

Agency 081 - COMM FOR 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 (Vocational Rehabilitation - primary grant)

CFDA 84.177B Older Individuals Who Are Blind

CFDA 84.169A Part B Independent Living

CFDA 84.265A In-Service Training

CFDA 84.187A Supported Employment

VISION:

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 resources, 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 direct 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 AND PRINCIPLES:

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

Blindness need not prevent people from contributing to society. With training and counseling blind persons can be employed and independent. NCBVI Counselors & Teachers provide direct services needed to avoid dependency on public support that can occur due to vision loss: training, counseling, technology and other relevant resources. No other agencies or organizations in Nebraska provide these critical direct services.

Employers who learn about blindness can eliminate the attitudes that do keep blind people from achieving their goals. We can expect equal participation from the blind and create opportunities for employment, education and independence.

GOALS:

1. Increase blind/visually impaired persons gainfully employed; including transition ages 16-26, and all adult age groups.
2. Increase blind persons who live independently, not dependent on public support; including the increasingly large older blind population.
3. Increase persons served who have multiple disabilities, including Deaf-Blind, and those of under-served racial and ethnic populations.
4. Increase older individuals able to be independent in the community, thus reducing the need for State support in nursing homes based upon blindness alone.
5. Solidify the funding base to assure that federal match and maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements continue to be met and to assure long-term stability of vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to blind Nebraskans.

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Financial Data

	FY10 Actual	FY11 Approp	FY12 Request	FY12 Recomm	FY13 Request	FY13 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	588,101	835,295	835,295	835,295	835,295	835,295
Cash Fund	53,133	50,076	68,988	71,017	68,988	80,114
Federal Fund	3,180,122	3,020,136	2,792,869	2,798,899	2,794,413	2,836,995
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	3,821,356	3,905,507	3,697,152	3,705,211	3,698,696	3,752,404
Aid Funding						
General Fund	459,817	176,890	176,890	176,890	176,890	176,890
Cash Fund	20,676	36,010	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Federal Fund	458,667	499,670	477,018	477,018	478,718	478,718
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	939,160	712,570	678,908	678,908	680,608	680,608
Total Funding						
General Fund	1,047,918	1,012,185	1,012,185	1,012,185	1,012,185	1,012,185
Cash Fund	73,810	86,086	93,988	96,017	93,988	105,114
Federal Fund	3,638,789	3,519,806	3,269,887	3,275,917	3,273,131	3,315,713
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,760,516	4,618,077	4,376,060	4,384,119	4,379,304	4,433,012

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Program 357 - BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Program 357 assists visually impaired persons to be employed, expands economic opportunities and stimulates efforts that help blind persons to be self-supporting tax-payers. Direct vocational rehabilitation and independent living services are provided; including counseling and teaching of blindness techniques, adult residential training center, and blind vendor operations.

Staff work with children, youth, and families to learn blindness skills and develop confidence and the expectation that they will be employed as adults.

The focus of direct services to older individuals is to enable them to stay independent, avoid dependency on state support for nursing home care, and stay in the workforce as long as possible.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Meet or exceed the national VR standards:

1. Number of clients achieving employment outcomes;
2. Required % of clients who achieve employment goals after receiving services;
3. Required % of clients who achieve competitive employment at or above minimum wage;
4. Required % of clients served who have significant disabilities;
5. Required ratio of average hourly earnings for clients who become employed as compared to the state average hourly rate;
6. Required % of clients who are self-supporting at closure compared to beginning of case services;
7. Required ratio of persons served from racial or ethnic minorities.

IL: Increase successful closures with special emphasis on blind individuals who are older, deaf-blind, multiply disabled, or represent racial/ethnic minority groups.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

INPUTS: Compare services provided to results for efficiency and quality outcomes.

OUTPUTS: Measure government aid provided. Outputs are expected to reflect funding base (dependent on fully matching federal allotment).

EFFICIENCY: Monitor & compare service costs with previous periods for control and planning.

OUTCOMES: 1) number of persons served in the VR and IL tracks; 2) performance on Federal VR Standards and Indicators.

QUALITY: Measured by satisfaction surveys, telephone interviews, job placement data, length of continued employment after closure & independent living. Executive Director meets with groups of consumers for input. Commission Board meets quarterly with public to conduct business and obtain public comment.

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