

### HELPING HAND FUNDING INCREASED, GRANT DISTRIBUTION APPROVED

BISMARCK –The Industrial Commission has approved a sizable funding increase for the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency’s (NDHFA) Helping Housing Across North Dakota (Helping HAND) Program. NDHFA will allocate up to \$450,000 in grants in 2007.

“Community action agencies and tribal rural areas continue to have shortages in funding to weatherize and repair homes,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “The agency’s commitment to offer increased program funding will go a long way toward helping those in need.”

“The challenge of building new housing in rural areas forces lower-income populations to rely heavily on aging housing stock,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “This housing obviously needs to be updated and/or maintained in order to remain viable.”

“Helping HAND dollars can be used to rehabilitate both single and multifamily dwellings,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “The grant recipients truly appreciate the flexibility provided by NDHFA’s program in contrast to stipulations placed on federal funds.”

Distribution to date of the approved 2007 program dollars follows:

Rebuilding Together, Bismarck/Mandan .....	\$2,500
Community Action Program Region 7, Bismarck .....	\$59,842
Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency, Devils Lake .....	\$38,094
Community Action & Development Program, Inc., Dickinson/Williston .....	\$36,532
Southeast ND Community Action Agency, Fargo.....	\$66,200
Red River Valley Community Action Agency, Grand Forks.....	\$44,160
Community Action Region IV, Jamestown .....	\$30,363
Community Action Opportunities, Inc., Minot .....	\$44,809
Missouri Valley Habitat for Humanity, Bismarck .....	\$6,667
Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity, Fargo .....	\$6,667
Northern Lights Habitat for Humanity, Minot .....	\$6,667
Fergus Falls Area Habitat for Humanity, Wahpeton.....	\$5,000
Standing Rock/Sitting Bull College/HIP Program, Fort Yates .....	\$25,000
Three Affiliated Tribes, New Town.....	\$25,000
Trenton Indian Service Area, Trenton.....	\$20,000

Community action and tribal grantees are encouraged to use funding to benefit the greatest number of households possible. The grants are limited to families or individuals with incomes that do not exceed 80 percent of the HUD median income for the county in which the property is located. Matching funds of at least 25 percent of a total project cost are required.

Helping HAND is funded utilizing Agency earnings. NDHFA’s previous program allocation was \$250,000. Since 2000, the program has leveraged more than \$6.2 million in additional funding resulting in the construction or rehabilitation of almost 2,100 housing units statewide.

The Helping HAND program is managed by NDHFA’s planning and housing development division, an arm of the Agency that was created in 2006 to address the state’s changing housing needs. For more information about NDHFA or Helping HAND, contact the Agency at (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366-6888 (TTY). Information is also available online at [www.ndhfa.org](http://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 NDHFA.