

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2237

Introduced by

Senators DeMers, Krebsbach, Lips, W. Stenehjem

Representatives Maragos, Wentz

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 54-44.5 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to community action agencies; and to amend and reenact section
3 54-44.5-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the office of intergovernmental
4 assistance.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-44.5-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **54-44.5-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise
9 requires:

- 10 1. "Community action agency" means a not-for-profit corporation that has authority
11 under its charter and bylaws to receive funds to administer community action
12 programs and which was officially designated as a community action agency or a
13 community action program under section 210 of the Economic Opportunity Act of
14 1964 [Pub. L. 88-452; 78 Stat. 508; 42 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.], unless the community
15 action agency or a community action program lost its designation as a result of
16 failure to comply with the provisions of the federal act.
- 17 2. "Community action program" means a community-based and operated program
18 that includes an intake assessment and referral capability in each of its counties
19 and is designed to include a number of projects or components to provide a range
20 of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on
21 causes and conditions of poverty in the community or those areas of the
22 community where poverty is a particularly acute problem. These services and
23 activities may include activities designed to provide opportunities for eligible
24 persons to:

- a. Secure and retain meaningful employment;
- b. Attain an adequate education;
- c. Make better use of available income;
- d. Obtain and maintain adequate housing and suitable living environment;
- e. Obtain emergency assistance through grants and loans to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment-related assistance;
- f. Maximize the role community action agencies play in supportive mechanisms available to North Dakota families;
- g. Remove obstacles and solve problems that block achievement of self-sufficiency;
- h. Achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community; and
- i. Make more effective use of other programs.

3. "Director" means the director of the office of intergovernmental assistance.

~~2.~~ 4. "Office" means the office of intergovernmental assistance.

SECTION 2. Two new sections to chapter 54-44.5 of the North Dakota Century Code are created and enacted as follows:

Community action agency board of directors - Qualifications - Powers - Duties.

Each community action agency must have a board of directors, as provided by the bylaws of the corporation, of not less than nine nor more than fifty-one members. One-third of the members of the board must be elected public officials, currently holding office, or their representatives, except that if the number of elected officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one-third of the membership of the board, membership on the board by appointive public officials may be counted in meeting the one-third requirement. At least one-third of the members must be persons chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representative of the poor in the area served, and the remainder of the members must be officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community. The board shall determine personnel, fiscal, and program policies and shall approve proposals of financial assistance and the disbursement of funds.

**Funding - Community action agency's share of funds - How determined - Use of
state revenue permitted.**

1. If the Congress of the United States approves a block grant system to fund social programs, the state may use, subject to legislative appropriation, the block grant funds or in-kind services to provide a level of financial assistance for community action agencies to carry out community action programs through the community services block grants pursuant to the federal Community Services Block Grant Act [Pub. L. 97-35; 95 Stat. 511; 42 U.S.C. 9903] and other federal funding sources that may be appropriate.
2. The office shall distribute the federal community services block grant funds received under the federal Community Service Block Grant Act [Pub. L. 97-35; 95 Stat. 511; 42 U.S.C. 9903] and shall allocate the funds as follows:
 - a. At least ninety percent must be allocated to community action agencies;
 - b. The greater of fifty-five thousand dollars or five percent may be allocated for state administrative expenses; and
 - c. Not more than five percent may be allocated for state discretionary projects.
3. Each community action agency, in accordance with procedures established by the office, is entitled to receive a portion of available federal Community Services Block Grant Act [Pub. L. 97-35; 95 Stat. 511; 42 U.S.C. 9903] funds based on that agency's poverty population relative to the state's total poverty population. The office shall determine poverty levels using criteria established by the United States office of management and budget.
4. Each community action agency is governed by procedures established by the office as it relates to the community services block grant program.