



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

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Doug Goehring
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NEWS

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For Immediate Release

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS' EMPLOYEE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION BEGINS State Will Provide \$2.6 Million to Build Affordable Apartment Complex

WATFORD CITY, ND – McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. and North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) broke ground today for a development that will provide affordable housing for essential medical personnel.

"This housing project is just the latest example of our commitment to the expanded development of affordable housing for fixed-income residents and employees who provide essential services in our rapidly growing communities," Governor Jack Dalrymple said. "The state's Housing Incentive Fund and support from the Bank of North Dakota have proven to be valuable tools in addressing the affordable housing needs of our growing state."

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems received a \$1.83 million Housing Incentive Fund (HIF) commitment from NDHFA and is applying for an \$830,000 interest rate buy-down through Bank of North Dakota's (BND) FlexPACE program to support the construction of the \$6.1 million housing development. The North Dakota Industrial Commission, with Dalrymple as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Attorney General Wayne Stenejem, oversees NDHFA and BND.

According to McKenzie County Healthcare Systems CEO Daniel Kelly, the housing project will help attract and retain healthcare professionals.

"Having affordable housing and affordable daycare are our greatest obstacles to recruiting the staff essential to the healthcare systems' operations," Kelly said. "The assistance afforded by the Industrial Commission and the state legislature through the Housing Incentive Fund is helping us address these obstacles."

Eighteen of the apartments will be reserved specifically for essential service workers – individuals employed by the medical facility in lower-wage positions including nurses' aides and lab technicians. Depending on income and household size, these units will rent for \$605 to \$1,000 per month.

"NDHFA's mission is to ensure that everyone in our state has access to affordable housing," said Jolene Kline, NDHFA executive director. "We continue to work with the Industrial Commission members to address the needs of North Dakota's growing communities."

Since HIF's inception in 2011, NDHFA has allocated \$49 million to affordable housing projects statewide, leveraging \$240 million in construction financing to support the development of more than 1,500 new rental units.

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems' development will be located at 318 10th Ave NE, Watford City. Anticipated completion is September 2015.

NDHFA is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and rehabilitation of affordable housing across North Dakota.

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