

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Feb. 25, 2020

Money Follows the Person Program stakeholders to hear updates on grants to strengthen in-home services at March 4 meeting in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Money Follows the Person Program stakeholder group will meet March 4, from 1 to 4 p.m. Central Time to hear updates on two small pilot grants intended to strengthen access to in-home services in rural areas, as well as other related initiatives now underway. The meeting will be held in the Pioneer Room located in the Judicial Wing of the state Capitol in Bismarck. The public is welcome to attend.

Stakeholders advise the department on in-home and community-based services to Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities and receive quarterly updates on new and ongoing initiatives. Program funds help eligible older adults and people with disabilities who want to move from a nursing home or other facility to a community setting like an apartment, a family member's home, or other types of living arrangements with supportive services. They also help qualifying individuals remain living at home and in community settings.

The meeting agenda includes updates on federal funding, the statewide implementation of person-centered practices across service delivery systems for people with disabilities, strategies to support people with disabilities through the Innovation Accelerator program and workforce development efforts. Members will discuss the housing initiative and related efforts.

Stakeholders will also hear an update on the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative, an effort to assist the state and tribal nations by helping tribal elders and tribal members with disabilities transition from institutions to community living. Other topics may be discussed. The complete agenda is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/index.html.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jacob Reuter at 701-680-9638, toll free 800-755-2604, 711 (TTY) or jwreuter@nd.gov. The public must enter through the south entrance of the Capitol and pass through metal detectors.

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. Participation is voluntary. Since transitions began in 2008, 492 individuals have transitioned to community settings.

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