



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

NEW PROGRAMS BENEFIT RURAL COMMUNITIES

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Industrial Commission has approved two new Housing Finance Agency programs for rural communities.

“Many rural communities are experiencing a housing shortage because of economic successes, while other areas are recognizing a need for more appropriate housing for seniors,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “NDHFA has made a commitment to offer the resources needed to define housing needs and aid in developing ways to meet new growth.”

The Housing Market Survey Grants will help pay for an analysis of a community’s current and future housing needs. The grants are equal to 50 percent of the cost of a survey not to exceed \$5,000.

“Local governments often lack the resources necessary to be able to define their specific housing needs, develop necessary projects and see them through to completion,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “With the assistance offered by the NDHFA, communities can better position themselves for growth.”

“Efforts to attract business and industry to rural areas are often significantly hampered by the lack of suitable housing for a growing workforce,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “The Housing Market Survey grants will support business recruitment efforts by helping communities determine what their housing needs are.”

The Rural Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program is a low-cost revolving loan fund for rehabilitation of single-family or multi-family properties. The maximum loan cannot exceed 75 percent of the project cost or exceed \$25,000 for single-family or \$100,000 for multifamily properties. The program was approved as a pilot project with a commitment of \$1 million.

Both programs are for communities of less than 20,000 population.

“The challenge and expense of building new housing has many rural areas of the state relying heavily on their existing housing stock,” said Mike Anderson, NDHFA Executive Director. “These properties need to be updated so that they remain viable.”

NDHFA has also added staff to provide technical assistance to communities undertaking development projects. Additional programs will be announced in coming months.

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

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.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Sarah Mudder (701) 328-8056