HOUSING REHAB PROGRAM GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE

BISMARCK – The Industrial Commission announced today that the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) has $25,000 in Rehab Assistance Program (RAP) funds available for single or multifamily properties occupied by low-income people with physical disabilities.

“One of our most important goals is to enhance the quality of life for all North Dakotans, and RAP grants help us do that,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “Funds can be used to build ramps, install audio and visual smoke detectors, chair lifts, door hardware and other items that make living easier and safer for persons with disabilities.”

“A maximum of $2,500 may be awarded with a limit of one grant per single- or multi-family property in the calendar year,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “A dollar-for-dollar match is required for eligibility.”

“The grants will help low income families and individuals to turn a house into a safe and comfortable home that's adapted for their needs,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “To be eligible, households must earn 80 percent or less than the county median income adjusted for family size.”

Preference is given to applicants making improvements that benefit individuals participating in the North Dakota Department of Human Services’ Developmental Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation Division programs.

Applications must be received by NDHFA by close of business on Aug. 12, 2005.

For an application or more information on the RAP funding, contact Warren Hintz at the NDHFA, (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366-6888 (TTY), or Robin Hendrickson at the North Dakota Department of Human Services at (701) 328-8932. Information is also available online at 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 the NDHFA.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Pat Fricke (701) 328-8080