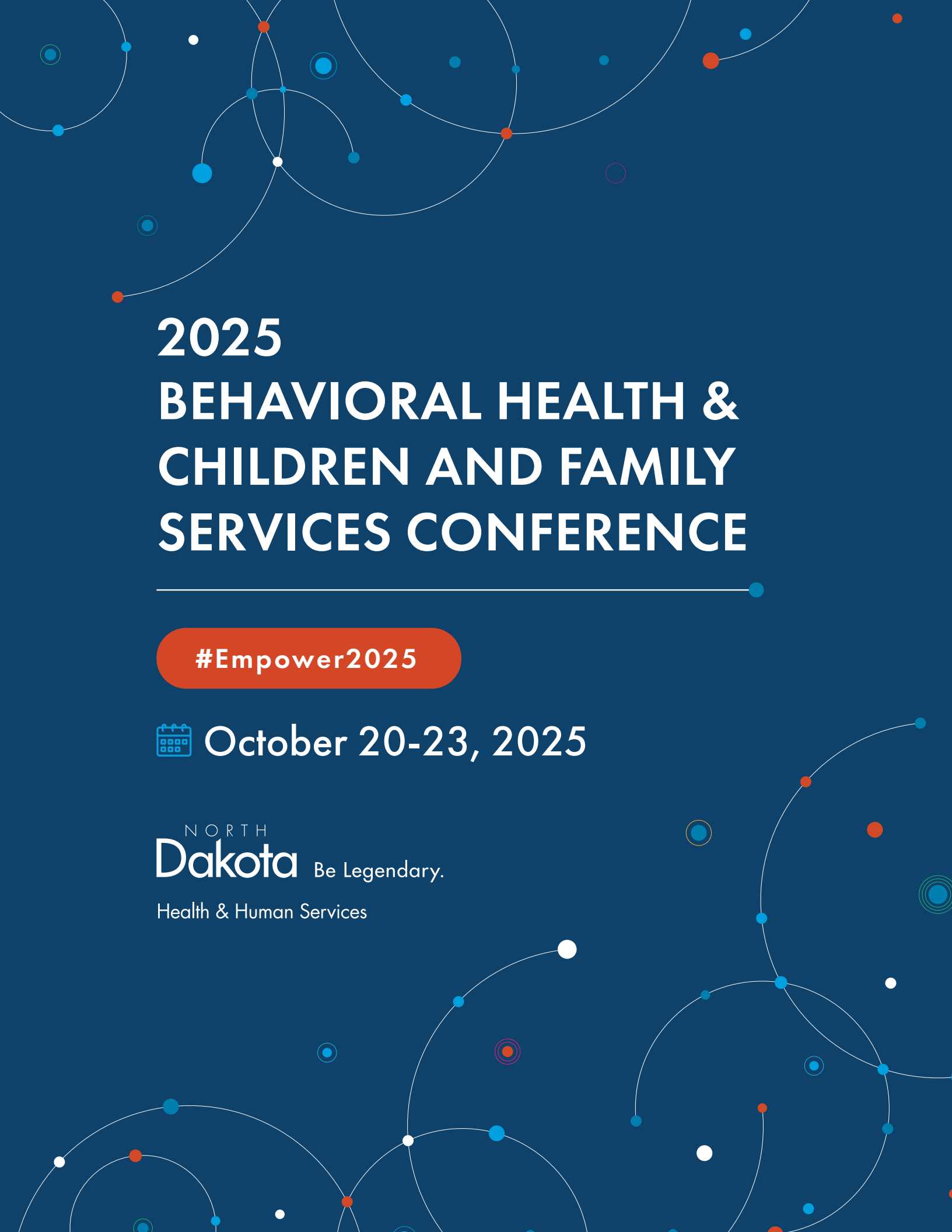




2025 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES CONFERENCE

#Empower2025



October 20-23, 2025

NORTH
Dakota Be Legendary.
Health & Human Services

A special message

FROM GOVERNOR ARMSTRONG AND LT. GOVERNOR MICHELLE STRINDEN:

On behalf of the State of North Dakota, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the fifth annual North Dakota Behavioral Health & Children and Family Services Conference!

This year, more than 1,200 attendees are coming together to exchange ideas and explore best practices, connect and build partnerships with peers and sponsors, learn from inspiring speakers and access new strategies and tools to enhance your impact and effectiveness in the field.

As we gather this week, we want to take a moment to recognize the incredible dedication of the professionals who work tirelessly to support behavioral health and child welfare across our state. You are an essential resource for children, parents, families and adults throughout North Dakota. Your commitment strengthens our communities, enriches countless lives and helps ensure a brighter future for our state.

Enjoy this time with colleagues and embrace the opportunity to gain insights, build connections and grow as professionals. May this week energize you with new ideas and renewed hope for the important work ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the behavioral health, welfare and growth of North Dakotans. Together, we are working to make North Dakota the healthiest state in the nation and the best place to live, work and raise a family.



Gov. Kelly Armstrong



Lt. Gov. Michelle Strinden

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1: MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

1:00pm - 4:30pm	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103
	PRE-CONFERENCE: 51 Shades of Ethical Gray Thad Shunkwiler

DAY 2: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:30am - 9:45am	HALL A		
	WELCOME KEYNOTE 1: You Have the Power to Save a Life Dr. Julie Radlauer		
9:45am - 10:00am	BREAK (EXHIBITS & NETWORKING)		
10:00am - 12:15pm	HALL A	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103	PRAIRIE ROSE 104-105
	BREAKOUT 1 Suicidal Thoughts: Reducing Stigma, Enhancing Communication, and Cultivating Hope Dr. Kathryn Gordon	BREAKOUT 2 Fostering Connections For Families Katie Biron	BREAKOUT 3 Professional Dangerousness: Expanding Our Awareness for More Connected Work Jessica Hoeper
12:15pm - 1:30pm	LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)		
1:30pm - 2:30pm	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 2: Rediscovering Your Why: Reigniting Passion and Resilience Thad Shunkwiler		
2:30pm - 2:45pm	BREAK (EXHIBITS & NETWORKING)		
2:45pm - 3:45pm	HALL A	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103	PRAIRIE ROSE 104-105
	BREAKOUT 4 Expanding Natural Supports the Wraparound Way Dr. Julie Radlauer	BREAKOUT 5 Betting on Trouble: The Rise of Online Gambling in Teenagers Thad Shunkwiler	BREAKOUT 6 The Art of Having Difficult Conversations Jessica Hoeper
3:45pm - 4:00pm	BREAK (EXHIBITS & NETWORKING)		
4:00pm - 5:00pm	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 3: The Neuroscience of High-Risk Behavior Dr. Crystal Collier		

View session descriptions in the conference app »



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

8:30am - 9:30am	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 4: A Place Called Home David Ambroz		
9:30am - 9:45am	BREAK (EXHIBITS & NETWORKING)		
9:45am - 10:45am	HALL A	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103	PRAIRIE ROSE 104-105
	BREAKOUT 7 Technology: Shaping Our Brain for Better and Worse Dr. Crystal Collier	BREAKOUT 8 Building Worker Skillsets for Cases Affected by Parental Substance Use Kristina Wiley	BREAKOUT 9 Epigenetics and the Bridge Between Treatment and Prevention Rodney Wambeam
10:45am - 11:00am	BREAK (EXHIBITS & NETWORKING)		
11:00am - 12:00pm	HALL A	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103	PRAIRIE ROSE 104-105
	BREAKOUT 10 Keeping Kids Close: Kinship-ND Building Community Connections Leah Honeyman, Christiana Pond, Sarah Goerts, Sofia Ortiz, Melissa Slominski	BREAKOUT 11 Peer Drift Jean Dukarski	BREAKOUT 12 Building the Workforce: How TAAP is Advancing Addiction Counseling in North Dakota Through the Opioid Settlement Fund Denise Andress
12:00pm - 1:30pm	LUNCH PROVIDED (LUNCH, AWARDS, SPONSORS)		
1:30pm - 2:45pm	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 5: Hidden Stories, Second Chances Lara Love Hardin		
2:45pm - 3:45pm	NETWORKING BREAK (HALL B -EXHIBITORS, NETWORKING, BOOK SALES/SIGNING)		
3:45pm - 4:00pm	HALL A		
	DRUM GROUP: JOSEPH PICOTTE JR. AND 1806 SINGERS		
4:00pm - 5:00pm	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 6: Healing Together: Relationships as Medicine - Caring for Ourselves and Our Communities Through an Indigenous Lens Dr. Julie Smith-Yliniemi		

