

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Department 325, Bismarck N.D. 58505-0250**

Contact: Arlene Dura, Food Stamp Director, 701-328-2328, or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933

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Kidder County Social Services Receives Award

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services recently recognized Kidder County for reviewing the highest percentage of food stamp case files in its ten-county region last year. State officials presented the award to one county from each of the state’s six administrative regions during the annual Spring Showcase training and recognition event held April 23-25 in Mandan, N.D.

“Reviews are a proven method of detecting errors early and preventing them,” said North Dakota Food Stamp Director Arlene Dura. “This award demonstrates the county’s commitment to providing accurate and timely food assistance benefits.”

County employees who received the award included: Director Jolene Dewitz, Dora Colton, and Julie Ell. Connie Pederson, the regional representative for the department, also received a recognition certificate.

Other counties in the West Central Administrative Region include Burleigh, Emmons, McIntosh, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux.

Currently the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food Stamp Program helps about 49,000 qualifying low-income North Dakotans pay for food. Almost half of the program participants are children; many others are elderly or have disabilities.

Individuals apply for the Food Stamp Program at their county social service office. If they qualify, individuals receive a special debit card, which can be used to purchase food items only.

Each month, the federally-funded program provides about \$4.8 million in benefits in North Dakota that can be used to purchase food at over 400 grocers.

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