

**NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**



**SOCIAL SERVICE BLOCK GRANT
PRE-EXPENDITURE REPORT**

**OCTOBER 1, 2008 TO
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

SOCIAL SERVICE BLOCK GRANT PRE-EXPENDITURE REPORT FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

The North Dakota Department of Human Services has been designated by the Governor as the single state agency responsible for administering the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG). Prior to expending any SSBG funds made available to North Dakota for any fiscal year, the State must report on its intended use of such funds. The following information is provided to fulfill this requirement. This document shall not be construed as a comprehensive social service plan. The activities and services described herein are a portion of the array of public human services which the Department of Human Services administers, supervises, and/or supports through eight regional human service centers, 50 locally administered county social service boards, and a variety of purchase of service arrangements.

The following report delineates the goals of services provided through the Social Service Block Grant funding, outlines the organizational structure through which services are provided, describes the various target populations and types of services and activities provided, and summarizes the funding made available.

II. STATEWIDE HUMAN SERVICE GOALS

Services provided and promoted under the auspices of the Department of Human Services are targeted to benefit vulnerable children, adolescents, adults, elderly, and families. The overriding purpose in provision of all service is to enhance quality of life to people for whom such quality is threatened due to financial resources, emotional crises, disabling conditions, or inability to protect themselves.

The goals for all of the direct human services described in this report and administered by regional human service centers and county social service boards are specified in North Dakota Century Code Chapter 50-06.2, Section 50-06.2-01, "Purpose - Interpretation," and are congruent with the goals set forth in the "Social Service Block Grant." The goals are as follows:

- A. To help individuals or their families to achieve, maintain, or support the highest attainable level of personal independence and economic self-sufficiency.
- B. To prevent, remedy, or alleviate neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests.
- C. To provide a continuum of community based services adequate to appropriately sustain individuals in their homes and in their communities, and to delay or prevent institutional care.
- D. To preserve, rehabilitate, and reunite families.
- E. To assist in securing referral or admission of individuals to institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A. Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services, created during the 1981 session of the North Dakota State Legislature, began operation January 1, 1982. The creation of the department, as an umbrella agency, has as its roots meeting the needs of individuals and families.

The department serves as a comprehensive model which incorporates continuity of care and services for the citizens of North Dakota. It provides for an ease of administration and management, facilitates professional communication and coordination, and offers multiple services to individuals and families with a minimum of inconvenience.

Included in the umbrella agency are economic assistance, medical services, child support enforcement, disabilities services, aging services, children and family services, and mental health and substance abuse services. Field services include the State Hospital in Jamestown, the Developmental Center in Grafton, and eight regional Human Service Centers located in the state's major cities.

The department acts as the official agency of the state in discharging the following functions:

1. Administration of programs for children and families, including adoption services and the licensure of child-placing agencies, foster care services and the licensure of foster care arrangements, child protection services, licensure of early childhood services, services to unmarried parents, service and administration of the interstate compacts on the placement of children and juveniles.
2. Administration of programs for persons with developmental disabilities, including licensure of facilities and services, and the design and implementation of a continuum of services for persons in need of habilitation.
3. Administration of aging service programs, including nutrition, transportation, advocacy, social, ombudsman, recreation and related services funded under the Older Americans Act of 1965 [42 U.S.C. 3001, et seq.], home and community based services, licensure of adult family care homes, and the fund matching program for city or county tax levies for senior citizen activities and services.
4. Administration of mental health programs, including planning and implementing preventive, consultative, diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitative services for persons with mental or emotional disorders and psychiatric conditions.
5. Administration of alcohol and drug abuse programs, including establishing quality assurance standards for the licensure of programs, services and facilities, planning and coordinating a system of prevention, intervention, and treatment services, providing policy leadership in cooperation with other public and private agencies, and disseminating information to local service providers and the general public.
6. Administration of economic assistance programs, including temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), food stamps, fuel assistance, refugee assistance, work experience, work incentive, and quality control.
7. Administration of medical service programs, including medical assistance for needy persons, early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment, the children's health insurance program, children's special health services, utilization control, and claims processing.

B. Human Service Centers

The eight regional human service centers are located in the primary medical and business centers of the State of North Dakota.

The statewide human service center director is appointed by the executive director of the Department of Human Services. The centers employ a medical director and a variety of professional human service staff including psychologists, social workers, human relations counselors, and other specialists.

Funding for the services provided by the human service centers is primarily a combination of the Social Service Block Grant, the Block Grant for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse, the Block Grant for Community Mental Health Services, state general fund dollars, clinical services funds through Title XIX, third party payments, and fees.

C. County Social Service Boards

There are 47 locally administered county social service boards providing social services throughout the state. Their staff provides social service programs in accordance with state policy, direction, law, and regulations.

Funding for social services provided by the county social service boards is primarily a combination of county mill levy, state general funds, IV-E, TANF, and Medicaid.

IV. FISCAL

The Department intends to utilize the social services block grant estimated to be \$2,534,356, in the regional human service centers to assist in covering the costs for providing Counseling Services for approximately 6,100 individuals. It must be kept in mind that the SSBG participation in the cost of delivering these services is only a part of the overall cost. The total cost for these services is a blend of state, Social Service Block Grant, collections and federal resources.