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 4: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

8:30am - 9:30am	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 7: The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence Jessica Lahey		
9:30am - 9:45am	TRANSITION BREAK		
9:45am - 10:45am	HALL A	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103	PRAIRIE ROSE 104-105
	BREAKOUT 13 The Substance Use Prevention Talk for People Who Are Reluctant to Attend Substance Use Prevention Talks Jessica Lahey	BREAKOUT 14 Healing Helpers Robin Pendleton	BREAKOUT 15 Recognizing and Responding to Concerns About Medical Child Abuse Dr. Katie Johnson
10:45am - 11:00am	TRANSITION BREAK		
11:00am - 12:00pm	HALL A		
	KEYNOTE 8: Using the Superpower of Relationships to Foster Workplace Engagement Matthew M. Anderson		
12:00pm - 1:00pm	LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)		
1:00pm - 4:30pm	PRAIRIE ROSE 101-103		
	POST-CONFERENCE: Trauma Informed Supervision Robin Pendleton		

[View session descriptions in the conference app »](#)



New this year: The Bismarck Barnes and Noble will be selling books from 11:30am - 4:00pm in Hall B. Several keynote speakers will be signing books Wednesday afternoon as well.

Books for sale include:

- A Place Called Home- David Ambroz (signing from 11:30am-12:15pm)
- The Many Lives of Mama Love – Lara Love Hardin*
- The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton and Lara Love Hardin
- The Addiction Inoculation - Jessica Lahey*
- The Gift of Failure - Jessica Lahey*
- Being Super Human - Matthew Anderson*

* Signing books Wednesday
from 2:45-3:45pm



CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Behavioral Health & Children and Family Services Conference has been approved for continuing education units through:

- ND Board of Social Work Examiners
- ND Board of Addiction Counselor Examiners
- ND Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
- ND Board of Counseling Examiners
- ND Peer Support Specialists
- ND Foster Parents
- ND State Board of Psychologist Examiners

Receiving Your Continuing Education

In-person

Continuing Education Forms are available at the registration area.

At the end of each day, complete the CEU form indicating the sessions you attended. Signatures are required from a conference team member as attestation of attendance for licensing boards.

At the end of the conference, please leave the first page (front) of this form in designated area and keep the second page (back) of this form as the **"certificate of attendance"** for your records.

This form is your certificate of attendance(bold), individuals are responsible for keeping this copy for their records. You will not receive anything additional verifying attendance.

Virtual

Login to the virtual Conference Hub through an internet browser to view virtual sessions.

Near the end of the conference, you will receive an email with a link to select the sessions you attended. Once you submit that form, you will receive an email certificate for your records.

Individuals seeking continuing education units are responsible for keeping this email certificate for their records.

CE Broker

If you are utilizing CE Broker to track your continuing education the tracking number for the conference is #20-1324541.

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988

CALL, TEXT OR CHAT



GENERAL INFORMATION



QUESTIONS

If you have any questions throughout the conference, please look for a conference team member with a "STAFF" lanyard!



