

Agency 38 - Commission On The Status Of Women

Statutory Authority:

Following the creation of President Kennedy's Commission on the Status of Women in 1961, Governor Frank Morison established the Nebraska Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in 1964. The Commission became an official statutory state agency in 1971 with the passage of LB8119 and the opening of a staffed office. NCSW's purpose, duties and structure are outlined in the Nebraska Revised Statutes, Chapter 81, sections 8,255 - 8,261. In 1991, section 81-8,260 was amended by LB 648. The Commission's mandate expanded to include: assess the needs of women and their families and to promote, develop and assist others in providing programs or services to meet those needs.

Vision Statement:

The Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women exists to improve the lives, conditions, economies and equality of Nebraska's women, children and their families. By providing easily accessible state agency services of both first and last resort, the NCSW is in a position to encourage initiation, cooperation, collaboration and follow-through for issues, policies and concerns impacting Nebraska's women, children and families.

Mission Statement:

Identify, assess and communicate the current status of women, children and their families in Nebraska to the general public, policy-makers and others with the goal of determining positive solutions which decrease disadvantage and increase justice and support for Nebraska women, their children and families.

The Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women can be defined as: organized, voluntary action on the part of the citizens to advocate and coordinate resources at a state agency level, which is needed to improve the status of Nebraska women through programs of education, information and community services.

Goals:

1) Serve Nebraska women, their families and others by responding to requests from individuals, private and public agencies, and organizations; 2) Continue to utilize proven avenues that are effective in providing Information, Referral, Support, Advocacy and Assistance; 3) Research, recruit and identify new partnerships to enhance usefulness, encourage economy and promote the effectiveness of the NCSW; 4) Decrease bias, prejudice, pay inequity and discrimination toward women; 5) Vigorously pursue a public information campaign which provides awareness, education and promotion of contributions and conditions of Nebraska's women, children and families; 6) Expand Public Outreach and Educational efforts through broadcast and written materials (in translated versions whenever possible), utilizing presentations, workshops, web sites and links, conferences and personal interface with existing representatives, schools, groups and service organizations; 7) Enhance the legal status of women and their families by continuing to publish and distribute the Nebraska Women's Legal Rights Handbook; 8) Explore the reinstatement of agency legal support staff, or closer legal collaborative link within the state of Nebraska; 9) Provide support for the Girls and Technology project that promotes equity in Employment and Educational opportunities for Nebraska women and girls; and, 10) Continue to Support and Increase Awareness of The Office of Women's Health.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY06	Request FY06	Recorm FY06	Request FY07	Recorm FY07
General Fund	32,477	0	94,982	0	94,982	0
Cash Fund	59,839	0	43,000	43,787	43,000	43,787
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	92,316	0	137,982	43,787	137,982	43,787

Agency 38 - Commission On The Status Of Women Program 577 - Status Of Women

Program Objectives:

- 1) Obtain the funding needed to carry out the program objectives by increasing the number of people receiving general public outreach and educational information about issues affecting the status of women, their children and familiarize in Nebraska;
- 2) Identify, Explore and Solidify new and existing partnerships with individuals, organizations and public officials to accomplish shared goals with economy and effectiveness; and,
- 3) Continue and expand involvement with the Women and Girls Technology Project at the American Association of University Women. The program encourages girls to pursue higher-paying technological occupations in non-traditional areas.

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Performance Measures:

The NCSW compiles annual statistics for year-to-year performance comparison. These statistics include total number of information requests, web site hits per month, mailing and distribution list for WomeNews publications, individual publication distribution numbers, publication requests, seminar attendance, meeting presentations, speaking engagements, press releases initiated, meeting critiques and other performance measures as needed. The NCSW also tracks legislative bills from session to session, publishes updates on the website and distributes greensheets and statistics as requested. Further, commissioners report quarterly on successes, triumphs and efforts achieved in their own communities.

The demand for information, referral and assistance has remained constant in the last biennium. It is the consensus of the commissioners that renewed educational outreach and publicity about the NCSW will increase the demand for information, especially in the middle and western parts of the state, who tend to be traditionally underserved for geographical and economic reasons.