

Executive Summary  
Presented to the  
State of North Dakota  
65th Legislative Assembly

## North Dakota's Displaced Homemaker Program

[NDCC 14-06.1]

The Legislative Assembly identified an ever-increasing number of persons in North Dakota who, having fulfilled a role as homemaker, found themselves "displaced" through separation, divorce, death or disability of spouse, or other loss of support. In 1979, HB 1921 provided the parameters of the Displaced Homemaker Program and its components of counseling and guidance, job readiness training, and services for displaced homemakers to enjoy the independence and economic security vital to a productive life and to improve the health and welfare of this ever-growing population of citizens. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Adult Education unit, has been granted the authority under NDCC 14-06.1 to provide funding to the adult learning centers, who provide services to individuals who qualify for academic and career related services.

The term "displaced homemaker" has been defined by law to mean an individual who:

- a) Has worked in the individual's home providing unpaid services for household members;
- b) Has been or is unemployed or underemployed;
- c) Has had or will have difficulty finding and maintaining employment; and
  - (1) is widowed, divorced, separated, or abandoned; or
  - (2) because of the disability of the individual's spouse, is displaced from the individual's former economically dependent role.

The State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction has the authority to direct funds and designates Adult Learning Centers to

- *provide employment counseling; interpersonal skill building; job readiness, job search, and employability training; information and community referral services; and appropriate public information and community education*
- *include an outreach component capable of delivering the full range of services to groups of displaced homemakers in rural communities*
- *ensure that displaced homemakers receive information and referral services as necessary for preventive health care and consumer health education; money management and assistance programs; and, higher education opportunities*

Funding for the Displaced Homemaker Program originates from a \$50 fee assessed to each divorce filed in the state; collection is made to the State Auditor’s office and transferred to the Department of Public Instruction. By law, 95% of funds must be allocated for direct services and is annually granted to the adult learning centers across the state. Also by law, the Department must provide an executive summary to the Legislative Assembly during each biennial session. Lastly, NDCC requires an advisory board to meet annually and to advise the program.

Each adult learning center is required to report annually on outcomes for students who qualify for Displaced Homemakers services. A summary for the 2015-2017 biennium (through April 21st, 2017) identifies:

	2015-2016	2016-2017	TOTAL
Income received	\$ 122,560	\$ 69,075 *	\$ 191,635
Students served	204 (175 female 29 male)	218 (174 female 44 male)	422
Ages			
16-18	8	15	
19-24	53	58	
25-44	95	99	
45-59	38	35	422
60 and older	10	11	
Outcomes**			
Academic gains		114	
Obtain GED		41	
Post-secondary		46	
Obtain Employment		14	215 (51%)

\* Through March 2016   \*\* Duplicate counts and crossover of program years

Displaced Homemakers is one of many free services supported by adult learning centers across North Dakota. Other programs and services to help adults over the age of 16 obtain basic academic and educational skills to be productive workers, family members, and citizens includes: reading/writing, science, social studies, math, computer literacy, and other basic academic skills, and English Language acquisition for adults who are unable to read, speak or write English. Workplace and career planning and readiness, career pathway training, civics education and GED test preparation are also offered.

### Adult Learning Center Locations

