



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

REHAB ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM FUNDING INCREASED GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO RETROFIT HOUSING

BISMARCK - The Industrial Commission has approved a second major funding increase in less than a year for the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency's (NDHFA) Rehab Accessibility Program (RAP). The Agency will allocate \$100,000 to the 2008 program.

"RAP funding is a good way we can help meet the needs of our seniors and people with disabilities," Hoeven said. "We are pleased to see that the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency is again stepping up to the plate to do what they can to help."

The Industrial Commission approved an increase in program dollars and lessened grant match restrictions in December 2006. Funding for the program was set at \$50,000 at that time, twice the previous commitment. As of May 2007, all of the RAP dollars had been allocated.

"The most significant need for assistance in making these accessibility improvements comes from our aging population that often has limited resources," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "With the added grant dollars available, the Housing Finance Agency will be able to provide funding for at least 25 projects statewide."

The RAP dollars can be used to renovate both single and multifamily housing for low-income people with physical disabilities. Improvements can include wheelchair ramps, door levers, walk-in/roll-in showers, grab bars, chair lifts and wider doorways.

"The rehabilitation grants provide an affordable way to help qualifying tenants or homeowners remove barriers and turn a house into an accessible and comfortable home," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "With the RAP grants, safe and accessible housing can become a reality for households in need."

Grant recipients can earn no more than 80 percent of the county median income. A maximum of \$4,000 may be awarded with a limit of one grant per single or multifamily property in a calendar year. A minimum 25 percent match is required to be eligible for the program.

For an application or more information on the RAP funding, contact Sylvia Burgess at the NDHFA, (701)328-8080, (800) 292-8621 or (800) 366-6888 (TTY). 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.

- 30 -

FURTHER INFORMATION: Sarah Mudder (701) 328-8056