



NORTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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NDCF Recognizes Importance of Estate Plans During National Estate Planning Awareness Week October 20-26, 2025

Bismarck, North Dakota . . . The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) recognizes the importance of estate plans as it celebrates National Estate Planning Awareness Week October 20-26, 2025. 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.

“Estate planning is a critically overlooked component of financial wellness,” said Steve Lipp, President of NDCF. “It is estimated that 56% of Americans do not have an up-to-date estate plan. This can cause hardship, financial or otherwise, for your family after you are gone.”

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 a member of both the Red River Valley and Western Dakota Estate Planning Councils. NDCF staff are always available for free, confidential conversations to help individuals and families start the estate planning process. 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 \$180 million in assets in over 1,000 component funds, including 69 local community foundations, organizational endowment funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarships. It has made over \$121 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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