POPULAR HOUSING SURVEY PROGRAM CONTINUED

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) will continue to fund a popular cost-share program that encourages rural communities to conduct a needs analysis before undertaking any new housing projects.

The Industrial Commission voted today to make an additional $50,000 available for the Housing Market Survey Grant program.

“North Dakota’s housing survey is an important tool that can help the leaders of our rural communities make informed decisions about their housing needs and community growth,” Gov. Jack Dalrymple said.

Communities of 20,000 or fewer people or non-profit organizations representing or partnering with such communities are eligible for the grants which reimburse up to 50 percent of out-of-pocket costs of a survey, not to exceed $5,000 per community.

“North Dakota’s rural landscape and the housing needs of its residents are changing rapidly, especially in energy-impacted areas,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

“Predetermination of what type of housing is needed in the community should always be the first step in the development process,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

Since launching the program, NDHFA has provided more than $185,000 in matching grants to 16 county-wide and 24 community-specific studies of housing needs. The grants are funded with agency reserves.

“Governing bodies in rural areas generally lack the resources necessary to define true housing needs,” said Jolene Kline, NDHFA planning and housing development director. “Having the right information results in smart development decisions.”

For more information on the Housing Market Survey Grant program, contact Kline at (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621, (800) 366-6888 (TTY) or info@ndhfa.org.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, chaired by Gov. Jack Dalrymple and including Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, oversees NDHFA.

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