

## Housing Finance Agency Launches New Web Options

BISMARCK -- The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) has improved its website - [www.ndhfa.org](http://www.ndhfa.org) - providing clients and other users with easier access to the agency's services and other information.

"The agency's website offers easy access to information on housing programs and gives clients the option of using technology to complete transactions timely and efficiently," said Gov. John Hoeven, Industrial Commission chairman. "Enhancing services through technology is a win-win situation for both the Housing Finance Agency and its clients."

"Potential first-time homebuyers can now search a list of participating lenders to find a NDHFA-approved financial institution in their community," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. "Users will find information about NDHFA mortgage loans, and down payment and closing cost assistance programs for low-income borrowers, including interest rates, acquisition cost limits and income limits."

"NDHFA's loan servicing department now allows borrowers to login to the agency's website to determine if payments have been received and processed, and to review their mortgage loan balance and escrow transactions," said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "Borrowers can also update personal information such as phone numbers and mailing addresses."

An automatic payment plan form, mortgage loan disclosures, advice on avoiding foreclosure, HUD-approved housing counseling agencies, and a financial privacy notice are also posted on the updated web.

"I would encourage NDHFA participating lenders to take advantage of the web's loan tracking online features," said Pat Fricke, NDHFA executive director. "Lenders may make mortgage loan reservations on the site and review individual loan status. Lenders need to register online before accessing the loan reservation feature."

On the rental portion of the site, individuals seeking low-income rental housing can learn about rent subsidies that the agency administers, as well as low-income rental housing projects, regulated by NDHFA. Details on low income housing tax credits used for the development or renovation of low-income rental property are also available. Potential developers can download them, rather than calling the NDHFA office and having them mailed out, speeding up the application process.

In addition to information on homeownership and rental programs, the site provides the criteria and applications for grant dollars distributed by the agency. Financial investors can use the site to find details on NDHFA mortgage bonds, issued to fund single-family home loans, along with the agency's most recent financial audit report. Links to NDHFA housing partners are also available.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. John Hoeven, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees the Housing Finance Agency.