

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 16, 2020

Money Follows the Person Program stakeholders to meet June 18 to hear updates on in-home and community-based services for people with disabilities

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program stakeholder group will meet June 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. Central Time by conference call at 701-328-0950, conference ID 654 878 660# to hear updates on efforts, during the pandemic, to support in-home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities.

Stakeholders advise the department on in-home and community-based services to Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities. They meet quarterly to receive quarterly updates on new and ongoing initiatives.

The meeting agenda includes an update on caregiver workforce development and support during the pandemic. Beginning in April when supplies of personal protective equipment were limited and costly, the department partnered with the North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP) and the North Dakota Department of Health to provide guidance and needed personal protective equipment and supplies to qualified service providers who deliver important in-home care to eligible North Dakotans with disabilities.

Stakeholders will also hear an update on expanding transition coordination and support services offered through the Centers for Independent Living in North Dakota, so that individuals with disabilities can transition from provider-operated residential settings to community living. MFP funding helps support transition planning, care and service coordination, and one-time moving and household costs, including rent and utility deposits and related needs.

In addition, stakeholders will be briefed on federal funding, the statewide implementation of person-centered practices, the Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative, and the Innovation Accelerator Program Technical Assistance to enhance the department's ability to serve people who are experiencing homelessness by connecting them to needed support services together with housing. Other topics may be discussed. The Life Skills and Transition Center representative will provide an update. 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.

In-home, long-term care options are available for older adults and people with disabilities who qualify for nursing home care but choose to live at home in the community.

June 18 Money Follows the Person Stakeholder meeting – page 2

To learn more, individuals can contact North Dakota's Aging and Disability Resources Link by calling toll-free at 1-855-462-5465, 711 (TTY), weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT, or emailing carechoice@nd.gov. The information and referral line also has an online database of services at <https://carechoice.nd.assistguide.net/>.

To date, North Dakota's Money Follows the Person Program funds have helped 506 eligible older adults and people with disabilities move from nursing homes, the Life Skills and Transition Center and other facilities to community settings, including apartments, a family member's home, or other types of living arrangements with supportive services.

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 or other institutions may qualify for transition services. Participation is voluntary.

###

CONTACT:

Heather Steffl | 701-328-4933
hsteffl@nd.gov

LuWanna Lawrence | 701-328-1892
llawrence@nd.gov