



# *North Dakota*



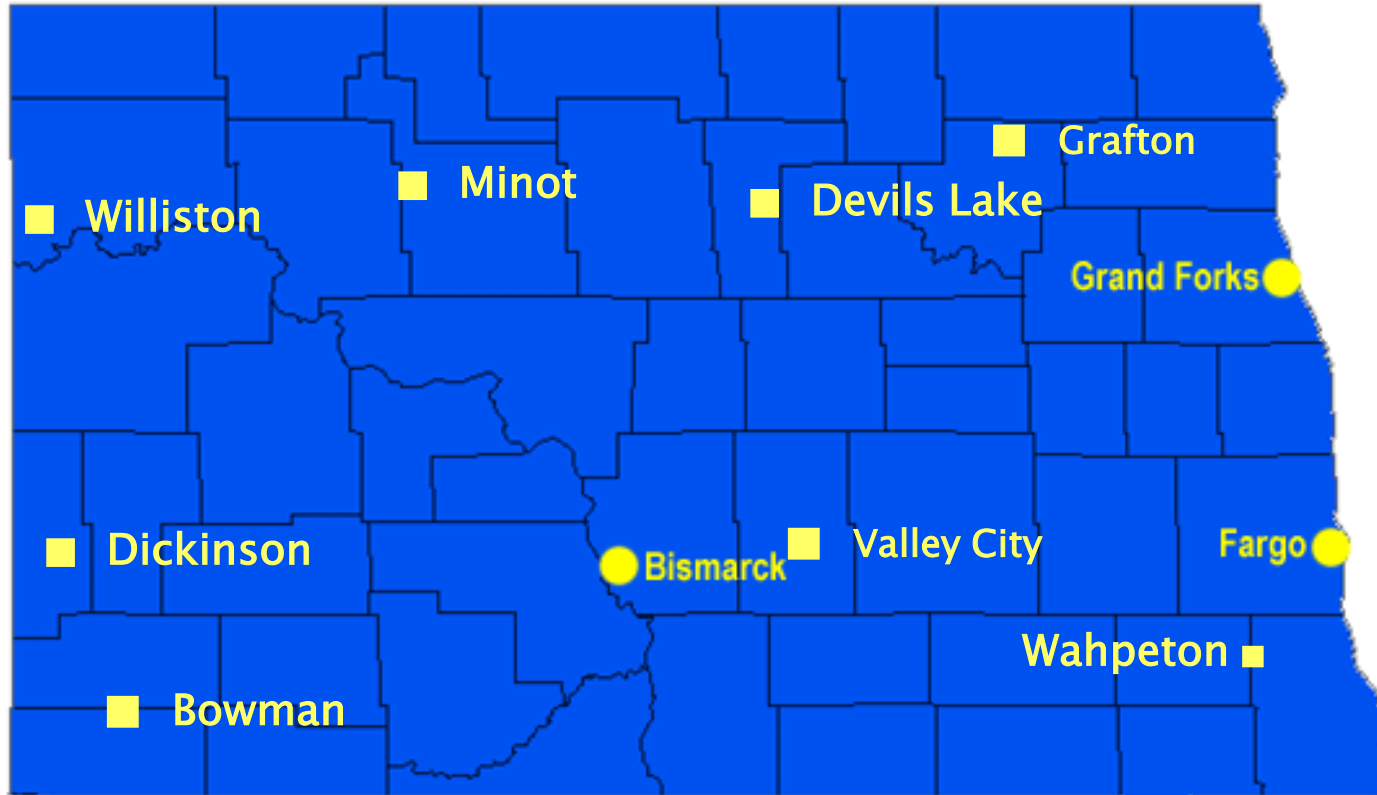
*What are some of the self-advocacy organizations that currently exist in your state? What are their major activities or functions?*

## ▶ **Self Advocacy Solutions (SAS)**

SAS is the statewide self advocacy organization that has a number of activities and services including speakers bureau, transportation, United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities, Project Vote, public legislative forums, conferences, Facebook and newsletters, group startup, training, employment activities, and the state connection to SABE.

### ▶ **13 local self advocacy groups (with SAS support)**

The local self advocacy groups provide input on the state SAS plan, provide local advisor support, and provide a local meeting group for self advocates.



Fargo (United Voices), Bismarck (American People), Williston (By the People, For the People), Valley City, Wahpeton (Forever Friends Wahpeton), Devils Lake (Northern Lights), Grand Forks (Free, Friends United in Human Rights, Rockers), Dickinson (Back to the Basics), Grafton (Red River Valley Self Advocacy), Bowman (Butterflies), Minot

*What are the resources for the self-advocacy organizations?*

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
Self Advocacy Solutions (SAS)	ND DD Council, Listen center, Independent Living Centers, fundraising events, small grants, individual donations	Funding, in-kind support
Local self advocacy organizations	SAS, Arc of ND, local community centers, ND Developmental Center, local libraries, local human services provider agency	Training, information and materials, meeting space, funding

## *What has worked?*

- ▶ **Training on self advocacy**
  - Role play in training sessions
  - Poetry in training sessions
  - Music
- ▶ **Conferences that are interactive**
- ▶ **SAS doing outreach with local communities**
- ▶ **Attending state ADD partner meetings**
- ▶ **Mileage/per diem for self advocate participation in meetings**



## *What has not worked?*

- ▶ **Boring lectures**
- ▶ **Long meetings**
- ▶ **Consistent funding**
- ▶ **Not always fun**
- ▶ **Meetings that are not interactive**
- ▶ **Getting support for transportation**
- ▶ **Understanding from support staff**



*What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in your state?*

- ▶ **Speakers bureau (6 ND self advocates did national presentations)**
- ▶ **Long time self advocates are now local group advisors**
- ▶ **Working on statewide transportation plan**
- ▶ **Sensitivity training for local transportation provider staff**
- ▶ **Outreach training for local groups**
- ▶ **“r” word publicity and testimony**
- ▶ **State and local work groups on emergency readiness**
- ▶ **ND Olmstead commission work**

What goals or dreams does your state have for self-advocacy?

- ▶ **More funding for self advocacy work in ND**
- ▶ **Respect for our work as self advocates**
- ▶ **To NEVER hear the “r word” again!**
- ▶ **To work hand in hand with our allies**
- ▶ **To be treated fairly and given choices and chances**
- ▶ **To make laws, like the ADA, really work**
- ▶ **To live the lives we want**
- ▶ **Raising awareness of services for individuals with disabilities**

*These are from state self advocacy community forums.*



# **THE NORTH DAKOTA TEAM**

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