

Helping HAND Funds Approved

BISMARCK – On July 20, 2000 the Industrial Commission approved \$250,000 in funds for the Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) Program, which is designed to address demonstrated unmet housing needs for low-income people. Funding for this program comes from the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA).

“Housing continues to be a high priority across the state,” Gov. Ed Schafer said. “These funds are to be used in conjunction with other housing programs and give a big boost to communities in addressing their critical local housing needs.”

Distribution of the \$250,000 was approved as follows:

- \$25,000 to Habitat for Humanity affiliates to support their homebuilding efforts,
- \$40,000 to Native American Reservations, and
- \$185,000 to the North Dakota Community Action Agencies (CAA) in support of its housing programs, to be distributed proportionately based on population below poverty level in their respective regions.

“These funds are intended to support new or existing single family or multi-family housing rehabilitation programs, including homeless shelters,” said Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp.

“For every dollar of funds requested, the applicant must provide at least 25 percent match, in cash, from a non-NDHFA source,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson.

“A major procedural change was made this year,” said Pat S. Fricke, NDHFA Executive Director. “Program utilization will now be determined at the local level by the community action agencies rather than at the state level.”

For more information about the Helping HAND Program, interested persons should contact their local community action agency or the Housing Finance Agency directly at (701) 328-8080, 1-800-292-8621, or 1-800-366-6888 (TTY). Information is also available on the NDHFA web page at www.ndhfa.state.nd.us.

The Housing Finance Agency is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. Edward T. Schafer, as Chairman, Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp, and Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson.