

Agency 81 - Commission F/t Blind & Visually Impaired

Statutory Authority:

Reference Nebraska Revised Statutes Sections 71-8601 through 71-8616 and 20-63-105 to 63-106. The Nebraska Commission for the Blind (NCBVI) was created in 2000 by the Nebraska Unicameral (LB 352). The agency operates under one primary grant and four grants of lesser funding. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers are as follows:

- CFDA 84.126A Basic Support (primary grant)
- CFDA 84.177B Older Individuals Who Are Blind
- CFDA 84.169A Part B Independent Living
- CFDA 84.265A In-Service Training

Vision Statement:

The vision of NCBVI is that blind individuals will become full participants in economic and community life. The general public will understand that blind Nebraskans provide a tremendous human resource to society as a whole. With skills, confidence, and resource, blind and visually impaired persons can participate fully in all facets of life according to their unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. NCBVI will provide services that enable blind persons to achieve education or training, engage in the workforce, live independently, and to minimize or eliminate their dependence on public support.

Mission Statement:

Empowering blind individuals, creating opportunities, and building belief in the blind.

Goals:

1. Increase the number of blind/visually impaired persons who are gainfully employed in the career of their choice, including transition ages 16 to 26 years as well as persons of all adult age groups.
2. Increase the number of blind persons who live independently without dependence on public support, including the increasingly large older blind population.
3. Increase number of persons served who are Deaf-Blind or have other multiple disabilities, and those who represent underserved racial and ethnic population groups.
4. Expand the funding base to assure that federal match requirements continue to be met and to assure long-term stability of rehabilitation and independent living services to blind Nebraskans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	673,491	765,762	851,188	796,099	919,925	827,898
Cash Fund	58,450	74,148	61,800	75,215	61,800	76,442
Federal Fund	2,900,428	3,158,846	3,177,558	3,223,354	3,179,213	3,304,782
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	3,632,369	3,998,756	4,090,546	4,094,668	4,160,938	4,209,122

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Program Objectives:

Meet or exceed the national standards and indicators for state vocational rehabilitation agencies.

1. Meet or exceed the number of clients who achieve employment outcomes;
2. Meet or exceed required percentage of clients who achieve employment goals after receiving services;
3. Meet or exceed required percentage of clients who achieve competitive employment at or above minimum wage;
4. Meet or exceed required percentage of clients served who have significant disabilities;
5. Meet or exceed required ratio of average hourly earnings for clients who become employed as compared to the state average hourly rate; and,
6. Meet or exceed required percentage of clients who are self-supporting at closure compared to beginning of case services.

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Performance Measures:

INPUTS: Staffing levels and number of person hours for providing services will be tracked. Positions which had been cut in previous period, due to funding constraints, will be examined and added back in as available funds are stabilized. Resources used to provide the services will be examined in comparison to results in terms of efficiency of effort, outcomes and quality levels achieved.

OUTPUTS: The amount of government aid provided, via vocational and independent living rehabilitation services, will be monitored and measured. Outputs will be expected to increase in line with the funding base we achieve. This is highly dependent upon the amount of non federal match available, to pull down the full federal allotment and to fully support needed inputs.

EFFICIENCY: As with any human service program, efficiency evaluation is difficult. Costs of labor and materials per unit of service provided will be tracked and monitored. Previous year data can then be utilized to establish performance measures of efficiency in the planning process for the subsequent biennium.

OUTCOMES: The primary outcome measures are number of persons served in the two tracks: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and Independent Living (IL), and performance on the Standards and Indicators described above for persons receiving VR services.