

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | February 2, 2021

## **Human Services hosts public input meetings on DOJ settlement to expand in-home and community-based long-term care services for people with disabilities**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services is hosting four online listening sessions in February 2021, beginning today, Feb. 2, to gather public recommendations as the state moves forward with implementation of the U.S. Department of Justice settlement agreement [announced](#) in mid-December. The agreement outlines actions the state will take to expand in-home and community-based services so that individuals with physical disabilities can live in the least restrictive setting possible.

The department is seeking input from older adults, individuals with physical disabilities, advocates and other stakeholders and interested individuals. Virtual listening session meetings will be held on Tuesday, **Feb. 2**, 6:30-8 p.m., Central Time (CT); Thursday, **Feb. 4**, 6:30-8 p.m. CT; Friday, **Feb. 5**, 2-3:30 p.m. CT, and Tuesday, **Feb. 9**, 3:30-5 p.m. CT.

### ***How to Participate***

People will be able to join the virtual meeting from computers, mobile devices and by telephone. Meeting participation details are available online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2021/2-2021-doj-settlement-agreement-listening-session-meetings.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/publicnotice/2021/2-2021-doj-settlement-agreement-listening-session-meetings.pdf) or by calling the state's Aging and Disability Resource LINK toll-free at 855-462-5465.

At each meeting, department representatives will share a summary of the [settlement agreement](#) requirements and will invite stakeholders to provide input on these agreement topics: access to community-based services, transition services, provider capacity and training, person-centered practices, ongoing stakeholder involvement and housing services. Public input will be used to draft an implementation plan and to develop a strategy to gather ongoing stakeholder involvement.

Individuals who need accommodations to participate in the meeting can contact Jacob Reuter at 701-680-9638, 711 (TTY) or [jwreuter@nd.gov](mailto:jwreuter@nd.gov).

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