



NORTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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NDCF Recognizes Importance of Estate Plans During National Estate Planning Awareness Week October 21-27, 2024

Bismarck, North Dakota . . . The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) recognizes the importance of estate plans as it celebrates National Estate Planning Awareness Week October 21-27, 2024. National Estate Planning Awareness Week was adopted in 2008 to help the public understand what estate planning is and why it is such a vital part of financial wellness. Occurring the third full week in October each calendar year, it offers the perfect opportunity to reach Americans on a regular basis with a reminder of the need for estate planning and how best to find a team of professionals to assist.

“Planning your estate helps avoid unnecessary taxes and fees, eases the burden for family members, and allows you to leave a legacy to the organizations and charities that touch your heart,” said Kevin Dvorak, President and CEO of NDCF. “I’ve seen some well-thought-out estate plans and some problematic ones. It’s a good reminder to think about your plan.”

More than half of Americans, an estimated 56%, do not have an estate plan in place, making estate planning a critically overlooked component of financial wellness. This creates hardship, financial or otherwise, that can be diminished by advanced planning. Estate planning encompasses the growth, conservation, and transfer of an individual’s wealth through the creation and maintenance of an estate plan. The purpose of estate planning is to develop a strategy that will maintain the financial security of individuals through their lifetime and ensure the intended transfer of their property and assets at death, while taking into consideration the unique circumstances of the family and the potential costs of different methods.

A properly created team of professionals to assist with estate planning may include, but is not limited to, an attorney, accountant, trust officer, charitable advisor and credentialed insurance financial planners, all working together for the benefit of their client. NDCF is available to provide information and answer questions.

Visit www.NDCF.net/plan or phone 701-222-8349 to get started.

Established in 1976, the NDCF is a public, non-profit tax-exempt corporation which receives and distributes charitable funds to support a wide range of programs that benefit North Dakotans. It manages over \$138 million in assets in over 900 component funds, including 69 local community foundations, organizational endowment funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarships. It has made over \$105 million in grants since its inception with the mission of improving the lives of North Dakota citizens and their communities through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy.

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