MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M

ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2187

2007 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2187

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2187

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-16-07

Recorder Job Number: 1182

Committee Clerk Signature Mary K Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee, Chairman, opened the hearing on SB 2187 to provide an appropriation for providing funding to emergency shelter programs and for providing funding for planning administrative costs associated with the housing and urban development's continuum of care homeless assistance program.

Senator Rich Wardner (Dist. #37) introduced and testified in favor of SB 2187 which comes from ND coalition for homeless people. In ND when we talk about homeless people we are talking about people who are down and out and are looking for a way to get back into the mainstream of society.

Senator Warner asked if there is an FTE associated with this money.

Sen. Wardner said not really. It would be money that would be distributed out to the current infrastructure so these people can get the job done.

Senator Warner then asked if this leverages more money coming in from the federal government.

Sen. Wardner didn't think it does. It's money that we supplement the federal money.

Senator Dever asked if we are basically talking about providing grants to non profits.

Sen. Wardner said yes.

Senator Dever asked if this is something the department of commerce does to any extent now. Do they have a procedure in place to do that?

Sen. Wardner replied that there are federal monies that come and flow through to the community actions currently and so it would be the appropriate place to put this. They understand what's going on.

Senator J. Lee wanted to know why it is the department of commerce. It seems like an odd place for it.

Sen. Wardner wasn't sure why it comes through the department of commerce but that's the way the money funnels through and it always has.

Senator Heckaman asked if this is new money. How has it been funded before?

Sen. Wardner says there is a little state money in there but it has been frozen to about $20,000 per year. This would add to that.

Senator Mathern (Dist. # 11) testified in support of SB 2187. (Attachment #1)

Representative Clark Williams (Dist. #25) spoke in favor of SB 2187. Homelessness is a growing problem. There is a misconception that homelessness is a result of laziness, indigence, or whatever. It is a social problem and it is our problem. He gave an example of what can happen if there is willingness to make a difference.

Representative Dawn Charging (Dist. #4) testified in favor of SB 2186. Homelessness is quite prevalent in her district. These are people who simply cannot find housing. In her area there has been an economic boom so the upper grade housing is full. The other end there isn't enough of it. There is this meridian of folks that don't have anywhere to go. She told how, in the Indian community, nobody is turned out. Those without homes will live with relatives and there are many families with 11-16 living in a two bedroom home because they have nowhere else to go.

Senator Warner said the perception is that homelessness is an urban problem and there is a tremendous amount of homelessness in a rural area. It just takes a different form.

Rep. Charging followed with a couple of stories of homelessness. She is shocked to find out how many youth are homeless.

Senator J. Lee followed up with a story of a young homeless person.

Mary Magnusson (ND Coalition for Homeless People, Inc.) testified in support of SB 2187. (Attachment #2)

Senator Heckaman asked how the funding will be distributed – on need basis or on regional basis.

Ms. Magnusson said there are two types of funding. The emergency shelter grant funding is distributed by the dept. of commerce division of community services. The ESG money is distributed with a formula grant according to regulations of division of community services. The federal money that comes in from the CoC program is a competitive grant and is dispersed among the projects that are given with the grant during the process. These projects are prioritized according to need within the community.

Senator Dever asked about the school district program and told about a person whose job it is to locate homeless kids and get them to school. There is a lack of funding to do what is needed to get these kids to school. Is there any way this could impact that.

Ms. Magnusson said it possibly could in a roundabout way. She talked about emergency grants.

Karen Hilfer (Community Services Block Grant Coordinator for the Region VIII CAP) testified at the request of the ND Coalition for Homeless People in support of SB 2187. (Attachment #3) She commented that the Williston facility is seeing a slight increase because of the oil fields

and the cost of rent is sky rocketing. It's becoming more difficult for the low and even moderate people to find a place to live.

Senator Dever asked about people being provided five weeks of shelter.

Ms. Hilfer replied that they give up to five weeks. They give one week if they just want to settle and have a place to sleep and get cleaned up. If they are willing to work on getting a job and finding housing they will give them the full five weeks. The five weeks could be extended if it is someone who is really making the effort and on that brink.

Judy Green (Executive Director, YWCA Cass Clay) testified in support of SB 2187. (Attachment #4)

Senator J. Lee asked how their transitional housing started and also about their child care.

Ms. Green stated that their transitions housing started 16 years ago through a private donation. They provide case management, education and employment services, as well as, on site child care for up to 30 children every day.

Susan Martin (Executive Director, Ruth Meiers Hospitality House) spoke in support of SB 2187. (Attachment #5)

Senator J. Lee asked if there is also a shortage of housing for men as well as women.

Ms. Martin replied they have adequate emergency housing for men, but they run into a problem when they try to get them into transitional housing and then into permanent housing.

Senator J. Lee asked if there is any community in the state that has transitional housing for men.

Ms. Magnusson answered that there is transitional housing for men and families. It is very difficult to find for single men.

Stan Stelter (Development Director, Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck) testified in support of SB 2187. (Attachment #6)

Senator Pomeroy asked how those in need find the shelters.

Mr. Stelter said there are a variety of ways for them. They have ads in papers, places where people can access their hotline. They get referrals from other agencies.

Senator Dever said the it used to be that people were homeless for one of three reasons, mental health issues, they choose that lifestyle, and 80% of the population was one paycheck away from being in the same situation. Has that changed in the last 25 years with increased domestic violence, divorce, single parent families, etc?

Mr. Stelter said that the homeless they serve are people who didn't ask to be homeless. Because of violence that is imposed on them and their children, they have to find some place to go. He felt it has changed over the years.

Senator J. Lee pointed out that women seeking service from his and similar facilities don't have a lot of time to plan this. They show up with what is on their backs.

Mr. Stelter said that was usually true. He also pointed out that about 5% of the cases are men that are facing abuse.

Senator J. Lee asked what percentage of the time they find women coming back.

Mr. Stelter answered that nationally a woman will leave seven times before they actually make the break to an independent life.

Cheryl Bergian (ND Human Rights Coalition) spoke in support SB 2187.

There was no opposing or neutral testimony.

The hearing on SB 2187 was closed.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2187

Senate Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-30-07

Recorder Job Number: 2334

Committee Clerk Signature Mary K Mosson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee, Chairman, opened SB 2187 for discussion.

The committee discussed that the Dept. of Commerce would handle the money. They also discussed where the funding would go and that it is to replace either federal or private dollars.

Senator Warner moved a Do Pass and rerefer to Appropriation.

Second by Senator Erbele. Roll call vote 6-0-0. Carrier is Senator Warner.

Date: 1-30-07

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2187

Senate **HUMAN SERVICES** Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken DP/ rerefer to approp.

Motion Made By Sen. Warner Seconded By Sen. Erbele

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman			Senator Joan Heckaman		
Senator Robert Erbele, V. Chair			Senator Jim Pomeroy		
Senator Dick Dever			Senator John M. Warner		

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Warner

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2187: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2187 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2007 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2137

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2187

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/05/07

Recorder Job Number: 2826

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on SB 2187.

Senator Rich Wardner, District 37, Dickinson, introduced SB 2187 describing the fiscal note attached to it. He indicated the money would be used to help with the homeless. The funds would go through the department of commerce and gets its way to where it needs to go. It would be directed to people who are down on their luck and want to get back into the main stream of society.

Senator Tim Mathern, District 11, Fargo, testified in support of SB 2187 indicating this would be a support mechanism for people down on their luck.

Mary Magnussen, Executive Director, ND Coalition for Homeless People (CoC), distributed written testimony (1) in support of SB 2187, indicating the bills addresses two issues 1) emergency shelter to meet short term needs and 2) supportive housing to meet longer term needs of people who are homeless. Included with her written testimony is a chart of CoC funded projects 2001-05, and Fargo's ten year plan to end homelessness. In addition she discussed the monetary requests.

Karen Hilfer, Community Services Block Grant Coordinator for Region VIII Community Action Partnership (CAP), Dickinson, presented written testimony (2) in support of SB 2187. She discussed the needs in Dickinson for housing homeless.

Cheryl Bergian, Executive Director, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, presented written testimony (3) in support of SB 2187.

The following four people provided written testimony only in support of SB 2187.

Stan Stelter, Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck, presented written testimony (4) in support of SB 2187.

Susan Martin, Executive Director, Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, presented written testimony (5) in support of SB 2187.

Judy Green, Executive Director, YWCA Cass Clay, presented written testimony (6) in support of SB 2187.

Herbert J. Wilson, MD, Bismarck, presented written testimony (7) in support of SB 2187.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2187.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2187

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02-09-07

Recorder Job Number: 3273

Committee Clerk Signature Janet Pink

Minutes:

Chairman Holmberg opened the hearing on SB 2187.

Senator Wardner spoke about the bill reinterating what it was about.

Senator Wardner moved a DO PASS on SB 2187. Senator Krauter seconded. A roll call vote was taken on SB 2187 resulting in 12 yes, 1 no, and 1 absent. The motion carried and Senator Warner will carry the bill.

Chairman Holmberg closed the hearing on SB 2187.

Date: 2/9/07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2187

Senate Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Wardner Seconded By Krauter

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Ray Holmberg, Chrm	✓		Senator Aaron Krauter	✓	
Senator Bill Bowman, V Chrm	✓		Senator Elroy N. Lindaas	✓	
Senator Tony Grindberg, V Chrm	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Senator Randel Christmann		✓	Senator Larry J. Robinson	✓	
Senator Tom Fischer	✓		Senator Tom Seymour	✓	
Senator Ralph L. Kilzer	✓		Senator Harvey Tallackson		
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	✓				
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Warner #MS

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2187: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Holmberg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2187 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2187

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2187

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 27th 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3955

Committee Clerk Signature Judy Schock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: We will open the hearing on SB 2187.

Senator Rich Wardner, District 37 Dickinson, ND: the bill is about care for the homeless and assistance programs in our state. Yes, we do have homeless in ND. Our homeless are not living under the bridge or in card board boxes, pushing carts. It is a different type of homeless. The money goes into a system that is already there. We are enhancing what is already there. We care about people and we want them to become productive and get back into the main stream of things. That is what I like about the current program. They come into the homeless shelters, some with a 5 week limit, and they are helped with the services they need.

Chairman Price: How did you come to 200,000 funding for these shelters?

Senator Wardner: We could have used more, but kept it to the minimum, plus the fact you have moneys coming in for the homeless from the Federal Government.

Representative Clark Williams, of Wahpeton: I am pleased to sign on this bill to help people. As a principal in High School I saw the effects of homeless. It is a myth that homeless people are homeless because they are inadequate. I did not find that to be true. Most often they are victims of circumstances, and no control. People can make a difference for other people.

Senator tells a story about a homeless girl in his school he helped find a family to take her, and she became a successful citizen.

Representative Dawn Charging, District 4: Being a Representative on an Indian reservation w we have come to learn some of those figures are not following through to out statistics. This is a growing problem in all nations in ND. When we think of homelessness we think of the worst scenario. Budgets do get cut. We have 12 families in one home. They have no where else to go. The have no resources available to them. Some families will try to raise enough money for a Greyhound bus ticket and folks send them off to another town and hope they will be able to help them.

Mary Magnusson, Executive, director for ND Coalition for Homeless People Inc.: See attached testimony and attachment of addresses, statistics chart and photo of permanent home in Grand Forks. Fargo was the first to develop a 10 year plan to end long term homelessness. Fargo's goal is on the back of my testimony.

Representative Kaldor: In the two appropriations what do you anticipate the gaps if any, and are you able to track or get data on evictions due to lack of payment?

Ms Magnusson: the coalition annually looks at the gaps and we have an established process we use to identify the gaps. We prioritize projects, and in another year we will be able to track that kind of information.

Representatives Kaldor: Do non profit organizations in our state get requests to provide homeless. How do you get the word out?

