

A blue-tinted background image showing two hands shaking in a firm grip over a document. The document appears to be a form or a contract with various fields and text. The hands are wearing light-colored, possibly white, shirts. The overall tone is professional and suggests a partnership or agreement.

# **Mobile Employment and Education Transitions Services Unit (MEETS)**

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# Obstacles to Delivering Services



- **Transportation and geography**
- **68,976 Square miles**
- **11.8% below the poverty line**
- **Over half of ND's population lives outside the metropolitan areas of Bismarck, Fargo, and Grand Forks**

\* United States Census Bureau, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108256.html> (12/21/09),  
<http://www.city-data.com/states/North-Dakota-Population.html> (12/21/09)

# Stationary Training Services



- Traditionally employment, education, and social services are located in a central location requiring the individual to go to the services.
- This results in multiple locations, some of which are small and used infrequently.

# Advantages of a Mobile Unit



- Multiple agencies' resources are available in one place
- Cost saving
- Reduces or eliminates the excuses of transportation issues.
- Utilizes new technology

# Prior Success



- Maryland State Department of Education has had a Correctional Education Transition Mobile Unit in service since August 2007 with great success
- Florida also has a mobile unit
- Several other states are exploring a mobile service unit due to the money accessible through stimulus funding and the Second Chance Act

# Exterior of the Vehicle



- The vehicle is under CDL licensing weight requirements.





# Interior



- The MEETS Unit is a small self-contained mobile unit that can seat four individuals in temperature controlled environment.



# Classroom Setting



- The interior of the vehicle allows four workstations with internet access and storage space for materials.



# Initial Costs



- Vehicle Costs \$138,223.00
  - 2009 Dodge Sprinter
  - Computers with hardware and software
  - Printer
  - Electric awning
  - Security system
  - Refrigerator and microwave

# On-Going Costs



- Operator/driver
- Internet access costs
- Supplies
- Fuel cost – fleet vehicle

# Funding Sources



- Stimulus Funds
- Grants from Ford Foundation, ND Community Foundation, ND Bar Foundation, Leach Foundation, United Way, The Second Chance Act, and the Department of Justice Development in Indian Country grants
- State Resources

# The Next Step



- Get support from the state government
- Create a team to work on grant proposals and other funding sources
- Create an action plan for uses and get support from the participating agencies