

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave. - Dept. 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2018**

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Money Follows the Person grant stakeholder meeting to be held tomorrow, Sept. 12 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Money Follows the Person grant stakeholders will meet Sept. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. CT to discuss recent federal funding for housing vouchers awarded to five North Dakota housing authorities and other topics relating to transitioning older adults and people with disabilities from institutional settings back into the community. The meeting will be held in the Coteau Room in the Judicial Wing at the state Capitol in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend.

Stakeholders act in an advisory capacity to the department and receive quarterly updates on grant activities, which focus on promoting community-based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Grant funds pay for supportive services that help eligible individuals move from nursing homes or other facilities to a community setting like an apartment, a family member's home or other types of living arrangements.

Other agenda topics are supported housing initiatives including the new Opening Doors program, a statewide landlord mitigation fund led by the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency, and the Money Follows the Person tribal initiative, an effort to assist the state and tribal nations in developing infrastructure so tribal entities can provide more home and community-based services.

Members will also receive updates on program transition data and budget, and efforts to build workforce capacity in areas of direct support professionals, qualified service providers and behavioral health technicians. A representative from the Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton will also provide an organizational update. Other business may also be discussed.

A complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

The public should enter the Capitol through the south (tunnel) public entrance. Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jake Reuter at 701-328-2321, toll-free 800-755-2604, Relay ND TTY 800-366-6888 or jwreuter@nd.gov.

The federal government awarded the North Dakota Department of Human Services an \$8.9 million Money Follows the Person grant in 2007. Medicaid clients who are elderly or have physical or other disabilities and who live in nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center or other institutions may qualify for transition services funded through this effort. Participation is voluntary. Since transitions began in 2008, 424 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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