Ms. Magnusson: We have 8 regional coalitions that communicate when there are needs even within the local community and we are better than most states, from what I am told. Churches are so important in helping. It is a very silent network, but they provide the

information. IN ND we follow a very strict definition of homeless that is required by HUD. However, in 2007 now we just completed a state wide survey in January 25.

Representative Conrad: When they are forced into homelessness, because of high rent how do they get back into the main stream?

Ms. Magnusson: Emergency shelters are the first line. They identify the situation and access what the family needs. Often they need only a a couple of years to get back on their feet. People that are working with those families through the different resources that are available, they to get them up and going so they can again pay for the housing.

Brenda Boehler, representing YMCA of Minot: See attached testimony.

Judy Green, Executive Director YWCA Cass County: See attached testimony. Violence affects all of us, friends, piers, neighbors and families. Some have medical issues or other unforeseen things that has forced them into homelessness. Many live pay check, to pay check and try to decide which bill should be paid.

Karen Helfer, Community Services Block Grant Coordinator for Region V111 Community Action Partnership in Dickinson: See attached testimony.

Testimony dropped off for Susan Martin, Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House: See attached.

Testimony from Stan Stelter, Development Director for the Abused Adult Resource Center in Bismarck: See attached.

Chairman Price: Anyone else to testify in favor of SB 2187. Anyone to testify in opposition? If not we will close the hearing on SB 2187.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2187

House Human Services Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 13, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5010

Committee Clerk Signature Judy Lebsack

Minutes:

Chairman Price: Take out SB 2187.

Representative Conrad: I spoke with Paul Golwick from the tribal commerce, he said the reason that this was not included in the Governor's budget, was because it came in after they had submitted the Governor's budget, but he was defiantly in support of it.

Rep. Price: I also talked to Trans Down. (could not understand) Section 2 is to do with having (could not understand) about 85% of the funding from Bush Foundation is to end in May 2007. The rest of the 15% is made up from various communities. I am not sure how it got delayed.

Rep. Porter: In section 2 is that going to be something that will be on going? What is the money used for?

Chairman Price: To continue Mary Magnuson's position she has that in her testimony. I have raised the question with other pieces of the whole puzzle in the Division of Community Services, it should all be in Community Services, and could they share services.

Representative Conrad I make a motion for a due pass RR/Appropriations, seconded by **Representative Schneider.** The vote was 9 yeas, 3 nays, and 0 absent. **Representative Conrad** will carry the bill to the floor.

Date: 3/13
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES SB 2187 Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken Motion Do pass as RR/Amp

Motion Made By Rep. Conrad Seconded By Rep. Schneider

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price – Chairman	✓		Kari L Conrad	✓	
Vonnie Pietsch – Vice Chairman		✓	Lee Kaldor	✓	
Chuck Damschen	✓		Louise Potter	✓	
Patrick R. Hatlestad	✓		Jasper Schneider	✓	
Curt Hofstad	✓				
Todd Porter		✓			
Gerry Uglem	✓				
Robin Weisz		✓			

Total (Yes) "Click here to type Yes Vote" 9 No "Click here to type No Vote" 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Conrad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2187: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2187 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

2007 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2187

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2187

House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/19/07

Recorder Job Number: 5275

Committee Clerk Signature Tanya J Voegele

Minutes:

Senator Wardner explained Senate Bill 2187.

Carlson: So you are assuming that the way this is worded these should be grants that go out to these agencies?

Wardner: That is correct.

Carlson: One phase of the bill has to do with the shelter programs the other one has to do with the administrative costs correct?

Wardner: That is correct.

Carlson: It is $300,000 total, $200,000 for the actual programs and $100,000 for the administration.

Wardner: Yes.

Carlson: How did you get those numbers?

Wardner: People that work in the industry brought them forward. I know in our community it is Community Action that does it.

Carlisle: Why didn't you just add this to the Dept of Commerce Budget?

Wardner: I am still learning the tricks of this trade.

Representative Charging spoke in support of the bill.

Carlson: We understand the issue but we are trying to address the dollars only. There is a significant grant line in Commerce already. Do you know if that was addressed in Commerce?

Charging: I am not sure.

Representative Williams spoke in support of the bill.

Mary Magnusson, Executive Director of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, spoke in support of the bill. 2187.3.19.07 A, B and C

Carlson: Will this $300,000 leverage anything?

Mary: The $200,000 per biennium is to help shore up the short fall in the Emergency Shelter Grants money. It goes directly to the shelters.

Carlson: Is there any way you can use that money to leverage more money? Are there any foundations or things that have matching dollars with them?

Mary: I am not aware of any.

Glassheim: On your spreadsheet you distributed $279,000 is that correct?

Mary: That is correct that is what was available.

Glassheim: Are the recipients of that putting up any additional money?

Mary: The Emergency Shelter Program Grant money is basically a very small portion of all the money that shelters get in your community. It is not a hand out but it is necessary.

Skarphol: In your handout there is reference to $7.3million awarded to various entities and there is like $1.2million coming from the Division of Community Services.

Mary: This bill is really two separate sections. The first section is for Emergency Shelter grants. The second section addresses the continue of care supportive housing program.

Kempenich: The second portion says it is for planning and administration?

Mary: That is correct. If you look at the attachment that is behind the testimony this is the 2006 award from HUD to our state for the Continue of Care Program. Every year our state can apply for competitive funds of over $1million. Since 2001 we have brought in over $8million.

Tran Doan, Dept of Commerce, spoke in support of the bill.

Carlson: So you already have $552,000 available for this ESG program? This would enhance it to $752,000?

Doan: Yes

Skarphol: Could you get more if you had more?

Doan: Right now we require the grantees to use whatever funds they can to match the federal grants. So if we can get this $200,000 this would allow them to be more flexible with other funding that they use.

Skarphol: Sometimes when the government gets involved the other grantees go away. Are you getting any indication of that?

Doan: I don't because it is $200,000 and a small amount of money.

Glassheim: Do you have information on how much the locals are now matching?

Doan: The locals are now matching approx. the $400,000.

Representative Skarphol requested a list of grants available.

Carlson: So this is planning to be competitive to receive those grants?

Doan: Yes.

Skarphol: Is that the $1 million dollars that was referred to in Mary's testimony?

Doan: That was a different grant.

Skarphol: The $100,000, I don't see an FTE connected to this?

Doan: That will be pass through money to the ND Homeless Coalition.

Skarphol: I don't see an FTE associated with this?

Doan: It will be pass through money to the ND Homeless Coalition.

Judy Green, Executive Director of the YWCA Cass Clay, spoke in support of the bill.

Glassheim: What are your other sources of revenue?

Judy: The majority of what we get come from individuals, businesses, churches and organizations. The government funding is the other aspect.

Kempenich: What is the average stay?

Judy: 45-60 days.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2187

House Appropriations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 22, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 5469

Committee Clerk Signature Holly N. Sand

Minutes:

Chm. Svedjan opened the hearing on SB 2187.

Rep. Williams: There are no amendments. SB 2187 consists basically of two sections. If you have it in front of you, section 1 calls for general fund appropriation of $200,000 per biennium. For the emergency shelter grants program, this funding is important. It will be used to match existing federal allocations to the amount of about $552,000 per biennium. This program is administered through the Chamber of Commerce division of community service. Section 2 of the bill calls for an appropriation of $100,000 for the biennium and this is for the purpose of providing funding for planning and administering costs associated with the continuum of care homeless assistance program from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). That is basically what the bill does. It is $200,000 for max and $100,000 in section 2 for administering the programs.

Rep. Williams motioned for a Do Pass. Rep. Skarphol seconded the motion.

Rep. Wald: Do I understand this right? We are appropriation $200,000 for the homeless and we are going to spend $100,000 to administer it?

Chm. Svedjan: If I'm not mistaken the $200,000 matches the $552,000 of federal money. You would have a $752,000.

Rep. Wald: It still seems like an awfully high amount for administration.

Rep. Skarphol: Section 2 of the bill is $100,000 over the biennium, $50,000 each year. It's a pass through amount that goes to grant writers for these entities to help them get a more professional job done on doing the grant writing to other entities out there. This is not for administrative costs other than to contract with grant writers to try to get additional federal grant money.

Chm. Svedjan: Is there any further discussion?

Rep. Carlson: I think you should understand that some of the recipients of this are not just the Ruth Meiers and such in Bismarck. The WYCA is a huge benefactor for this for all the families and broken families that are looking for care. They receive some of this homeless money as well. It sounds like it's just for the guy who is living under the bridge but that's not what the money is entirely for. We looked at it as a committee and thought it was a good idea.

Chm. Svedjan: Is this all of the funding then for homeless?

Rep. Carlson: No. there are numerous types.

Chm. Svedjan: Is this the total package or is there a lot of other money that is appropriated for homeless type services?

Rep. Skarphol: In the handout we got there is a lot of other entities that raise, receive, and expend money. There is $1.29 million that they do receive from the division of Community Services. Federal grant moneys is what is requiring the $200,000. As far as the entities there is about a dozen of them. They expend about $1.3 million a year annually. There have been grants for homeless in ND. There are also other moneys that they can use over the last five years we have spent well in the excess of $7 million trying to help folks.

Rep. Kempenich: I was just going to say that it is split out about. A little over 1/3 is from donations and private. Another 1/3 is from the federal and state. They have some that comes from other sources. It's spread out though. They have had over $7 million over the last six years.

Rep. Kroeber: I think legislative council has the answer for us.

Legislative Council: In speaking with Allen Knutson earlier this morning about this, he said that the Department of Commerce does not receive additional state general fund appropriations for this. They do receive about $280,000 federal fund appropriations for the homeless. It is for a different purpose from what this would be.

Chm. Svedjan: What about our department of human services?

Legislative Council: I'm not aware of the human service side of it?

Chm. Svedjan: Is there anything in that budget for homeless?

Rep. Pollert: In all the subjects we have talked about, we have never talked about homeless.

Rep. Carlson: Just a little further explanation. They talk about this continue of care out of HUD. The startup funding for that program was provided in 2001 and 2002 from the continuing of care program. From 2003 to 2006, private foundation has primarily covered the administrative costs to the program. This funding has run it's course. Then it goes on to talk about it has over $7 million has come to ND through the COC program. This money is used for the match. The new money is really $100,000 that we are trying to use for the administration where we have no other source for that.

Chm. Svedjan: So what you are saying that is in prior biennia we have appropriated money to match?

Rep. Carlson: There has been money available from various sources and I can't tell you for

sure that it has all been general fund but the way I read this is it talks about the $100,000 side of it which is the administrative side. That is the first time we've asked for that.

Chm. Svedjan: That's a pass for grant writing?

Rep. Carlson: Yes and grant writing assistance.

Chm. Svedjan: I'm just curious to know how we have acquired the federal funding in the past. It is through OMB or council? How have we matched the federal money in the past?

Rep. Carlson: I don't know.

Rep. Gulleson: I believe that most of that comes through the federal housing. They work with programs. I know Fargo is very active in receiving some of those federal dollars. That helps support some of the shelters and those programs.

Rep. Skarphol: I don't know if anybody brought this up because I did get talked to. In the testimony that we were given it says the continuum care program is an annual competitive grant program that funds well thought out projects developed through the care planning process. It provides long term, permanent support of housing as opposed to the temporary short term. ND competes with over 500 other organizations throughout the US for this funding. In order to be competitive ND's planning process takes place throughout the year and throughout ND. The planning process has gotten more than $1 million annually for homeless projects in ND since 2001. If funded as proposed in SB 2187, DCS will pass through this funding act as a fiscal agent, provide oversight of their planning process and monitor and ensure the development of a statewide continuum care plan for 2007-2008. In other words the Department of Commerce will provide some oversight to ensure that it is properly aligned.