LUNCH/SNACKS

- Lunch is on your own Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday's lunch will be provided in Hall B. A list of nearby restaurants is included on the next page.
- Coffee and break stations can be found in Hall B. Water towers are located within Hall B and the Prairie Rose Rooms.



DOWNLOAD THE CONFERENCE APP

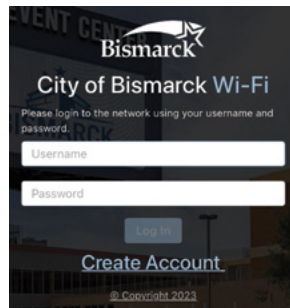


Download the Conference App here and view the session descriptions, speaker bios, and more!



WIFI

1. Click on BIS_Guest.
2. Click "Create Account."
 - Enter your name and email address.
 - Click the box to accept the terms of use.
 - Click "Register."
 - Your email address will be your username.
 - You will be presented with a 6-digit code for your password.
3. This information can be used for the next 24 hours if you leave the building.



ONE-TIME REGISTRATION

Once you have received your name badge you are checked-in for the remaining days of the conference.



EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS

Thank you to our conference exhibitors and sponsors. Please be sure to visit the exhibit booths in Hall B during your time at the conference.



HANDOUTS

Session materials for the sessions can be downloaded on the virtual Conference Hub.



HASHTAG

Use the conference hashtag, #Empower2025 to help spread the word about the event, things you are learning and people you are networking with!



GET ENGAGED

Did you know you can get points by engaging in different parts of the conference?

Check out the leaderboard on the conference app or Conference Hub.

Get ready to have fun, make connections, get valuable resources, and score points while you are at it!

[View session descriptions in the conference app »](#)



WHERE TO EAT FOR LUNCH?

COFFEE SHOPS

Caribou (drive thru) - 0.4 Miles
601 S 3rd Street

Starbucks (drive thru) - 0.3 Miles
600 S 3rd Street

Bitty Bean (drive thru) - 0.7 Miles
1019 E Main Ave

Coffee Break (drive thru) -
0.4 Miles | 301 Main Street

Steep Me a Cup of Tea - 0.2 Miles
311 S 3rd Street

FAST-FOOD

Arby's (drive thru) - 1.8 Miles
3000 Rock Island Place

Chick-fil-A (drive thru) - 0.7 Miles
703 S 3rd Street

Blaze Pizza - 0.5 Miles
805 S 3rd Street

Five Guys - 0.5 Miles
809 S 3rd Street

Panuchos Mexican Grill -
0.5 Miles | 711 S 3rd Street

QDOBA Mexican Eats - 0.3 Miles
312 S 3rd Street

Burger King (drive thru) -
0.3 Miles | 315 S 3rd Street

McDonald's (drive thru) -
0.4 Miles | 605 E Main Ave

Jimmy John's - 0.2 Miles
301 S 3rd Street

Noodles & Company - 0.2 Miles
303 S 3rd Street

Panera Bread - 0.7 miles
1016 S 7th Street

SIT DOWN

The Firepit - 0.6 Miles
307 N 3rd Street

The Blarney Stone - 0.3 Miles
408 E Main Ave

Brick Oven Bakery - 0.4 Miles
112 N 4th Street

Buffalo Wild Wings - 0.3 Miles
218 S 3rd Street

Ground Round - 0.4 Miles
526 S 3rd Street

Applebee's - 0.3 Miles
434 S 3rd Street

HuHot Mongolian Grill -
0.3 Miles | 409 S 3rd Street

La Carreta Mexican - 0.9 Miles
505 E Bismarck Expy

Lucky 13 Pub - 0.7 Miles
915 S 3rd Street

Broadway Grill - 0.7 Miles
100 W Broadway

Denny's - 0.3 Miles
405 S 7th Street

Habibi Bowl & Gyro - 1.0 Miles
625 S Washington St

JL Beers - 0.5 Miles
217 N 3rd Street

Nara Ramen - 0.6 Miles
309 N 3rd Street

Famous Dave's BBQ - 1.1 Miles
401 E Bismarck Expy

**A&B Pizza (delivery
& dine-in)** - 0.3 Miles
311 S 7th St

Kirkwood Mall - 0.6 Miles
706 Kirkwood Mall

- Ginna's Cafe
- Starbucks (Target)
- Mighty Missouri Coffee
- Mama Bear Cafe
- Auntie Anne's
- Ja Bomb (Japanese)

