

2001 North Dakota Housing Conference "Housing Challenges & Opportunities"

Bismarck –“Housing Challenges & Opportunities,” the annual conference of the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA), will be held Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 17-18, at the Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center in Mandan.

The conference will open at 10 a.m. Wednesday, with a welcome by Gov. John Hoeven, followed by the keynote address, “Changing of the Guard,” by John McEvoy, executive director of the National Council of State Housing Agencies. McEvoy will discuss the new administration in taking over the White House and how it may affect housing finance programs.

The noon luncheon will feature Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, as well as State Sens. Randy Christmann and Aaron Krauter and State Reps. Merle Boucher and Al Carlson. The legislative leaders will discuss legislation before 2001 session and its affect on housing providers.

In “A State Upside Down: What an Opportunity,” Robert Boyd, vice president of student and outreach services at the University of North Dakota, will use a historical perspective and demographic data to explain “why North Dakota behaves the way it does; how these characteristics influence the state's ability to compete, and imperatives for the future.”

Concurrent sessions on the first afternoon will include:

- Homeownership Affordability,
- HUD is Changing with the Times,
- Comprehensive Housing Studies.

On Thursday, the conference reconvenes at 8:30 am with concurrent sessions on:

- How the HUD Lead-Based Paint Regulations Affect North Dakota,
- Addressing Homeless Issues Through Community-Based Plans,
- New and Innovative Homeownership Opportunities for Native Americans,
- Fair Housing Update, and,
- Housing Trust Funds.

Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Jeff Weispfenning on behalf of the Industrial Commission, will present the Champion of Affordable Housing Awards to lenders participating in HFA home ownership programs.

The registration fee for the conference is \$55. The conference has been approved for 9 continuing education credits for real estate agents and 11 credits for social workers.

The conference planning committee members include the: North Dakota Division of Community Services, North Dakota Apartment Association, North Dakota Association of Builders, North Dakota Association of Realtors, North Dakota Bankers Association, North Dakota Department of Economic Development and Finance, North Dakota Housing and Urban Development Office, North Dakota Association of Non Profit Organizations, North Dakota Community Action Association, North Dakota Homeless Coalition, North Dakota North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, North Dakota Manufactured Housing Association, North Dakota Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, North Dakota Regional Councils, Fannie Mae North Dakota Partnership Office, Independent Community Banks of North Dakota, Tribal Representatives, and the USDA Rural Housing Service.

For information or to register for the conference contact Karen Schwan Holman at the Housing Finance Agency at (701) 328-8056, 1-800-292-8621, or through Relay North Dakota at 1-800-366-6888 (TTY).

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

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Pat Fricke (701) 328-8080