Chm. Svedjan: I hope you understand my concern here. We are looking at a $300,000 appropriation. I understand part of it is for grant writing. 2/3 of it is to match for money that we

apparently have been receiving before. That is what I'm trying to get at here, plus the fact that it is another $300,000 appropriation.

Rep. Carlson: When they explained the bill to us they basically said that there was just not enough money to fund all the needs for these shelters and that additional $200,000 is a short term fix. So they said if you look at the bill, section 1 is a short term fix for the needs for the homeless which is new money of $200,000. The $100,000 is the long term securing the grants. The governor issued a news release in February saying that the state had received $1.3 million in grants for the homeless. It is basically from the same thing we were talking about that the ND continuum of care plan, the long term comprehensive plan addresses homeless needs. The money is being returned. The $200,000 has explained to us that it was just not enough funding to handle the need. The additional $100,000 was to make sure we get the grants to get the remainder of that $1.3 million.

The motion for a Do Pass carried by a roll call vote of 18 yeas, 6 nays and 0 absent and not voting. Rep. Conrad was designated to carry the bill.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2187

House Appropriations Committee
Government Operations Division

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 3/22/07

Recorder Job Number: 5491

Committee Clerk Signature Tanya J. Voegele

Minutes:

Chairman Carlson opened discussion on Senate Bill 2187.

Chairman Carlson reviewed the bill.

Chairman Carlson: The only thing I don't understand is what is in the budget today for this?

Vice Chairman Carlisle: If you go back to Mary Magnusson's testimony it says there is a shortage in the emergency shelter grant program funding and their numbers are increasing.

Chairman Carlson: If we already have $1.3million from the governor, why do we need to add another $300,000?

Representative Glassheim: It is $100,000 for continuum care and $200,000 for direct care competitive grants.

Tammy Dolan: Sandy says that they have federal funds that go to these programs but there is no General Fund money.

Chairman Carlson: It is all federal funds for the homeless right now and we are adding state funds to aid in the homeless.

Representative Skarphol: The $100,000 is pass through money for grant writing. To get the grants that they get from the various entities on one of these pages and whatever federal grants that they go out and find. That is what the $100,000 is for.

A motion was made by Representative Skarphol, seconded by Representative Williams for a DO PASS recommendation to the full committee. The committee vote was 8 Yeas, 0 Nays and 0 Absent and Not Voting. The bill will be carried by Representative Williams.

Date: 3/22/07

Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2187

House Appropriations- Government Operations Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken DoPAss

Motion Made By Skarphol Seconded By ~~Carl~~ Williams

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Al Carlson	✓		Vice Chairman Ron Carlisle	✓	
Rep Keith Kempenich	✓		Rep Bob Skarphol	✓	
Rep Blair Thoreson	✓		Rep Eliot Glassheim	✓	
Rep Joe Kroeber	✓		Rep Clark Williams	✓	

Total Yes 8 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Williams

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 3/22/07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2187

House Appropriations Full Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number —

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Williams Seconded By Skarphol

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Svedjan		✓			
Vice Chairman Kempenich	✓				
Representative Wald	✓		Representative Aarsvold	✓	
Representative Monson	✓		Representative Gulleson	✓	
Representative Hawken	✓				
Representative Klein	✓				
Representative Martinson	✓				
Representative Carlson	✓		Representative Glassheim	✓	
Representative Carlisle	✓		Representative Kroeber	✓	
Representative Skarphol	✓		Representative Williams	✓	
Representative Thoreson	✓				
Representative Pollert		✓	Representative Ekstrom	✓	
Representative Bellew		✓	Representative Kerzman	✓	
Representative Kreidt		✓	Representative Metcalf	✓	
Representative Nelson		✓			
Representative Wieland		✓			

Total (Yes) 18 No 6

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Williams Conrad

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2187: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Svedjan, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (18 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2187 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SB 2187

Attachment #1

Senate Bill 2187
Human Services Committee
January 16, 2005

Madam Chairman Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11 in Fargo. I speak in support of SB 2187 relating to homeless assistance funding.

Others will testify so I will make only one point.

We have positive economic development in many areas of our state, particularily in our large cities. Ironic as it might be seem, often such good news is part of not so good news, that being a rise in homelessness. In my work at our church, Nativity in Fargo, I heard peoples stories about coming to Fargo to find a new way of life, a better paying job. Often they came following a news report about the low unemployment rate or high paying jobs in Fargo.

People left surrounding cities or reservations with just enough to make it by, should they get a job right away. Well that job didn't always materialize in time for the second month's rent payment or to address that medical problem or broken down car that wasn't supposed to happen. It seems illogical to some of us to leave a community without more in place but people take these risks when their options are limited. When things don't all fall into place homelessness can be an outcome even if for only a few months.

Committee members, lets pass this bill and capture other resources to address problems of homelessness. I urge a do pass recommendation for SB 2187.

Thank you.

Attachment # 2

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 16, 2007

North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc.
Mary Magnusson, Executive Director

SB 2187

The North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc. supports SB 2187. The bill provides for the primary housing components that ND communities depend on to help homeless individuals and families. The components are: (1) emergency shelter to meet short term needs and (2) supportive housing to meet longer term needs of people who are homeless.

SB 2187 addresses two issues:

Section 1. addresses a shortage in Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) funding to ND's emergency shelter programs. SB 2187 appropriates general funds to supplement decreasing federal funding for emergency shelters.

Section 2. addresses the need for future administrative funding for ND's statewide Continuum of Care Program. The CoC program is a year round planning process that results in obtaining federal funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Program for supportive housing. Through ND's CoC program more than $1 million dollars annually goes directly to ND communities for supportive housing. A chart showing the statewide distribution is attached at the back of this testimony along with a photo of the permanent supportive housing opened Fall 2006 in Grand Forks. Since 2003, the CoC program has relied primarily of private foundation funding to administer the program. This funding has run its course. SB 2187 appropriates future funding to administer the ND's CoC Program.

SB 2187 appropriations would be directed to the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Services (DCS). DCS administers the state's community development programs including ESGP, HOME and CDBG programs. DCS has been highly involved in the development of supportive housing throughout the state through the CoC program.

Background for SB 2187:

1. Statewide trends driving the need for emergency shelters and for supportive housing.

- High cost of rental housing.
    - In a 2006 Statewide Point-in-Time Survey of Homeless People, 62% of respondents indicated they could not afford rent compared to 52% in 2005.
    - In North Dakota, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment is $537. In order to afford this level of rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn $1,790 monthly or $21,480

annually. Assuming a 40-hour week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of $10.33.

- In the 2006 Point-In –Time Survey, only 21% of respondents indicated they were employed, 17% indicated they were underemployed, and 52% unemployed.
- Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are $603 in North Dakota. If SSI represents the only source of income, $181, in monthly rent is affordable.

- The high rate of substance abuse and mental illness among the homeless.
  - Almost half of ND's homeless population has a history of substance abuse and more than a third have a mental illness. These rates remain consistent from year to year.
  - Substance abuse and mental illness with inconsistent use of meds impacts the ability to stay housed.

- The numbers of homeless people unable to access public housing and rental housing because many have criminal backgrounds, bad credit and poor rental history.
  - In 2006, 28% of the homeless indicated they had a criminal record (percentage not available for the previous year),
  - In 2006, 34% indicated they had a bad credit history compared to 28% the previous year.

- People relocating to find jobs.
  - In 2006, 27% indicate they relocated compared to 28% the previous year.
  - With the economic development in our state, some individuals and families are relocating in order to take advantage of job opportunities, but find that they can not get housing and become homeless.

2. The statewide impact of homelessness.

Homeless people are mobile and therefore move from one location to another which impacts the state as a whole and not just two or three communities. SB 2187 would help communities statewide.

- Shelter providers in rural communities report they are turning homeless people away almost daily because of lack of funding for emergency shelters and the lack of affordable/ permanent supportive housing. The problems get pushed to urban communities and other shelters that are already having trouble meeting demand.

- Urban communities statewide report the numbers of homeless individuals and families seeking help increased in 2006 over 2005. For example:

- In 2006, Community Action in Dickinson assisted 56 homeless people, but turned away 35 which is over 50%.
- Ruth Meiers Hospitality House in Bismarck housed 175 more clients in 2006 than the previous year.
- The YWCA Cass Clay in Fargo served 1,433 in 2006 - the most in its 100 year history

3. The Supportive Housing concept and ND's progress in developing supportive housing to relieve overcrowded emergency shelters.

Emergency shelters serve a vital purpose and when combined with supportive housing produce lasting solutions to homelessness.

- Emerging national research shows that 80% of homeless people who access permanent supportive housing do not return to homelessness.

- Research also shows that permanent supportive housing reduces public costs in the form of emergency hospital costs, costs to law enforcement, and costs to correctional institutions and other public institutions of care.

- Emergency shelters typically provide shelter for up to 90 days. Supportive housing, both transitional and Permanent , are designed to provide stable living for longer periods of time. People may stay in transitional housing for up to 2 years, and may stay in permanent supporting housing indefinitely. Emergency shelters can operate more effectively when there is supportive housing available in the community.

- The City of Fargo has passed a 10-year plan to End Long-term Homelessness and its goal is to create more than 200 units of permanent supportive housing. A short version of the plan is attached to the back of this testimony.

- Grand Forks and Bismarck/Mandan have committed to developing 10-year plans and setting goals for permanent supportive housing. Williston, Jamestown, Minot, Dickinson, and Devils Lake, and 4 ND reservations have been encouraged to develop 10-year plans and develop supportive permanent housing.

- The North Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness (NDICH) composed of the Directors of state agencies and the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People was established by Executive Order in 2004. It was formed to develop and write an overall 10-year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness in ND. The NDICH has been the guiding influence for local communities to develop 10-year strategic plans, and will set a statewide goal for the development of permanent supportive housing based on local plans.

4. The need for state funding for the ESGP and the CoC program.

ESGP:

- In 2006, there was a shortfall of $137,430 between the requests from the state's ESGP applicants and funds that were available. The total ESGP funding distributed in 2006 to 26 applicants was $279,597 ($259, 597 in federal funding plus $20,000 in state funding). Total requests from applicants was $417,027. This amount does not disclose what the actual needs are because there is a cap on the amount grantees may request.

- The requests from ESGP applicants is impacted by the high cost of rental housing as well as utility costs. The high cost of rental housing limits the numbers of people that shelter providers can help when they use scattered site rental housing. Many shelter providers are also impacted by the cost of rent and utilities in operating their own facilities.

- The shortage of ESGP stems from cuts in federal funding. In the 1993 – 1995 biennium, the ND legislature appropriated $20,000 per year to supplement the current federal ESGP funding which amounted to $327,000. Total ESGP of $347,000 was awarded to 25 grantees. In 2006, the same number of applicants must operate with less ESGP.

Year	Federal ESGP	State ESGP	Total
1993	$327,000	$20,000	$347,000
2006	$259,597	$20,000	$279,597

CoC program:

- New state funding is needed to continue to obtain HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding for supportive housing in ND.

- Start -up funding for the CoC program was provided primarily by DCS in 2001and 2002. From 2003 to 2006 private foundation funding has primarily covered the administrative costs of the CoC program and this funding has run its course.

- The CoC program has a return of more than $1 million dollars annually. From 2001 to 2005 more than $7 million dollars has come to North Dakota through the CoC program. These funds go directly to ND communities providing housing with services and sustaining jobs. From 2003 to 2006 the average annual cost to administer the CoC program has been $50,000 or 5%.

- SB 2187 is needed to provide future administrative funds and continue ND's CoC program.

