

HOME FOR EVERY AMERICAN

GOVERNOR AWARD: North Dakota Governor John Hoeven

Jurisdictional leadership, partnership, planning, and investment to end homelessness are evident in North Dakota. In 2004 North Dakota Governor John Hoeven established the North Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness through Executive Order with a mandate to create a state 10-Year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness by encouraging local communities and reservations to develop plans that would be "collectively rolled up" into a statewide plan.

The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) offered planning grants to North Dakota communities with the largest concentrations of homelessness through a \$52,000 Homeless Technical Assistance Grant Program targeting nine communities and four Indian reservations to assist in the development of 10-Year Plans. Grants of up to \$4000 per community were offered to help defray the costs of a facilitator for planning meetings, writing a plan, and for analysis of point-in-time survey data.

Fargo became the first city to develop a Plan, and now Bismarck, Dickinson, Jamestown, Minot, and Williston have moved forward to create 10-Year Plans. Three additional communities and two reservations are in the process of finalizing their plans. Bismarck, the state capital, will unveil its 10-Year Plan in April 2008. Further motivated to partnership, Fargo has moved to adopt the innovation of Project Homeless Connect as a best practice for its plan with its neighbor, Moorhead, Minnesota, under mayoral leadership and with the engagement of the business community.

Governor Hoeven's leadership in advancing intergovernmental partnership and investment has spurred new local Housing First and engagement strategies for persons who are experiencing chronic homelessness, including veterans.