FOOD DELIVERY SERVICES

Event Center Address: 315 S 5th St, Bismarck, ND 58504
Send drivers to the main entrance.

* Most require an account to order and pay online. Check online for delivery options directly from various restaurants

Uber Eats - [ubereats.com](https://www.ubereats.com)

Grubhub - [grubhub.com](https://www.grubhub.com)

Food Dudes - [fooddudesdelivery.com](https://www.fooddudesdelivery.com)

DoorDash - [doordash.com](https://www.doordash.com)

Bite Squad - [bitesquad.com](https://www.bitesquad.com)



Get Your Free Bismarck-Mandan Savings Pass



SCAN ME

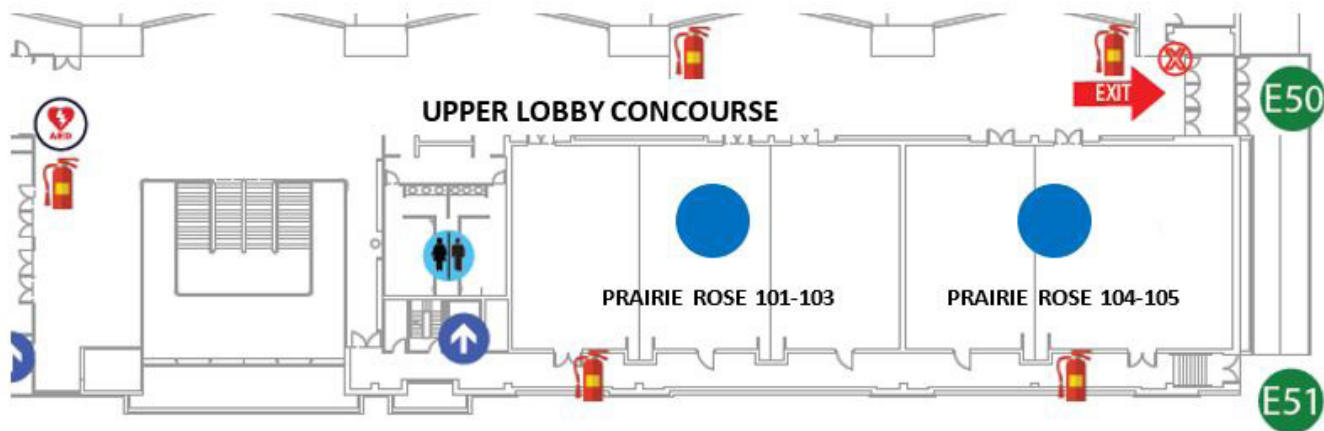
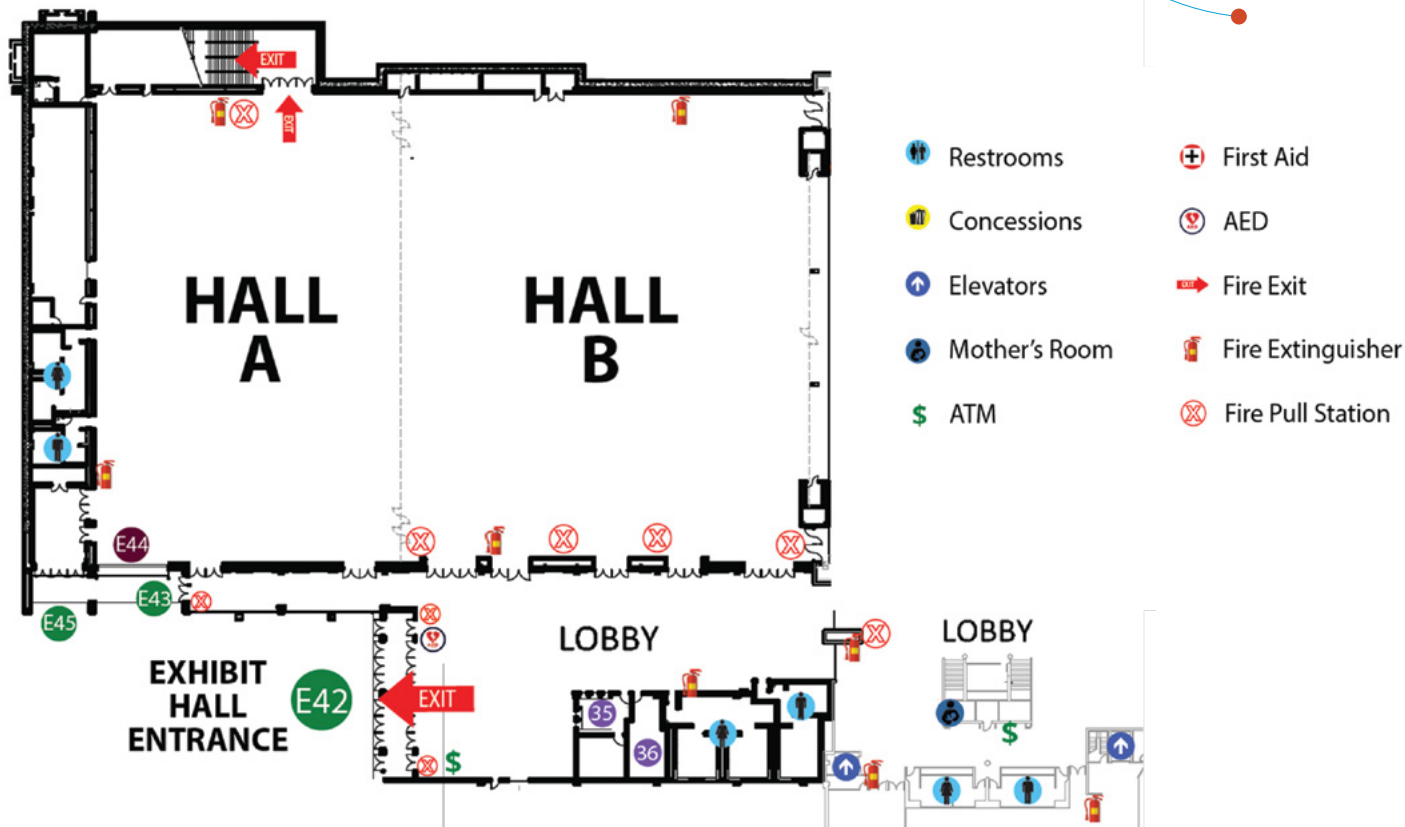
noboundariesnd.com/savings-pass

HOW IT WORKS

- Receive a text or e-mail with a link to your passport
- Stop in at locations included in the passport
- Show your phone at checkout to redeem savings

