

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Keeping children safe and supporting families is the focus of community events being held during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division and Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota have awarded 16 mini grants to North Dakota community coalitions to host events and activities in April that strengthen and support families and raise awareness about child abuse prevention.

"We all play a role in keeping children safe," said Marlys Baker, the department's child protection services administrator. "Building protective factors like social connections, knowledge about child development and supporting parents to be resilient are ways that communities can help strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect."

Community grantees receiving the mini grants include Slope and Bowman County Social Services, **Amidon** and **Bowman**; Dakota Children's Advocacy Center, **Bismarck**; Lakes Social Service District, **Devils Lake**; Divide County Social Services, **Crosby**; Foster, Eddy, and Wells County Social Services, **Carrington**, **New Rockford**, and **Fessenden**; West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center – North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service, **Dickinson**; Red River Children's Advocacy Center and Region 5 Parent and Family Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Fargo**; Region 4 Parent and Family Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Grand Forks**; Adams County Social Services, **Hettinger**; Dunn County Social Services, **Killdeer**; Nelson/Griggs County Social Services, **Lakota** and **Cooperstown**; Cavalier County Social Services and the Region 3 Parent and Family Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Langdon**; Emmons County Social Services, **Linton**; Region 7 Parent and Family Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service and Morton County Social Services, **Mandan**; Region 2 Parent and Family Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service, **Minot**; Region 6 Parent and Family Resource Center – NDSU Extension Service and Barnes County Social Services, **Valley City**.

The mini grants range from \$700 to \$1,500 and are intended to supplement other local support and in-kind donations grantees receive from private entities or community partnerships. At least 75 percent of mini grant funding must be spent on direct prevention services that expand parent and caregiver knowledge and skills related to child abuse and neglect prevention.

Each community coalition will use the mini grants to coordinate educational events and activities like parenting classes and trainings, conferences and workshops, 5K prevention awareness fun run and walk, cooking classes for parents and children, and other family-focused activities.

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Some community activities include:

Bismarck

- Family Day Make and Take Event, April 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, 515 N. Fifth St.

Fargo

- Pinwheel Garden Planting event at Island Park on April 19.
- Red River Children's Advocacy Center Annual Training: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Child Maltreatment, May 8 and 9.

Divide County

- Community Clothing Drive April 26 and 29. Drop off locations include Divide County Social Services, Divide County elementary and high schools and the Crosby Clinic.
- Cooking with the Kids, April 1, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Divide County High School.
- Cocoa with the County for children and parents will be held at the Courthouse April 29, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. with Bingo starting at 6 p.m.

Grand Forks

- Active Parenting Class with Childcare, April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2 and 9, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Valley Middle School.
- Family Gym Event and Healthy Brain Development Presentation, April 13 with three sessions at 9 to 10 a.m., 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Minot

- Childhood Stress: How a Relational Perspective Empowers Our Understanding and Promotes Well-Being – a full day workshop for parents and professionals, April 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Grand Hotel, 1505 N. Broadway.
- Parent and Child Spring Fling with a showing of the movie *Inside Out* and a Make and Take Event, April 10, 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Ward County Library, 225 Third St. S.E.

A full calendar of events is online at www.pcand.org/events.html.

"These activities show that our communities are united against child abuse," said Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota Executive Director Sandra Tibke. "Only by working together can we make a lasting difference in the lives of the children and families who need us most."

Individuals can also participate in Wear Blue Day on Friday, April 5 and follow [#greatchildhoods](https://twitter.com/greatchildhoods) on social media or Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see photos of child abuse prevention events from around the state.

The Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division supports and funds numerous statewide child abuse and neglect prevention programs and activities in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota, the NDSU Extension Service – Parent Education Network, and other public and private partners.

If individuals suspect a child is being abused or neglected, they should call their county social services office. If a child is in immediate danger, contact law enforcement.