BISMARCK –The Industrial Commission of North Dakota approved the distribution of $250,000 in grant funds through the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency’s Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) Program today.

“These grant dollars will help address the housing needs of individuals with lower-incomes,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “Investing in housing rehabilitation programs and construction projects is important to maintaining the quality of life our citizens deserve.”

“The funds are used in conjunction with local housing program dollars to help boost a community’s ability to address critical housing needs,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “In the past, rehabilitation of existing housing has been the most common usage of the money.”

“Since 1993, the NDHFA has awarded more than $2 million in grants through the Helping HAND Program,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

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

- Community Action & Development Program, Inc., Williston ......................................... $9,606
- Community Action & Development Program, Inc., Dickinson ..................................... $12,826
- Community Action Opportunities, Inc., Minot .......................................................... $25,885
- Community Action Program Region 7, Bismarck ....................................................... $34,831
- Community Action Region IV, Jamestown ............................................................... $19,421
- Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency, Devils Lake .............................................. $22,957
- Red River Valley Community Action Agency, Grand Forks ........................................ $25,443
- Southeast ND Community Action Agency, Fargo .................................................... $34,031
- Missouri Valley Habitat for Humanity, Bismarck ...................................................... $8,930
- Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity, Fargo ............................................................... $8,930
- Northern Lights Habitat for Humanity, Minot ......................................................... $7,140
- Standing Rock/Sitting Bull College/HIP Program, Fort Yates ...................................... $10,000
- Three Affiliated Tribes, New Town ............................................................................. $10,000
- Trenton Indian Service Area, Trenton .......................................................................... $10,000
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt ............................................................ $10,000

Helping HAND grant dollars can be used to support single- or multi-family housing projects. A nominal local match of 25 percent is required to access the grant dollars. The money cannot be used for an organization’s general operating expenses, and it must be utilized within 12 months of grant notification. The funds distributed to North Dakota Community Action Agencies are based proportionately on regional population below poverty level.

For more information about the Helping HAND Program, contact your local community action agency or the NDHFA at (701) 328-8080, 1-800-292-8621, 1-800-366-6888 (TTY) or www.ndhfa.org.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, oversees the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency. No state general funds are used in support of NDHFA programs.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Pat Fricke (701) 328-8080