Additional food options can be found by scanning the QR code above

VENUE MAP



Support Golden Drive Homeless Kids

at the 2025 Behavioral Health & Children and Family Services Conference

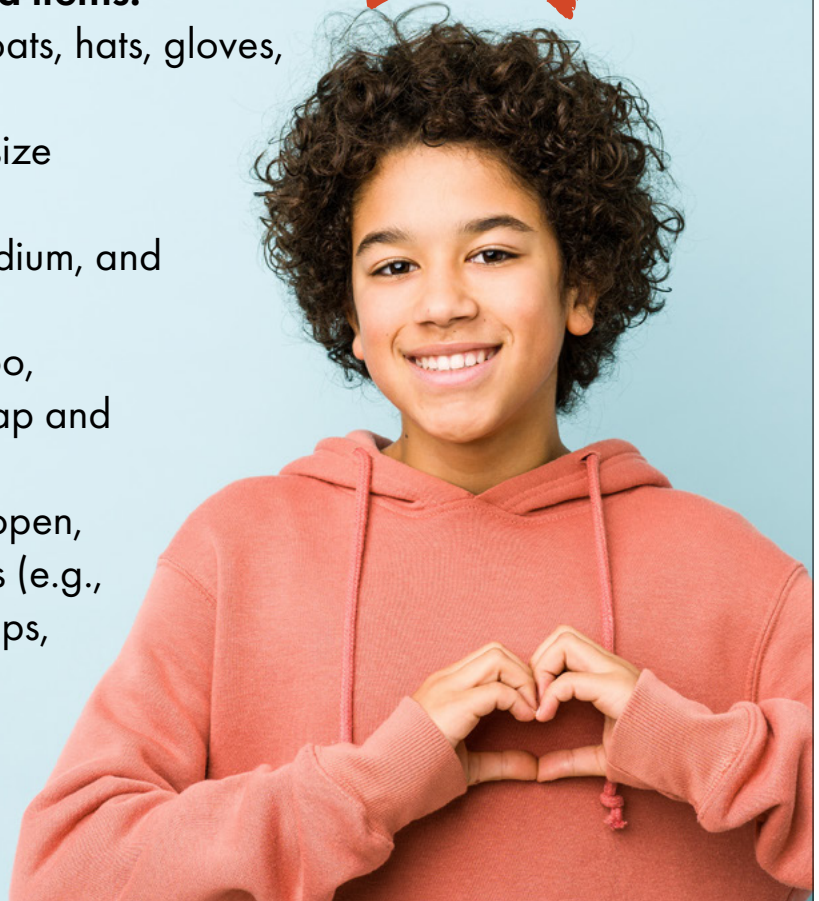
Join us in making a difference for children experiencing homelessness across North Dakota.

Bring a Donation

We're collecting these high-need items:

- New, unused winter clothing: coats, hats, gloves, sweatpants, and sweatshirts
 - Children's Sizes: 5T through size 14/16.
 - Teen/Adult Sizes: Small, Medium, and Large
- Hygiene items: Full-size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap and deodorant
- Non-Perishable Food: Easy-to-open, single-serving meals and snacks (e.g., canned tuna, ravioli with pop-tops, granola bars)
- School Supplies: Backpacks and notebooks

Every contribution makes a difference. Together, we can provide comfort, care, and support for kids in need. Thank you for your generosity!



Give Online
Forgot your item?
Scan the QR code
to donate directly.

NORTH
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Health & Human Services





See the art. Snap the art. Share the art. Win the prizes!

We invite you to download our free pass and start exploring over 80 locations on the Bismarck-Mandan Art Trail today. Check-in and share your pictures to track your progress and win prizes.

Use **#BisManArtTrail** for more chances to win!

Locations are public points of interest, attractions and merchant locations, some offering special deals for you!

Scan the QR code or visit **www.noboundariesnd.com/art-trail** for more information!

HOW IT WORKS



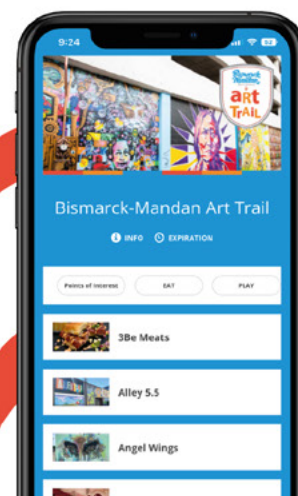
Receive a text or e-mail with a link to your passport



Check-in at included locations to qualify for prizes



Allow the pass to validate your location when prompted for easy check-in



NOTES

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THANK YOU SPONSORS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE

