

# Agency 081 - COMM FOR BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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## **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:**

Blind clients of NCBVI become fully contributing participants in economic and community life. The general public understands that blind Nebraskans provide a tremendous human resource to society as a whole. With skills, confidence, and resources, blind and visually impaired persons participate fully in all facets of life according to their unique strengths, resources, capabilities, and interests. NCBVI provides direct services that enable blind persons to achieve education or training, engage in the workforce, and live independently. These achievements result in decreasing the number of blind and visually impaired persons who are dependent on public support.

## **MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:**

The NCBVI mission is Empowering blind individuals, creating opportunities and building belief in the blind.

With vocational rehabilitation training, counseling and resources, blind persons can work, pay taxes, live independently. NCBVI provides training, counseling, accessible technology, and other resources. Vocational Rehabilitation staff in six offices provide direct services statewide, enabling blind Nebraskans to avoid dependency on public support that can occur due to vision loss. No other agencies or organizations in Nebraska provide these critical services.

Public attitudes can keep blind people from achieving their goals. We expect equal participation from the blind in all aspects of life. We work to create opportunities for employment, education and independence.

## **GOALS:**

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):

1. Increase the percentage of clients achieving competitive employment outcomes.
2. Increase the rehabilitation rate for transition aged clients achieving competitive employment outcomes.
3. Improve the quality assurance system.

Independent Living (IL):

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

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## Financial Data

|                           | FY14 Actual      | FY15 Approp      | FY16 Request     | FY16 Recomm      | FY17 Request     | FY17 Recomm      |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Operations Funding</b> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| General Fund              | 816,986          | 869,100          | 869,100          | 881,805          | 869,100          | 887,693          |
| Cash Fund                 | 83,539           | 88,746           | 88,746           | 90,497           | 88,746           | 91,718           |
| Federal Fund              | 3,230,534        | 3,107,276        | 3,394,567        | 3,482,942        | 3,513,507        | 3,670,218        |
| Revolving Fund            | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| Other Fund                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Total Operations</b>   | <b>4,131,059</b> | <b>4,065,122</b> | <b>4,352,413</b> | <b>4,455,244</b> | <b>4,471,353</b> | <b>4,649,629</b> |
| <b>Aid Funding</b>        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| General Fund              | 218,360          | 176,890          | 176,890          | 176,890          | 176,890          | 176,890          |
| Cash Fund                 | 15,153           | 10,000           | 10,000           | 10,000           | 10,000           | 10,000           |
| Federal Fund              | 846,623          | 774,310          | 989,593          | 989,593          | 989,593          | 989,593          |
| Revolving Fund            | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| Other Fund                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Total Aid Funding</b>  | <b>1,080,137</b> | <b>961,200</b>   | <b>1,176,483</b> | <b>1,176,483</b> | <b>1,176,483</b> | <b>1,176,483</b> |
| <b>Total Funding</b>      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| General Fund              | 1,035,346        | 1,045,990        | 1,045,990        | 1,058,695        | 1,045,990        | 1,064,583        |
| Cash Fund                 | 98,693           | 98,746           | 98,746           | 100,497          | 98,746           | 101,718          |
| Federal Fund              | 4,077,157        | 3,881,586        | 4,384,160        | 4,472,535        | 4,503,100        | 4,659,811        |
| Revolving Fund            | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| Other Fund                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Total Agency</b>       | <b>5,211,196</b> | <b>5,026,322</b> | <b>5,528,896</b> | <b>5,631,727</b> | <b>5,647,836</b> | <b>5,826,112</b> |

# Agency 081 - COMM FOR BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

## Program 357 - BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

Program 357 assists blind persons to be employed and stimulates efforts that help the blind work and pay taxes. Direct vocational rehabilitation & independent living services include statewide 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 expectations for employment. Work is done with local business to educate about blind persons' abilities to be qualified employees. Direct services to older individuals enables seniors to stay independent, avoid dependency on state support for nursing home care, and stay in the workforce as long as possible.

### **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):

1. Increase the percentage of clients achieving competitive employment outcomes.
2. Increase the rehabilitation rate for transition aged clients achieving competitive employment outcomes.
3. Improve the quality assurance system.

Independent Living (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: Federal Grants and State General Funds.

OUTPUTS: Aid/services and Operations are provided with full match of federal allotment.

EFFICIENCY: Request at level funding with projected increases in successful outcomes.

OUTCOMES: 1) 942 served, 174 multi-handicapped; 42 gained competitive employment.

2) Successfully passed Federal VR Standards and Indicators.

QUALITY: Satisfaction surveys, telephone interviews, job placement data, length of continued employment after closure & independent living status. Meetings with groups of consumers and the public, to conduct Board business and obtain public input and comments. The required triennial formal Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment will be initiated in 2016.

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**Program 357 - BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

**Financial Data**

|                           | <b>FY14 Actual</b> | <b>FY15 Approp</b> | <b>FY16 Request</b> | <b>FY16 Recomm</b> | <b>FY17 Request</b> | <b>FY17 Recomm</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Operations Funding</b> |                    |                    |                     |                    |                     |                    |
| General Fund              | 816,986            | 869,100            | 869,100             | 881,805            | 869,100             | 887,693            |
| Cash Fund                 | 83,539             | 88,746             | 88,746              | 90,497             | 88,746              | 91,718             |
| Federal Fund              | 3,230,534          | 3,107,276          | 3,394,567           | 3,482,942          | 3,513,507           | 3,670,218          |
| Revolving Fund            | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  |
| Other Fund                | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  |
| <b>Total Operations</b>   | <b>4,131,059</b>   | <b>4,065,122</b>   | <b>4,352,413</b>    | <b>4,455,244</b>   | <b>4,471,353</b>    | <b>4,649,629</b>   |
| <b>Aid Funding</b>        |                    |                    |                     |                    |                     |                    |
| General Fund              | 218,360            | 176,890            | 176,890             | 176,890            | 176,890             | 176,890            |
| Cash Fund                 | 15,153             | 10,000             | 10,000              | 10,000             | 10,000              | 10,000             |
| Federal Fund              | 846,623            | 774,310            | 989,593             | 989,593            | 989,593             | 989,593            |
| Revolving Fund            | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  |
| Other Fund                | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  |
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| General Fund              | 1,035,346          | 1,045,990          | 1,045,990           | 1,058,695          | 1,045,990           | 1,064,583          |
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| Revolving Fund            | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  |
| Other Fund                | 0                  | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  | 0                   | 0                  |
| <b>Total Program</b>      | <b>5,211,196</b>   | <b>5,026,322</b>   | <b>5,528,896</b>    | <b>5,631,727</b>   | <b>5,647,836</b>    | <b>5,826,112</b>   |