgum said. “We are pleased to be able to host national and state experts to share information about effective prevention tools we can use now to save lives and money.”

The event builds on *Recovery Reinvented* held in 2017. The goal of *A Day for Prevention* is to engage community stakeholders and strengthen substance abuse prevention efforts statewide.

Organizers encourage parents, students, community and tribal substance abuse prevention coalition members, school personnel, health and behavioral health professionals, policymakers, business leaders, criminal justice professionals, first responders, faith community leaders, communication professionals and others to participate.

“Participants will be able to connect with other individuals who share a desire to implement effective substance abuse prevention,” said Department of Human Services’ Behavioral Health Division Director Pamela Sagness. “They will learn what effective substance abuse prevention looks like, will discover resources and tools, and can participate in discussions on emerging issues.”

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The department's regional human service centers in Dickinson, Grand Forks, Minot and Williston are working with community partners to host local participation events. Other organizations and communities are also encouraged to host events on April 11 to watch the livestream as a community.

For more information on *A Day for Prevention* community viewing events and substance abuse prevention resources and information, visit the North Dakota Prevention Resource and Media Center at <https://prevention.nd.gov/day-for-prevention>.

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