



Great Plains Housing Authority

Serving Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Logan, Sargent, Stutsman, and Wells Counties

TO: ND Legislators
From: David Klein, Executive Director
Date: February 28, 2023
Re: HCR 3030

Great Plains Housing Authority supports the efforts to have a comprehensive study on homelessness and the barriers to housing. Housing authorities provide HUD rental assistance independently from NDHFA and see direct issues working with clients to provide housing. A study including service providers, housing authorities, law enforcement, veteran services, human service zone offices, domestic violence shelters, and landlords will provide critical information.

There are housing and homeless issues across the state and in each community. The workforce shortage with supportive services, low-to-moderate income rental assistance, participating landlords, affordable housing units, and other services. Housing authorities, Community Action, Human Service Zones, Veterans Services, and others work together to help vulnerable clients. Policy issues such as memorandum of understandings, releases of information, criminal policies create additional barriers. Homeless individuals may not qualify for government benefits or jobs without a stable address.

ND Rent Help shows an enormous need for a rental assistance program to help the moderate-income households outside the limits of HUD rental assistance. HUD Rental Assistance is limited to low income and funds are secured by HUD. The workforce needs help renting across the state.

A study will find the need for North Dakota to have a separate Rental Assistance program. Developers limit where programs are used and limit who is allowed in those properties. Developers and current tools may not help the most vulnerable where they are and may create adverse situations.

The proposed study is a step forward in helping North Dakota identifying crisis points, developing tools to ease homelessness and rent burden, providing new opportunities for service agencies, and sustaining quality of life.

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