

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Developmental Center prepares to shelter Fargo Friendship Incorporated clients and caregivers

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Developmental Center in Grafton is preparing to shelter about 75 clients and 25 caregivers who are evacuating this afternoon from Friendship Incorporated facilities located in Fargo.

Alex Schweitzer, superintendent of the Developmental Center and the State Hospital, said the Grafton facility can provide shelter for about 25 additional disabled individuals. He has received calls from other private providers of services for people with developmental disabilities.

Department Executive Director Carol K. Olson said the department's State Hospital in Jamestown has also identified space to serve people who may be evacuated from private in-patient mental health facilities and possibly other service providers, and has identified some housing options for caregivers who accompany them. If additional resources are needed, the department and hospital are ready to help.

Once clients arrive at the Grafton facility, families and guardians can call 701-360-0574 for information on Friendship Incorporated clients.

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