

Helping HAND Funds Available

BISMARCK – Today, the Industrial Commission approved \$250,000 in funds for the Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) Program, which is designed to address unmet housing needs at the local level for low-income people. Rehabilitation of existing housing is the most common funds usage. Funding for this program comes from the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA). There is a nominal local funds match requirement.

“Housing continues to be a high priority across the state,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “This program is designed to be used in conjunction with other housing programs and to assist local communities in addressing their critical 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 eight 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.

“This program was designed to be extremely flexible to allow the local agencies to use the funds to address the specific housing needs in their community,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

“Because of this flexibility, these funds can be used for a wide variety of projects,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, “such as new home construction or home repairs and can be used to benefit homeowners or renters.”

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, 1-800-366-6888 (TTY) or through the Internet at www.ndhfa.org.

The Housing Finance Agency is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.