CoC Funded [illegible]cts 2001- 2005

Location	Agency	Type of Project	CoC Federal Assistance Awarded to Projects	Beds Provided		
				Family Beds	Individual Beds	Total
Bismarck, ND	Abused Adult Resource Center - Transitional Living Project	Transitional housing for women and women with children who are victims of domestic violence.	$236,047	12	0	12
Bismarck, ND	Burleigh County Housing Authority - Shelter Plus Care Project	Permanent supportive housing for individuals and families with disabilities.	$746,340	26	22	48
Devils Lake, ND	Grand Lodge of ND, International Order of Odd Fellows - Prairie Heights Project	Permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with serious mental illness.	$350,025	0	21	21
Dickinson, ND	Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center – Southwestern North Dakota Supportive Housing Project	Transitional housing for homeless women and women with children and who are victims of domestic violence.	$150,401	15	3	18
Fargo, ND	Share House - Sisters Path Project	Permanent supportive housing for homeless women and women with children	$800,000	54	0	54
Fargo, ND	Fargo Housing And Redevelopment Authority – Shelter Plus Care Project	Permanent supportive housing for individuals and families with disabilities	$706,272	62	13	75
Fargo, ND	Fargo Housing And Redevelopment Authority – S + Care Project for Chronic Homeless	Permanent supportive housing for individuals with disabilities	$246,180	0	11	11
Fargo, ND	YWCA Cass Clay	Transitional housing for homeless women and women with children. Duplex	$294,024	15	0	15
Fargo, ND	YWCA Cass Clay Transitional Housing	Transitional housing for homeless women and women with children. 4-plex	$346,535	10	0	10
Fargo, ND	Centre, Inc. - Permanent Supportive Housing for Veterans with Disabilities Project	Permanent supportive housing for veterans with disabilities.	$236,862	0	11	11
Grand Forks, ND	Prairie Harvest Human Service Foundation – Supportive Housing Project	Permanent housing for homeless men or women with disabilities	$340,000	Services Only		
Grand Forks, ND	St Vincent de Paul - Transitional Housing Project	Transitional housing for homeless women with children	$126,156	7	0	7
Grand Forks, ND	Community Violence Intervention Center – Hope Transitional Housing Project -	Transitional housing for homeless women with children and who are victims of domestic violence.	$284,382	14	0	14
Grand Forks, ND	Red River Valley Community Action – SHP	Permanent supportive housing for families.	$464,782	18	0	18
Minot, ND	Rehab Service, Inc. – 3rd Avenue Housing Project	Transitional living for homeless men and men with children	$626,967	4	8	12
Williston, ND	North Dakota Association for the Disabled – Supportive Housing Project	Permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities	$202,677	0	3	3
Statewide	North Dakota Division of Community Services – (2)Shelter Plus Care Projects	Permanent supportive housing for individuals and families with disabilities.	$996,900	42	18	60
Statewide	ND Division of Community Services - (HMIS) # 1	Statewide Homeless Management Information System	$90,000			
Statewide	ND Division of Community Services –(HMIS) # 2	Statewide Homeless Management Information System	$132,216			
	Totals		$7,376,766	279	110	389

Updated 122805

Fargo's 10 Year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness

Why end long term homelessness?

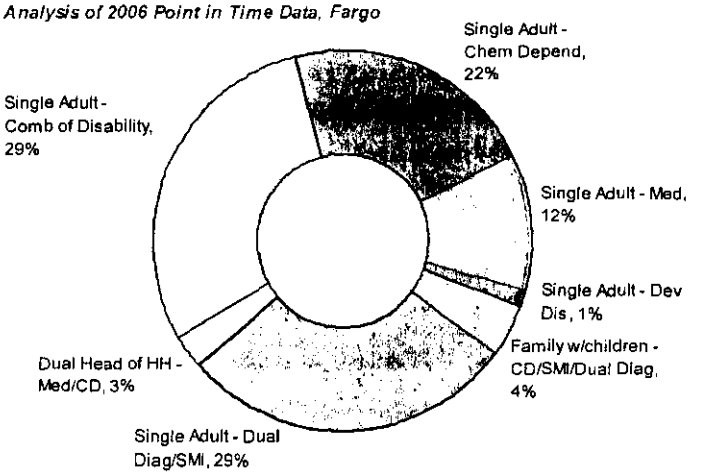
1. The **traditional system** that serves the homeless does **not** appear to be particularly **successful for this group**, as evidenced by their repeated and extended periods of homelessness.
2. **Scarce system resources** are being **disproportionately used** by a relatively small portion of the population.
3. Fargo is home to almost half of the long term homeless in the state of North Dakota and should, therefore, be integrally involved and **contributing to statewide efforts** to end homelessness.
4. It is **unacceptable** for a progressive community **to turn away** from the social injustice of long term homelessness – disability and poverty should not sentence someone to a life of long term homelessness.

Why are the community's long term homeless in a "housing crisis"?

1. Unable to pay for housing
   - Low wage job
   - Unemployable/ed due to disability
2. Unable to stay housed
   - Substance abuse
   - Mental illness with inconsistent use of meds
3. Unable to access housing
   - Criminal background
   - Poor credit
   - Poor rental history
4. Uninterested in engaging with the system as currently defined
   - Following program rules

93% of the long term homeless are single adults with disabilities - most of which involve chemical dependency or mental illness

Analysis of 2006 Point in Time Data, Fargo



How do we eliminate the housing crisis for these individuals?

- Identify **housing and service supports for 224 households.**
- Connect people who need housing with the housing that is available in the community.
- Create a demand-based model that offers the housing options our target tenants want – not the one we think they need.

7 Strategies in "Going Home"

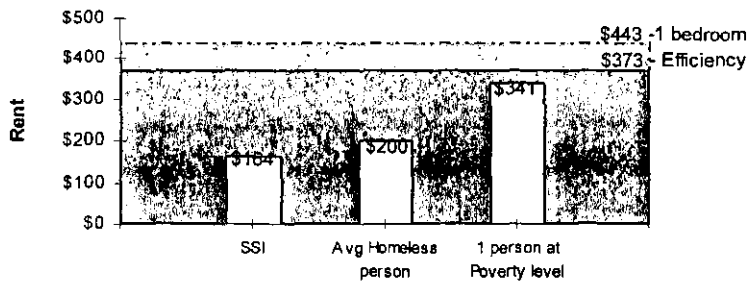
1. Increase availability of **permanent supportive housing**
2. Improve consumers' **ability to pay** for housing
3. Develop partnerships that will move people in to **housing first**
4. Make **outreach** to long term homeless more effective
5. **Stop discharging** people into homelessness
6. Enhance the coordination and availability of **prevention** services
7. Collect **data** and share info about homelessness

Strategy #1: Increase the availability of permanent supportive housing

1. Identify landlords willing to rent to LTH individuals
2. Take concrete steps to mitigate the perceived risk of renting to LTH
   - Indemnification Fund
   - Co-sign Leases
   - 24 hour crisis line
3. Inject flexibility in lease terms when possible
4. Convert existing shelter beds to PSH
5. Establish new safe haven housing
6. Encourage creation of new affordable efficiency units

The gap between a homeless person's ability to pay & typical market rents puts most metro area housing units out of reach

Fair market rent & ability to pay, HUD 2006 FMR and 2003 Wilder survey



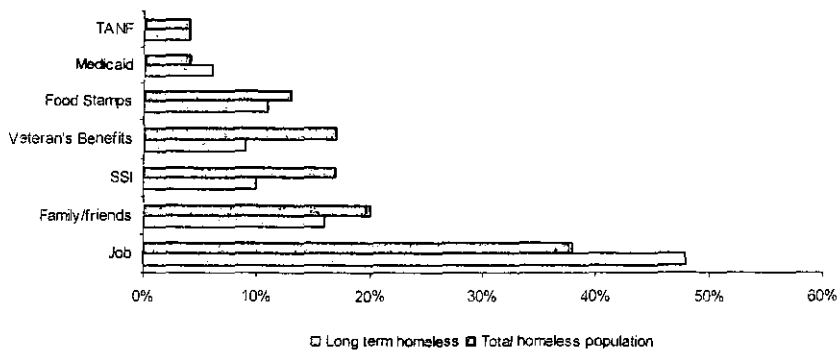
Affordable Rent by Income Level

Strategy #2: Improve consumers' ability to pay for housing

1. Add more housing vouchers to local system
   - S+C
   - Tenant-based rental assistance
   - Section 8 (thru rule mod)
2. Targeted employment placement specialists
3. Expand network of people who can help with benefit eligibility
4. Subsidize additional rep payee services
5. Transitional Jobs program

Employment is the most common source of income for Fargo's long term homeless population

Source of income, ND Point in time survey January 2006

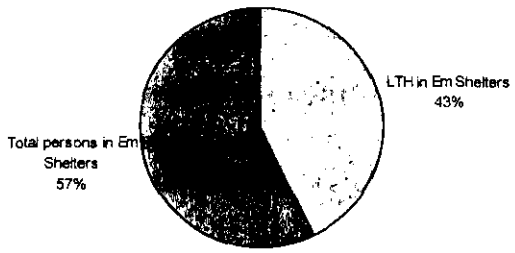


Strategy #3: Develop partnerships that will move people into housing first

1. Support creation of IDDT at Southeast Human Service Center
2. Enhance service connections for veterans
3. Expand informal group case mgmt approach
4. Establish peer mentor system to supplement case mgmt work
5. Establish "Fresh Start" fund
6. Create metro homelessness ombudsman

The long term homeless account for 43% of the people staying in emergency shelters in Fargo

Response to question "Where did you sleep last night?", ND Point in Time survey January 25, 2006

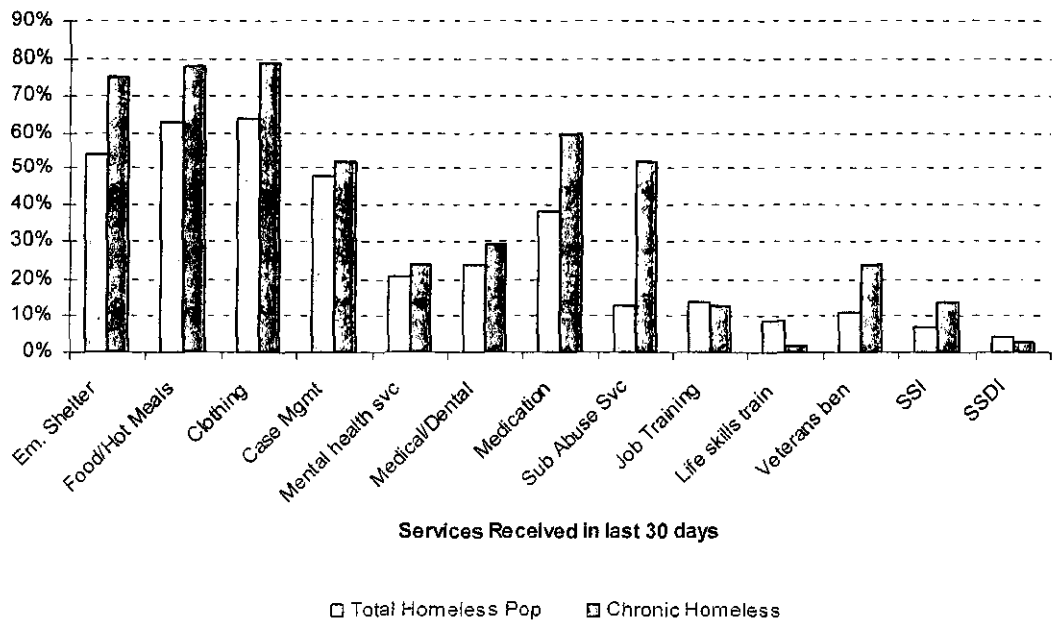


Strategy #4: Make outreach to LTH more effective

1. Establish fund to support outreach workers' relationship building activities
2. Initiate "Project Homeless Connect"
3. Support consumer-operated drop-in center

Even though the chronic homeless access services at higher rates than the entire homeless population, they are less likely to achieve any sort of sustained housing stability.

Svc utilization for total/chronic homeless pop, Fargo, ND Point in Time Jan 2006

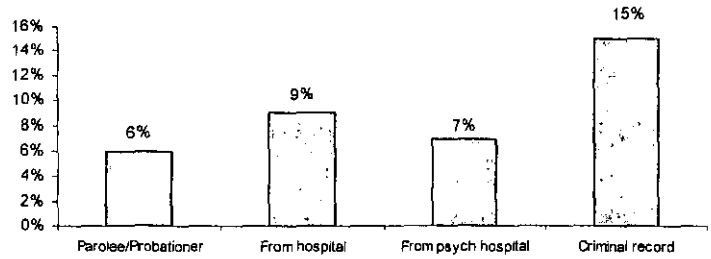


Strategy #5: Stop discharging people into homelessness

1. Connect health care providers with housing resources to minimize discharge to streets
2. Implement post-booking diversion program (JICC)
3. Support efforts to bolster discharge planning at state institutions
4. Support DOCR Re-entry initiatives

One in five long term homeless report having been discharged from an institutional setting

Charateristics of long term homeless population, Fargo, ND Point in Time survey, January 2006

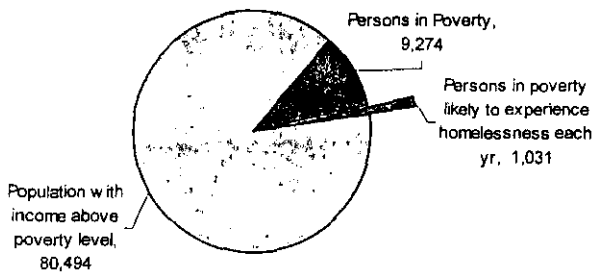


Strategy #6: Enhance the coordination and availability of prevention services

1. Guide to rent assistance
2. Community homelessness prevention strategy
3. Landlord/tenant mediation
4. Increased intensity of prevention service for most at-risk
5. Communication between landlords and prevention workers about effective prevention techniques

Approximately 10% of people living in poverty will experience homelessness in any given year

2000 Census Poverty statistics, Fargo

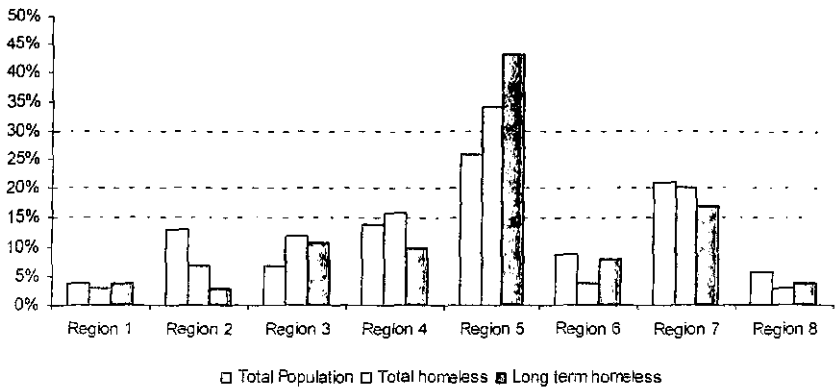


Strategy #7: Collect data and share information about homelessness in metro area

1. Increase use of HMIS
2. Support survey efforts
3. Community awareness
4. Document community costs
5. Integrate definition of long term homelessness into data collection practices

Local data collection efforts are key - almost half of the state's Long term homeless population lives in Fargo

Population distribution by region, 2006 ND Point in Time survey, January 2006



Attachment # 3

Same given to House Human Services 2-27-07

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
January 16, 2007

Same given to House approps March 19, 2007

Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Karen Hilfer and I am the Community Services Block Grant Coordinator for the Region VIII Community Action Partnership (CAP) in Dickinson. I am here at the request of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People in support of SB 2187.

When anyone speaks of "the homeless" most people have the vision of derelicts sleeping in doorways and people clad in rags pushing grocery carts piled high with junk down the streets of New York or Chicago. These are visions we have all been trained to see through television and movies. "Homeless"? That is not something we have in Dickinson, ND! But, yes, we do have homeless in Dickinson and almost every other community in North Dakota. The homeless are largely invisible living with family, friends, acquaintances. Living in parks and along the Interstate during the summer. They get limited supportive services from various agencies. And, finally they move on to other communities when they have worn out their welcome.

To provide shelter to homeless adults in Dickinson CAP rents four rooms on a permanent basis at a local motel. With the decreasing funding for shelter, some years ago the number of rooms was reduced to three; however, with the help of United Way funds we are back to four rooms. During 2006 CAP provided shelter to 56 people, but had to turn away 35 because the shelter was full at the time. Our shelter operates at capacity over 90 percent of the time.

Who are these people that have found themselves homeless?

- Over 80 percent are residents of our region
- 69 percent are males between the ages of 24 and 54
- 5 individuals were age 60 or over
- 14 were disabled (13 mental disability)
- 6 were veterans

- 18 were employed at the time they entered the shelter
- 14 received Social Security or SSI benefits
- Only 9 had Medicaid or Medicare benefits
- Over 40 percent experienced addiction issues

Typically these individuals have jobs that pay just slightly over minimum wage with no benefits. They are in a homeless situation because of job loss, eviction, marriage separation, and/or addiction problems.

The CAP shelter is usually the last resort. They have already used up their welcome with family and friends. In some instances they are chronically homeless (years without a home). This past year a 40+ year old gentleman sought space in our shelter. He had been in our shelter the summer before and, in fact, has been living on the streets for over 12 years traveling the country from community to community.

My staff worked with this veteran and other agencies in the community to try and make a difference in his life. For the first time, through the human service center, he was assessed, diagnosed and placed on medication. Once he was stable, staff got him working with vocational rehabilitation and eventually into a subsidized apartment of his own. This 12–year survivor of the streets is now working part-time and has been living in Dickinson for over 7 months, the longest he has been in one place for over a decade.

This is an extreme example since the majority of our clients have not reached this cycle of chronic homelessness. But it does demonstrate the complicated needs that follow these individuals. Having a roof over their heads and food in their stomach is a start to once again becoming self-supporting members of our community.

I urge you to support SB 2187 as a starting point that gives a chance to others who find themselves without the means to sustain themselves. And a starting point to bringing an end to homelessness in North Dakota.

Attachment # 4

SENATE BILL NO. 2187

Testimonial from: Judy Green
Executive Director
YWCA Cass Clay
701-232-2547
jgreen@ywcacassclay.org

Special thanks to Senators Wardner, Mathern & Kilzer as well as Representative Williams, Charging & Dahl for sponsoring this bill.

YWCA Cass Clay

The YWCA Cass Clay is the largest emergency shelter in North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota. We provided a safe haven to 1,433 women and children in 2006 – our highest annual number served in our 100 year history. We can house up to 65 women and children per day. Throughout 2006, we spent the majority of our months at, near or over capacity. Our shelter is open 24/7, 365 days a year.

Three main reasons why women and children seek our sheltering embrace

1) Domestic Violence
2) Homelessness
3) Economic Devastation

In 2006, we provided a safe haven to 947 women and children from North Dakota.

YWCA 2006 Percent of Revenue for Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing Programs:

34% Individuals, Business, Churches & Organizations
33% Government Funding – Federal, State and Local
(17% from HUD-Housing & Urban Development- for Transitional Housing program)
17% United Way
8% Foundations & Grants
8% Events & other income

The YWCA Cass Clay is a recipient of Emergency Shelter Grant funding through the state of North Dakota. In 2006, we were awarded $17,000 in ESG dollars.

2006 Operating Expenses for the YWCA Emergency Shelter were:

$ 618,965

Breakdown of those expenses are categorized as follows:

$	402,130	Salaries
$	78,610	Benefits & Payroll Taxes
$	20,730	Insurance
$	41,930	Electricity, Water & Garbage
$	25,200	Food
$	14,500	Direct Assistance (bus tokens, gas vouchers, etc.)
$	8,335	Telephone
$	6,800	Repair & Maintenance
$	8,830	Supplies
$	6,650	Postage
$	1,700	Real Estate Taxes
$	3,550	Miscellaneous Exp.
$	**618,965**	**Total**

Note: *Salaries and benefits for 22 full& part-time employees. Shelter programs include education and employment, child care and case management.*

YWCA Transitional Housing – Funding provided by Housing & Urban Development Grant with additional matching dollars from United Way of Cass Clay.

The YWCA was the first in the state of North Dakota to begin Transitional Housing over 16 years ago. The federal dollars (HUD) for this program come into the state and are distributed through the ND Homeless Coalition's Continuum of Care.

We ask for your support of SB 2187 in order to provided funding throughout the state of North Dakota for all shelters serving a critical population. As well, this bill provides the support to the North Dakota Homeless Coalition to ensure federal dollars continue to flow into our state and helps maintain our quality rating in the eyes of Housing and Urban Development.

Attachment #5

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SB 2187
January 16, 2007

Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Martin, and I am the Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, a homeless shelter located here in Bismarck. I am here in support of SB 2187.

The Ruth Meiers Hospitality House emergency shelter provides 18 beds for men and 18 beds for women and children. This is not a sufficient amount of emergency shelter beds for women and children. The 2006 point in time survey for the Bismarck region showed that on any given night there were 37 homeless women and 54 homeless children.

We served 552 people in our emergency shelters in 2006 – 175 more people than in 2005.

I am often questioned by the general public about the need for a homeless shelter. I hear such comments as "I never see any homeless people in Bismarck/Mandan". My answer to that is without our shelter you would see more homeless on the street.

Emergency shelters play an important role in their communities because they are often the first contact that the community has with that homeless person. It is at the emergency shelter where the specific needs of that individual are determined and addressed. Most homeless individuals have many problems they are facing from addiction to mental illness and physical health problems - to a felony background and poor rental history that make it much harder for them to find a place to work and live.

When an individual checks into our homeless shelter they receive more than a place to eat and sleep. We say that Ruth Meiers Hospitality House is a program that assists the homeless individual on moving toward self sufficiency. We offer supportive services such case management, health care, an addiction counselor, educational and employment services. All of these combined services help to move that individual from our emergency shelter into our transitional or permanent supportive housing programs where they have their own place to live and become a contributing member of the community.

But our contact with the individual does not stop there. All of our supportive services are available to the residents in our transitional and permanent supportive housing. The support we provide often is what is needed for that person to maintain the stability they need to stay in their apartment. For many of these people this is the first time in many years that they have not been in and out of homeless shelters.

I urge you to support SB 2187. With additional funding we would be able to move forward with our plans to provide additional emergency housing for women and children in the Bismarck area. We will be able to continue to provide the supportive services that are necessary to help individuals break their cycle of chronic homelessness.

Attachment #6

Senate Given to House Human Services

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Jan. 16, 2007

Chairman Lee and Committee Members,

Good morning. My name is Stan Stelter. I am the Development Director for the Abused Adult Resource Center in Bismarck, and my purpose here today is to testify in support of SB 2187.

The Abused Adult Resource Center has been providing services to this region for more than 30 years. Primarily we serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families in a seven-county area in south-central North Dakota. A key part of our service is an emergency shelter in Bismarck, known as Pam's House.

In 2006, we helped 1,091 new victims of domestic violence, as well as 128 victims of sexual assault. This past year we safely sheltered 104 families, including 122 children. Last year, we again saw an increase in the number of families staying at our shelter. We averaged nearly 20 people a day at our shelter. That means Pam's House was filled consistently to more than 70 percent of its capacity. Often, we were filled to capacity – and, in fact, today we are over capacity. For some perspective, since Pam's House opened in 1990, we have sheltered 1,183 families including 1,562 children.

But I don't want us to get lost in the numbers. These figures represent families who were homeless, families who lost their homes because of the violence in their lives.

As I said, our shelter is called Pam's House, and I want to point out why. It was named in honor of a woman who was killed by her estranged husband in front of their three children. But Pam's House is not a place of tragedy. It is a temporary home for families. It is a safe haven, a place where people can find others who care and who can help them restore their shattered lives. It is a place of hope and understanding - and a place that leads to new beginnings.

SB 2187 is an important bill for Pam's House, as well as other shelters across the state. This bill would add important dollars in helping all of us to operate our shelters.

For us, current funding from the Emergency Shelter Grant Program only covers about 6 percent of the annual operational costs for Pam's House. It basically pays the shelter's utility expense and a portion of its food needs, but it doesn't help us with client assistance, maintenance, insurance or furnishings.

Like other nonprofits, we have seen funding from other sources either decline or disappear. Because of that, Pam's House and the other shelters in North Dakota need help. This bill would help achieve that – and help to ensure that these temporary homes for the homeless can continue to operate.

Thank you.

Submitted by:
Stan Stelter
Development Director
Abused Adult Resource Center
Bismarck, ND

Prepared by the North Dakota Legislative Council staff for Senator Fischer
March 2007

2187

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS

North Dakota receives funding each year from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for emergency shelter grants. In federal fiscal year 2006, North Dakota received $272,836 of these federal funds and provided $20,000 of state funds for match.

The following schedule provides a listing of the emergency shelters receiving grants in federal fiscal year 2006:

Shelter Name	Grant Award
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House	$18,398.00
New Life Center	17,833.33
Williston Family Crisis Shelter	4,333.33
Williston Community Action	10,000.00
Dickinson Community Action	11,000.00
Centre, Inc.	16,500.00
YWCA Cass-Clay	17,000.00
Dickinson Domestic Violence	6,500.00
Fargo Youthworks	11,333.33
Bismarck Youthworks	10,333.33
YWCA of Minot	10,500.00
Abused Adult Resource Center	16,166.67
Shelter for Homeless, Inc. - The Mission	
Red River Valley Community Action	7,166.67
Minot Domestic Violence	15,666.67
Mercer County Women's Action	5,000.00
Devils Lake - Safe Alternatives	5,333.33
Tri-County Crisis Intervention, Inc.	10,231.33
Minot Community Action Opportunities, Inc.	10,000.00
Community Violence Intervention Center	15,500.00
Grand Forks Salvation Army	
Bismarck Community Action Program	10,000.00
Jamestown Salvation Army	9,666.67
SouthEastern North Dakota Community Action Agency	15,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul	2,833.33
Rehab Services, Inc.	11,833.33
Aid, Inc.	
Parshall Resource Center	
Bismarck Salvation Army	11,064.67
Welcome House, Inc.	
Total	$279,194.00

(1)

SENATE APPRORIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 5, 2007

North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc.
Mary Magnusson, Executive Director

SB 2187

The North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc. supports SB 2187. The bill supports primary housing components that ND communities depend on to help homeless individuals and families to reach self-sufficiency. The components are: (1) emergency shelter to meet short term needs and (2) supportive housing to meet longer term needs of people who are homeless.

SB 2187 addresses two issues:

Section 1. addresses a shortage in Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) funding to ND's emergency shelter programs. The shortage stems from a combination of:

- Increases in the number of individuals and families seeking help
- Increasing costs to run shelters and provide housing assistance
- Federal funding cuts to ESGP

SB 2187 would increase the state's support to ESGP, and supplement federal ESGP funding to ND.

Section 2. addresses the need for future administrative funding for ND's statewide Continuum of Care (CoC) supportive housing program. The CoC supportive housing program:

- Facilitates year round coordinated planning between government and non-profit agencies aimed at alleviating long-term homelessness. Currently several ND communities are in various stages of developing plans. A short version of Fargo's 10-year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness passed by the city last fall is attached at the back of the written testimony. It has become a model for other communities. Fargo's goal is to develop more than 200 units of supportive housing.
- Develops supportive housing projects in ND communities.
- Results in obtaining federal funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Program for supportive housing. Through ND's CoC program more than $1 million dollars in federal funding annually goes directly to ND communities for supportive housing. A chart showing the statewide distribution is attached at the back of the written testimony along with a photo of the permanent supportive housing opened Fall 2006 in Grand Forks.

Since 2003, the CoC program has relied primarily on private foundation funding to administer the program. This funding has run its course. SB 2187 appropriates future funding to administer the ND's CoC program and continue coordinated efforts to alleviate homelessness.

Both appropriations would be directed to the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Services (DCS). DCS already administers ESGP and other community development programs through an establish process. DCS has been highly involved since 2001 in the development of supportive housing throughout the state, as well as the development of ND's CoC program.

(2)

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
February 5, 2007

Chairman Holmberg and Committee Members,

My name is Karen Hilfer and I am the Community Services Block Grant Coordinator for the Region VIII Community Action Partnership (CAP) in Dickinson. I am here at the request of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People in support of SB 2187.

When anyone speaks of "the homeless" most people have the vision of derelicts sleeping in doorways and people clad in rags pushing grocery carts piled high with junk down the streets of New York or Chicago. These are visions we have all been trained to see through television and movies. "Homeless"? That is not something we have in Dickinson, ND! But, yes, we do have homeless in Dickinson and almost every other community in North Dakota. The homeless are largely invisible living with family, friends, acquaintances. Living in parks and along the Interstate during the summer. They get limited supportive services from various agencies. And, finally they move on to other communities when they have worn out their welcome.

To provide shelter to homeless adults in Dickinson CAP rents four rooms on a permanent basis at a local motel ($375 per month per room). With the decreasing funding for shelter, some years ago the number of rooms was reduced to three; however, with the help of United Way funds we are back to four rooms. During 2006 CAP provided shelter to 56 people, but had to turn away 35 because the shelter was full at the time. To serve those 35 individuals the agency would have needed funding for an additional 1 ½ rooms. Our shelter operates at capacity over 97 percent of the time.

CAP's current shelter grant is $11,000. That covers the cost of two rooms for one year and a third room for about 9 months. United Way covers the remaining cost of the year plus an additional room. To cover the cost of an additional 1 ½ rooms the agency would need another $6,800 per year. In addition the grant does not provide funding for food, clothing, medical, transportation (no bus system), other incidentals, or staff time. To fully

fund the activities for the adult homeless shelter it takes a budget of between $25,000 and $30,000 annually.

The agency has considered the option of renting or purchasing a facility but that would require 24/7 staffing and triple the funding needs.

Who are the people that have found themselves homeless in Dickinson?

- More than 80 percent are residents of our region
- 69 percent are males between the ages of 24 and 54
- 5 individuals were age 60 or over
- 14 were disabled (13 mental disability)
- 6 were veterans
- 18 were employed at the time they entered the shelter
- 14 received Social Security or SSI benefits
- Only 9 had Medicaid or Medicare benefits
- More than 40 percent experienced addiction issues
- Nearly 30 percent are referred by correctional facilities
- 80 percent increase in homeless women (without children)

Typically these individuals have no jobs or are in jobs that pay just slightly over minimum wage with no benefits. They are in a homeless situation because of job loss, eviction, marriage separation, and/or addiction problems, recent release from jail.

The CAP shelter is usually the last resort. They have already used up their welcome with family and friends. In some instances they are chronically homeless (years without a home). This past year a 40+ year old gentleman sought space in our shelter. He had been in our shelter the summer before and, in fact, has been living on the streets for over 12 years traveling the country from community to community.

My staff worked with this veteran and other agencies in the community to try and make a difference in his life. For the first time, through the human service center, he was

assessed, diagnosed and placed on medication. Once he was stable, staff got him working with vocational rehabilitation and eventually into a subsidized apartment of his own. This 12–year survivor of the streets is now working part-time and has been living in Dickinson for over 7 months, the longest he has been in one place for over a decade.

This is an extreme example since the majority of our clients have not reached this cycle of chronic homelessness. But it does demonstrate the complicated needs that follow these individuals. Having a roof over their heads and food in their stomach is a start to once again becoming self-supporting members of our community.

I urge you to support SB 2187 as a starting point that gives a chance to others who find themselves without the means to sustain themselves. And it is a starting point to bringing an end to homelessness in North Dakota.

3

North Dakota Human Rights Coalition

P.O. Box 1961, Fargo, ND 58107-1961 (701) 239-9323 Fax (701) 478-4452 www.ndhrc.org

Testimony
Senate Bill 2187
Senate Appropriations Committee
February 5, 2007

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of Senate Bill 2187. I am Cheryl Bergian, Executive Director of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition. The Coalition includes a broad-based, statewide membership of individuals and organizations interested in the furtherance of human rights in North Dakota; the Coalition's mission is to effect change so that all people in North Dakota enjoy full human rights.

We support the proposal to provide funding for emergency shelter programs and for continuum of care planning costs. Access to housing is a basic human right, and as a state with financial resources to do so, it is an appropriate expenditure of funds to provide housing to those who are in need.

We ask for a do pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2187. I appreciate this opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition.

(4)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Feb. 5, 2007

My name is Stan Stelter, and I work for the Abused Adult Resource Center in Bismarck. My purpose is to provide information to support passage of SB 2187.

The Abused Adult Resource Center has been providing services to this region for more than 30 years. We serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families in a seven-county area in south-central North Dakota. A key part of our service is an emergency shelter in Bismarck, known as Pam's House. In 2006, we helped 1,091 new victims of domestic violence, as well as 128 victims of sexual assault. This past year we safely sheltered 104 families, including 122 children, a record total for one year for our shelter. An average of 21 women and children stayed daily at our shelter in 2006, meaning that – too often - Pam's House was filled to capacity.

SB 2187 is an important bill for Pam's House, as well as other shelters across the state. This bill would add important dollars in helping all of us to operate our shelters. For the Abused Adult Resource Center, current funding from the Emergency Shelter Grant Program only covers about 6 percent of the annual operational costs for Pam's House. It basically pays the shelter's utility expense and a portion of its food needs, but it doesn't help the shelter with client assistance or maintenance.

Like other nonprofits, the Abused Adult Resource Center constantly searches for funding from dozens of sources, but, unfortunately, revenue from these sources recently have been declining or disappearing. That's why Pam's House and the other shelters in North Dakota need help, and why SB 2187 is so important for our shelters and the clients we serve.

Thank you.

Submitted by:
Stan Stelter
Development Director
Abused Adult Resource Center
Bismarck, ND

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
SB 2187
February 5, 2007

(5)

Chairman Holmberg and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Martin, and I am the Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, a homeless shelter located here in Bismarck. I am here in support of SB 2187.

The Ruth Meiers Hospitality House emergency shelters provide 18 beds for men and 18 beds for women and children. This is not a sufficient amount of emergency shelter beds for women and children. The 2006 point in time survey for the Bismarck region showed that on any given night there were 37 homeless women and 54 homeless children.

Ruth Meiers Hospitality House served 552 people in our emergency shelters in 2006 – 175 more people than in 2005.

Emergency shelters play an important role in their communities because they are often the first contact that the community has with that homeless person. It is at the emergency shelter where the specific needs of that individual are determined and addressed. Most homeless individuals have many problems they are facing from addiction to mental illness and physical health problems - to a felony background and poor rental history that make it much harder for them to find a place to work and live.

When an individual checks into our homeless shelter they receive more than a place to eat and sleep. We say that Ruth Meiers Hospitality House is a program that assists the homeless individual on moving toward self sufficiency. We offer supportive services such case management, health care, an addiction counselor, educational and employment services. All of these combined services help to move that individual from our emergency shelter into our transitional or permanent supportive housing programs where they have their own place to live and become a contributing member of the community.

All of our supportive services are available to the residents in our transitional and permanent supportive housing. The support we provide often is what is needed for that person to maintain the stability they need to stay in their apartment. For many of these people this is the first time in many years that they have not been in and out of homeless shelters.

Ruth Meiers Hospitality House receives over 50% of our annual operating budget from donations from individuals and businesses in our community. Grants make up about 19% of our budget. We received $17,000 from the Emergency Shelter Grant in 2006. This will pay for electricity and gas in our men's emergency shelter for one year. It will not cover the cost of gas and electricity in our women's shelter or our permanent supportive housing. It does not cover any other expenses such as water, food and supportive services.

I urge you to support SB 2187. With additional funding we would be able to move forward with our plans to provide additional emergency housing for women and children in the Bismarck area. We will be able to continue to provide the supportive services that are necessary to help individuals break their cycle of chronic homelessness.

(1)

TESTAMONY ON SB 2187
Herbert J. Wilson, MD

Chairman Holmberg,
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear People,

May I ask your kind consideration of SB 2187, for emergency shelter programs.?

I am somewhat acquainted with the plight of the homeless through my work with the 211 Help Line. (requests for shelter frequently come through this toll free, 24 hour, state wide hookup)

Also, I have learned of the immensity of the problem through my attendance, for a number of years, on the Homeless Coalition Committee.

Also, as a semi retired physician, I am occasionally called on to treat indigents in the Bismarck-Mandan area. In so doing I learn of the plight of the "hidden homeless".

Herbert J. Wilson

Herbert J. Wilson, MD.
12 44 W Coulee Rd.
Bismarck, NoDak.

NEWS CENTER

News Releases for February 2007

[Printer friendly version]

February 22, 2007

For further information, please Contact the Governor's Office

Hoeven Announces More Than $1.3 Million In Grants For The Homeless

BISMARCK, N.D. - Gov. John Hoeven today announced that 11 North Dakota organizations and four communities will receive more than $1.3 million in Continuum of Care grants to assist the homeless. Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, notified the Governor of the award this week.

The grants will fund transitional and permanent supportive housing projects in Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck and Dickinson, providing homeless persons and families with options for attaining a permanent home and self-sufficiency. The agencies receiving Continuum of Care funding provide supportive housing for 250 people, including children, who would otherwise be homeless.

"As we create jobs and grow our economy, we must also be mindful of those in need," Hoeven said. "Our statewide partnership with the North Dakota Coalition of Homeless People, state agencies and non-profit organizations will work to support and coordinate these grants, which will help make a difference in the lives of individuals and families who are experiencing hardships and find themselves homeless for a time."

The North Dakota Continuum of Care Plan is a long-term, comprehensive planning and development initiative that identifies and addresses the causes of homelessness and the needs of the

homeless in the state. The North Dakota Coalition of Homeless People is the lead entity overseeing the development and implementation of the plan, with assistance from several organizations statewide.

"When we help to meet the needs of the homeless individuals, we are lighting a path to greater independence and security," Hoeven said. "This is an important obligation we have to all of our citizens and especially to children and families."

The following North Dakota organizations were awarded Continuum of Care grants:

- Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, Inc. - Bismarck
- ShareHouse, Inc./Sister's Path - Fargo
- Society of St Vincent de Paul -Grand Forks
- Prairie Harvest Human Services Foundation - Grand Forks
- Abused Adult Resource Center - Bismarck
- YWCA Cass Clay – Fargo
- Community Violence Intervention Center - Grand Forks
- Women's Alliance, Inc., Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center - Dickinson
- Fargo Housing and Redevelopment Authority - Fargo
- North Dakota Division of Community Services - Statewide

E-mail comments to the Governor

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North Dakota Information Technology Department
webmaster@nd.gov

FISCAL YEAR 2006
CONTINUUM OF CARE COMPETITION
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AWARDS REPORT WITH ESG

STATE
COC Number

Sponsor Name	COC Name	Program	Dollars Awarded
North Dakota			
ND06-500	North Dakota Statewide CoC		
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, Inc.		SHP	$119,998.00
Sharehouse		SHPR	$150,000.00
Society of St. Vincent de Paul		SHPR	$15,277.00
Prairie Harvest Human Services Foundation		SHPR	$84,999.00
Abused Adult Resource Center		SHPR	$78,682.00
YWCA Cass Clay		SHPR	$133,015.00
Community Violence Intervention Center		SHPR	$94,772.00
YWCA Cass Clay		SHPR	$80,504.00
Women's Alliance, Inc.		SHPR	$37,600.00
[redacted]h Dakota Department of Commerce		SHPR	$30,000.00
[redacted]WCA Cass Clay		SHP	$227,845.00
Fargo Housing and Redevelopment Authority		SPCR	$188,460.00
North Dakota Department of Commerce		SPCR	$94,248.00
		Total :	**$1,335,400.00**
		State Total :	**$1,335,400.00**

HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 27, 2007

North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc.
Mary Magnusson, Executive Director

Same sheet to House appropriations

SB 2187

The North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc. supports SB 2187. The bill provides for two types of housing that ND communities depend on to help homeless individuals and families reach self-sufficiency. The components are: (1) emergency shelter to meet short term needs and (2) supportive housing to meet longer term needs of people who are homeless.

SB 2187 addresses two issues:

Section 1. addresses a shortage in Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP) funding to ND's emergency shelter programs. The shortage stems from a combination of:

- Increases in the number of individuals and families seeking help
- Increasing costs to run shelters and provide housing assistance
- Federal funding cuts to ESGP

SB 2187 would increase the state's support to ESGP, and supplement federal ESGP funding to ND.

Section 2. addresses the need for future administrative funding for ND's statewide Continuum of Care (CoC) supportive housing program. Through the CoC supportive housing program:

- ND communities are annually awarded more than $1 million if federal funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Program for supportive housing. A chart showing the statewide distribution is attached at the back of the written testimony along with a photo of the permanent supportive housing opened Fall 2006 in Grand Forks.
- State and local government and non-profit agencies are engaged in developing lasting solutions to homelessness. Currently several ND communities are in various stages of developing 10 –year plans to end long term homelessness. A short version of Fargo's 10-year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness (the plan was passed by the city last fall and is being implemented) is attached at the back of the written testimony. It has become a model for other communities. Fargo's goal is to develop more than 200 units of supportive housing.
- Develops supportive housing to relieve overcrowded emergency shelters.

Since 2003, the CoC program has relied primarily on private foundation funding to administer the program. This funding has run its course. SB 2187 appropriates future funding to administer the ND's CoC program and continue coordinated efforts to alleviate homelessness.

Both appropriations would be directed to the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Services (DCS). DCS already administers ESGP and other community development programs through an establish process. DCS has been highly involved since 2001 in the development of supportive housing throughout the state, as well as the development of ND's CoC program.

Background for SB 2187:

1. Statewide trends driving the need for emergency shelters and for supportive housing.

- High cost of rental housing.
    - In a 2006 Statewide Point-in-Time Survey of Homeless People, 62% of respondents indicated they could not afford rent compared to 52% in 2005.
    - In North Dakota, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment is $537. In order to afford this level of rent without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn $1,790 monthly or $21,480 annually. Assuming a 40-hour week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of $10.33.
    - In the 2006 Point-In –Time Survey, only 21% of respondents indicated they were employed, 17% indicated they were underemployed, and 52% unemployed.
    - Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are $603 in North Dakota. If SSI represents the only source of income, $181, in monthly rent is affordable.

- The high rate of substance abuse and mental illness among the homeless.
    - Almost half of ND's homeless population has a history of substance abuse and more than a third have a mental illness. These rates remain consistent from year to year.
    - Substance abuse and mental illness with inconsistent use of meds impacts the ability to stay housed.

- The numbers of homeless people unable to access public housing and rental housing because many have criminal backgrounds, bad credit and poor rental history.
    - In 2006, 28% of the homeless indicated they had a criminal record (percentage not available for the previous year),
    - In 2006, 34% indicated they had a bad credit history compared to 28% the previous year.

- People relocating to find jobs.
    - In 2006, 27% indicate they relocated compared to 28% the previous year.
    - With the economic development in our state, some individuals and families are relocating in order to take advantage of job opportunities, but find that they can not get housing and become homeless.

2. The statewide impact of homelessness.

Homeless people are mobile and therefore move from one location to another which impacts the state as a whole and not just two or three communities. SB 2187 would help communities statewide.

- Shelter providers in rural communities report they are turning homeless people away almost daily because of lack of funding for emergency shelters and the lack of affordable/ permanent supportive housing. The problems get pushed to urban communities and other shelters that are already having trouble meeting demand.

- Urban communities statewide report the numbers of homeless individuals and families seeking help increased in 2006 over 2005. For example:

    - In 2006, Community Action in Dickinson assisted 56 homeless people, but turned away 35 which is over 50%.
    - Ruth Meiers Hospitality House in Bismarck housed 175 more clients in 2006 than the previous year.
    - The YWCA Cass Clay in Fargo served 1,433 in 2006 - the most in its 100 year history

3. The Supportive Housing concept and ND's progress in developing supportive housing to relieve overcrowded emergency shelters.

Emergency shelters serve a vital purpose and when combined with supportive housing produce lasting solutions to homelessness.

- Emerging national research shows that 80% of homeless people who access permanent supportive housing do not return to homelessness.

- Research also shows that permanent supportive housing reduces public costs in the form of emergency hospital costs, costs to law enforcement, and costs to correctional institutions and other public institutions of care.

- Emergency shelters typically provide shelter for up to 90 days. Supportive housing, both transitional and Permanent , are designed to provide stable living for longer periods of time. People may stay in transitional housing for up to 2 years, and may stay in permanent supporting housing indefinitely. Emergency shelters can operate more effectively when there is supportive housing available in the community.

- The City of Fargo has passed a 10-year plan to End Long-term Homelessness and its goal is to create more than 200 units of permanent supportive housing. A short version of the plan is attached to the back of this testimony.

- Grand Forks and Bismarck/Mandan have committed to developing 10-year plans and setting goals for permanent supportive housing. Williston, Jamestown, Minot, Dickinson, and Devils Lake, and 4 ND reservations have been encouraged to develop 10-year plans and develop supportive permanent housing.

- The North Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness (NDICH) composed of the Directors of state agencies and the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People was established by Executive Order in 2004. It was formed to develop and write an overall 10-year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness in ND. The NDICH has been the guiding influence for local communities to develop 10-year strategic plans, and will set a statewide goal for the development of permanent supportive housing based on local plans.

4. The need for state funding for the ESGP and the CoC program.

ESGP:

- In 2006, there was a shortfall of $137,430 between the requests from the state's ESGP applicants and funds that were available. The total ESGP funding distributed in 2006 to 26 applicants was $279,597 ($259, 597 in federal funding plus $20,000 in state funding). Total requests from applicants was $417,027. This amount does not disclose what the actual needs are because there is a cap on the amount grantees may request.

- The requests from ESGP applicants is impacted by the high cost of rental housing as well as utility costs. The high cost of rental housing limits the numbers of people that shelter providers can help when they use scattered site rental housing. Many shelter providers are also impacted by the cost of rent and utilities in operating their own facilities.

- The shortage of ESGP stems from cuts in federal funding. In the 1993 – 1995 biennium, the ND legislature appropriated $20,000 per year to supplement the current federal ESGP funding which amounted to $327,000. Total ESGP of $347,000 was awarded to 25 grantees. In 2006, the same number of applicants must operate with less ESGP.

Year	Federal ESGP	State ESGP	Total
1993	$327,000	$20,000	$347,000
2006	$259,597	$20,000	$279,597

CoC program:

- State funding is needed to continue to obtain HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding for supportive housing in ND.

