



## **Building and Sustaining Responsive Housing-Services Partnerships for Housing Stability**

### *Housing, Aging, Disability, Health, and Money Follows the Person Program Partnerships in North Dakota*

This partnership originated in 2013 when **North Dakota's Money Follows the Person (MFP) program** worked with housing stakeholders to hold listening sessions on ways to expand supportive housing options in the state. Among the groups in attendance were the state's housing finance agency, several public housing authorities across the state, homeless coalitions and homelessness service providers, landlords and housing developers, mental and behavioral health departments, aging and disability networks, home and community-based service providers, and other stakeholders.

### *Programs and Services*

The [Opening Doors](#) program resulted from those developmental meetings. The program provides landlord mitigation services in partnership with the state's housing finance agency. [The partnership](#) uses state rebalancing funds from the state's MFP demonstration initiative in its initial efforts. Since then, the two agencies have collaborated on a wide range of housing and service delivery components. [Together, they have developed joint training](#) for housing and service providers, **tenant resources** for people living in rentals, submitted **joint proposals** for funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), developed a **state bridge rental subsidy** for MFP participants, and created an [MFP affordable housing database](#).

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## *Best Practices*

- Develop statewide and regional strategies to address urban and rural housing and service-related challenges.
- Hold periodic meetings at which each agency can discuss their strengths, challenges, and what they need from the other side of the housing-services supportive housing relationship. Use those to develop mutually supportive goals, identify new projects, and make improvements to existing programs.

## *Lessons Learned*

- The development of regional housing-services collaboratives and joint training sessions at statewide housing and HCBS conferences has allowed the partnership to continue to thrive and produce additional outcomes.
- Use of a third-party facilitator for group discussions and listening sessions allows each agency to learn the other's operational language.

## *Additional Vital Partners*

Include non-traditional stakeholders from areas of law enforcement, county/city governments, apartment associations, and individual property managers.

## *Funding Sources*

Program/Service	Federal	State/Local
Opening Doors		X
State rental assistance for MFP participants		X
MFP housing facilitation services/housing database	X	
Housing development funds to address accessibility, access, and affordability	X	X
Rehab accessibility program		X

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