



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release

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For Immediate Release

HOMELESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS APPROVED

BISMARCK – The Industrial Commission approved a technical assistance grant package today that will aid targeted communities and reservations in the development and implementation of plans to end homelessness. The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) will provide up to \$52,000 in funding and administer the program on behalf of the North Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness (NDICH).

“One of the best ways to combat homelessness and poverty is to create jobs and build a strong economy for all,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “As we pursue that effort, however, as a compassionate society we must help the sick, the disabled and especially children who find themselves without shelter or assistance.”

On any given night, there are more than 700 homeless individuals in North Dakota. Approximately 25 percent are the long-term homeless. Often, they are men, women and children who cycle in and out of the system struggling with disabilities and addictions, experiencing isolation and hopelessness.

“Before local governments can devise plans, they must first determine who the homeless are and why. The cause of homelessness and the make-up of the population can vary from community to community,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

“Ultimately the funds provided by the Housing Finance Agency will enable communities, with guidance from the Interagency Council on Homelessness, to devise strategies to combat homelessness,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

NDICH was formed as part of an aggressive nationwide endeavor to alleviate and ultimately end long-term homelessness. The Council has encouraged and is working with North Dakota communities in establishing 10-year plans to do so.

Communities are eligible for up to \$4,000 each from NDHFA to analyze point in time survey data and develop a plan. NDICH asked NDHFA to provide the grants because the communities lacked the resources to complete their plans. To date, only the city of Fargo has successfully completed and adopted a plan.

Grant dollars are targeted to North Dakota’s largest communities because that is where the vast majority of homelessness occurs. Eligible communities include: Bismarck/Mandan, Grand Forks, Minot, Jamestown, Dickinson, Devils Lake, Williston and the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. The Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, Spirit Lake Indian Reservation, Standing Rock Indian Reservation and the Trenton Indian Service Area are eligible for grant dollars contingent upon completion of a 2007 point-in-time survey. The North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People Inc. will receive similar funding to do data analysis for the communities.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson, oversees the NDHFA.

For more information, contact Mike Anderson at (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366-6888 (TTY).

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