- Start -up funding for the CoC program was provided primarily by DCS in 2001and 2002. From 2003 to 2006 private foundation funding has primarily covered the administrative costs of the CoC program and this funding has run its course.

- The CoC program has a return of more than $1 million dollars annually. From 2001 to 2005 more than $7 million dollars has come to North Dakota through the CoC program. These funds go directly to ND communities providing housing with services and sustaining jobs. From 2003 to 2006 the average annual cost to administer the CoC program has been $50,000 or 5%.

- SB 2187 is needed to provide future administrative funds and continue ND's CoC program.

TESTIMONY ON
SB 2187

Chairman Price and Members:

My name is Brenda Boehler, and I am representing the YWCA Minot. We provide emergency shelter to homeless women and children in Minot that are not in an abusive situation. I support SB 2187.

The YWCA has provided emergency shelter through a local motel since 2003. We were able to provide two or three nights of housing with the monies we had. July of 2005, the YWCA decided to assist these women for up-to thirty nights or until they could find suitable housing. This is not a sufficient way to make a difference in these women's lives. The 2006-point in time survey for the Minot region showed that on any given night there were 50 people that were homeless. 25 or 50% were people that were in emergency shelters/motel with the remaining people being in transitional housing or living in abandoned buildings, automobiles or choose not tell us where they were living.

In 2006 the YWCA Minot served 140 women and 44 children for a total of 425 nights an increase of 68 individuals compared to 2005. The YWCA Minot is opening an emergency shelter that will serve ten single women or five women and her children. This center will be open as soon as the funds or in kind donation to install the flooring. The YWCA is looking at expanding this center in late 2007 or early 2008 if funding is available.

Emergency shelters play an important role in our community because we are often the first contact this homeless woman has. We determine and address their needs and problems which stem from addiction to mental illness and physical health problems – to a felony background and poor rental history that make it much harder for them to find place to work and live.

With the opening of our emergency shelter these individuals will receive more than a place to eat and sleep. They will receive assistance to move on towards self-sufficiency. We offer supportive services such as case management, parenting classes and other educational and employment services. The YWCA Minot refers these individuals to other agencies within the community such as Minot Housing Authority, Job Service ND, MPS Adult Education, Ward County Social Services and Community Action.

The YWCA Minot receives over 60% of our annual operating budget from donations from individuals and businesses in our community. Grants make up about 25% of our budget. We received $10,500 from the Emergency Shelter Grant in 2006. This will pay for part of the utilities for our shelter. It will not pay for the supported services, food and other expenses for this center.

I urge you to support SB 2187. With additional funding we would be able to move forward with our plans for additional emergency housing for women and children in the Minot area. The City of Minot is beginning to meet and discuss the 10-year planning efforts about homelessness that is happening across the state. Today, Charlene Flaherty, Regional Coordinator for the US Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness is in Minot meeting with the city and county officials to discuss our homeless issues.

Senate Appropriations Human Services

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE –
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION
SB 2187
March 19, 2007

Chairman Carlson and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Martin, and I am the Executive Director of Ruth Meiers Hospitality House, a homeless shelter located here in Bismarck. I am here in support of SB 2187.

The Ruth Meiers Hospitality House emergency shelters provide 18 beds for men and 18 beds for women and children. This is not a sufficient amount of emergency shelter beds for women and children. The 2006 point in time survey for the Bismarck region showed that on any given night there were 37 homeless women and 54 homeless children.

Ruth Meiers Hospitality House served 552 people in our emergency shelters in 2006 – 175 more people than in 2005.

Emergency shelters play an important role in their communities because they are often the first contact that the community has with that homeless person. It is at the emergency shelter where the specific needs of that individual are determined and addressed. Most homeless individuals have many problems they are facing from addiction to mental illness and physical health problems - to a felony background and poor rental history that make it much harder for them to find a place to work and live.

When an individual checks into our homeless shelter they receive more than a place to eat and sleep. We say that Ruth Meiers Hospitality House is a program that assists the homeless individual on moving toward self sufficiency. We offer supportive services such case management, health care, an addiction counselor, educational and employment services. All of these combined services help to move that individual from our emergency shelter into our transitional or permanent supportive housing programs where they have their own place to live and become a contributing member of the community.

All of our supportive services are available to the residents in our transitional and permanent supportive housing. The support we provide often is what is needed for that person to maintain the stability they need to stay in their apartment. For many of these people this is the first time in many years that they have not been in and out of homeless shelters.

Ruth Meiers Hospitality House receives over 50% of our annual operating budget from donations from individuals and businesses in our community. Grants make up about 19% of our budget. We received $18,000 from the Emergency Shelter Grant in 2006. This will pay for electricity and gas in our men's emergency shelter for one year. It will not cover the cost of gas and electricity in our women's shelter or our permanent supportive housing. It does not cover any other expenses such as water, food and supportive services.

I urge you to support SB 2187. With additional funding we would be able to move forward with our plans to provide additional emergency housing for women and children in the Bismarck area. We will be able to continue to provide the supportive services that are necessary to help individuals break their cycle of chronic homelessness.

2187. 3.19.07 C

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE-GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION

March 19, 2007

North Dakota Department of Commerce, Division of Community Services

Tran Doan, Homeless Programs Administrator

SB 2187

The North Dakota Department of Commerce, Division of Community Services (DCS) supports SB 2187. The Department acknowledges the need for additional funding for the operational support of homeless service providers throughout North Dakota. The two sections of this bill address North Dakota's homeless problems in a comprehensive way. SB 2187 addresses the short term needs of emergency shelters as well as the long term need for permanent supportive housing.

Section 1. This section requests $200,000 per biennium for the Emergency Shelter Grants program (ESG). This funding will be used to match the existing federal allocation of approximately $552,000 per biennium. This funding will provide assistance to homeless service providers in their provision of emergency shelter and services to the homeless. The DCS currently administers the ESG program and has an application process in place and a monitoring/accountability review process in place.

Section 2. This section requests $100,000 per biennium for the purpose of providing funding for planning and administrative costs associated with the Continuum of Care homeless assistance programs from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Continuum of Care program is an annual competitive grant program that funds well thought out projects developed through the Continuum of Care planning process. Continuum of Care projects provide long-term permanent supportive housing as opposed to the temporary short-term emergency needs addressed in Section 1. North Dakota competes with over 500 other organizations throughout the United States for this funding. In order to be competitive, North Dakota's planning process takes place throughout the year and throughout North Dakota. This planning process has garnered more than $1 million annually for homeless projects in North Dakota since 2001. If funded as proposed in SB 2187, DCS will pass through this funding; act as a fiscal agent; provide oversight on the planning process; monitor and ensure the development of the Statewide Continuum of Care plans for FY 2007 and 2008.

2187. 3.19.07 D

2006 ESGP APPLICATIONS

SHELTER NAME	APPLICATION SCORE	REHAB AMOUNT	OPER. AMOUNT	ESS. SERV. AMOUNT	HOMELESS PREVENTION	MATCH AMOUNT	MATCH WAIVER	TOTAL REQUESTED	PAUL'S RECOMMENDED AMOUNT	TRAN'S REC. AMT	BONNIE'S REC. AMT	FINAL FUNDED AM
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House	23	$ -	$ 25,000.00			$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 19,194.00	$ 18,500.00	$17,500.00	$ **18,398.00**
New Life Center	23	$ -	$ 25,000.00			$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 17,000.00	$ 19,000.00	$17,500.00	$ **17,833.33**
Williston Family Crisis Shelter	15		$ 6,450.00			$ 6,450.00		$ 6,450.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00	$4,000.00	$ **4,333.33**
Williston Community Action	17		$ 11,775.00			$ 11,775.00		$ 11,775.00	$ 9,500.00	$ 10,500.00	$10,000.00	$ **10,000.00**
Dickinson Community Action	18		$ 19,900.00			$ 19,900.00		$ 19,900.00	$ 10,500.00	$ 11,500.00	$11,000.00	$ **11,000.00**
Centre Inc.	23		$ 25,000.00			$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 17,000.00	$17,500.00	$ **16,500.00**
YWCA CASS-CLAY	23		$ 20,000.00			$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00	$ 17,000.00	$ 19,000.00	$15,000.00	$ **17,000.00**
Dickinson Domestic Violence	21		$ 6,500.00			$ 6,500.00		$ 6,500.00	$ 6,500.00	$ 6,500.00	$6,500.00	$ **6,500.00**
Fargo Youthworks	16		$ 14,420.00			$ -	$ 14,420.00	$ 14,420.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 11,000.00	$13,000.00	$ **11,333.33**
Bismarck Youthworks	17		$ 11,288.00			$ -	$ 11,288.00	$ 11,288.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 11,000.00	$10,000.00	$ **10,333.33**
YWCA of Minot	16		$ 15,000.00	$ -		$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	$ 11,000.00	$ 7,500.00	$13,000.00	$ **10,500.00**
Abused Adult Resource Center	20		$ 25,000.00	$ -			$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 16,000.00	$17,500.00	$ **16,166.67**
Shelter for Homeless, Inc. -The Mission	0		$ -					$ -	$ -	$ -	$0.00	$ -
Red River Valley Community Action	19	$ -	$ 8,350.00			$ 8,350.00		$ 8,350.00	$ 7,000.00	$ 8,000.00	$6,500.00	$ **7,166.67**
Minot Domestic Violence	20		$ 25,000.00			$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,500.00	$16,500.00	$ **15,666.67**
Mercer County Women's Action	19		$ 7,150.00				$ 7,150.00	$ 7,150.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$5,000.00	$ **5,000.00**
Devils Lake - Safe Alternatives	17		$ 5,500.00	$ -		$ 5,500.00		$ 5,500.00	$ 5,500.00	$ 5,500.00	$5,000.00	$ **5,333.33**
Tri-County Crisis Intervention, Inc.	16		$ 16,694.00			$ 16,694.00		$ 16,694.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,500.00	$10,194.00	$ **10,231.33**
Minot Community Action Opportunities, Ir	18		$ -		$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$10,000.00	$ **10,000.00**
Community Violence Intervention Ctr.	22		$ 25,000.00			$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,500.00	$16,000.00	$ **15,500.00**
Grand Forks Salvation Army			$ -	$ -				$ -	$ -	$ -	$0.00	$ -
Bismarck Community Action Program	21				$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$10,000.00	$ **10,000.00**
Jamestown Salvation Army	17		$ 1,000.00		$ 9,000.00	$ 10,000.00		$ 10,000.00	$ 9,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$10,000.00	$ **9,666.67**
SENDCAA	21		$ -		$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$15,000.00	$ **15,000.00**
St. Vincent DePaul	16	$ -	$ 4,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ 4,000.00		$ 4,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 3,000.00	$3,500.00	$ **2,833.33**
Rehab Services, Inc.	21		$ 25,000.00			$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 10,500.00	$10,000.00	$ **11,833.33**
Aid, Inc.			$ -					$ -	$ -	$ -	$0.00	$ -
Parshall Resource Center		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$0.00	$ -
Bismarck Salvation Army	19		$ 17,500.00	$ -	$ 7,500.00	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 9,194.00	$9,000.00	$ **11,064.67**
Welcome House, Inc.	17		$ 25,000.00		$ -	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00	$ -	$ -	$0.00	$ -
								$ -		$ -		
TOTALS		$ -	$ 365,527.00	$ -	$ 51,500.00	$359,169.00	$ 57,858.00	$ 417,027.00	$ 279,194.00	$ 279,194.00	$279,194.00	$ **279,194.00**
PERCENTAGE OF ESS. SERVICES				0%	19%		$ 42,142.00					

ESGP Funds Available	$ 272,836.00
Less: State Administration	$ 13,642.00
ESGP Funds Available	$ 259,194.00
State General Funds Available	$ 20,000.00
Total Available for Distribution	**$ 279,194.00**