Williams County Social Services Receives Award

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services recently recognized Williams County for reviewing the highest percentage of food stamp case files in its 11-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 Bismarck-Mandan.

"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 Lois Reierson, Joan Amundson, Donna Barke, Nancy Beard, Jane Dube, Deborah Gilbertson, Lorie Glenn, Robin Knudson, Elaine Lawler, Lana Linde, Dana Melland, Leisha Peterson, Kristin Reil, Camille Routh, Linda Stevens, and Phyllis Sylte. Janice Liudahl, the regional representative for the state agency, also received a recognition certificate.

Other counties in the West Region include Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, McKenzie, Slope, and Stark.

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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