

Agency 081 - COMM. FOR THE 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
- 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 choices. NCBVI will provide services that enable blind persons to achieve education or training, engage in the workforce, live independently, and minimize or eliminate their dependence on public support.

MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:

Empowering blind individuals, creating opportunities, and building belief in the blind. To live fully, blind persons can develop positive understandings of blindness, learn non-visual skills, and gain confidence. Blind persons can have high expectations to work and achieve other goals. The public needs education and information about blindness, to eliminate attitudinal barriers preventing blind people from achieving their goals. NCBVI invests resources to enable the blind to contribute to society, rather than being dependent on public support. Without the training, counseling and resources provided by NCBVI, visually impaired people are highly likely to be dependent upon the system.

GOALS:

- Increase the number of blind/visually impaired adults who are gainfully employed, including transition age 16 – 26.
- Increase the number of blind persons living independently without public support, including the increasingly large older blind population.
- Increase persons served who are Deaf-Blind or have multiple disabilities, and who are from racial and ethnic population groups.
- Increase the number of older individuals living independently; reduce the need for state-supported residence in nursing homes based upon blindness alone.
- Expand the funding base to assure meeting federal match requirements and to assure long-term stability of rehabilitation and independent living services for blind Nebraskans.

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Financial Data

| | FY08 Actual | FY09 Approp | FY10 Request | FY10 Recomm | FY11 Request | FY11 Recomm |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Operations Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 665,501 | 779,684 | 978,679 | 779,684 | 1,490,658 | 779,684 |
| Cash Fund | 69,738 | 65,173 | 65,799 | 65,173 | 66,392 | 65,173 |
| Federal Fund | 2,837,766 | 2,850,956 | 2,899,658 | 2,807,895 | 2,765,274 | 2,807,895 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Operations | 3,573,006 | 3,695,813 | 3,944,136 | 3,652,752 | 4,322,324 | 3,652,752 |
| Aid Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 260,480 | 190,000 | 226,500 | 190,000 | 246,500 | 190,000 |
| Cash Fund | 22,629 | 0 | 25,163 | 0 | 25,163 | 0 |
| Federal Fund | 408,367 | 499,670 | 479,542 | 499,670 | 503,682 | 499,670 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Aid Funding | 691,476 | 689,670 | 731,205 | 689,670 | 775,345 | 689,670 |
| Total Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 925,981 | 969,684 | 1,205,179 | 969,684 | 1,737,158 | 969,684 |
| Cash Fund | 92,368 | 65,173 | 90,962 | 65,173 | 91,555 | 65,173 |
| Federal Fund | 3,246,133 | 3,350,626 | 3,379,200 | 3,307,565 | 3,268,956 | 3,307,565 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Agency | 4,264,482 | 4,385,483 | 4,675,341 | 4,342,422 | 5,097,669 | 4,342,422 |

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Program 357 - BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

NCBVI assists individuals with vision loss to get jobs with good wages and benefits in a variety of careers. It works to stimulate community efforts so that blind persons can be self-supporting tax-payers. Two service tracks (Voc Rehab-VR and Independent Living-IL) provide direct services & aid to individuals and groups Statewide, a residential training center for adults, & the blind vendor operations. Aid provided includes technology, low vision aids, college tuition, etc. The older blind population will expand dramatically in the next few years. Program services enable persons to stay independent, avoiding dependency on Medicaid for nursing home or other restrictive placements.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Each year, equal or increase the number of clients who become employed.
2. Meet or exceed the percentage of clients who get jobs after receiving services.
3. Meet or exceed the required percentage of clients achieving competitive employment at or above minimum wage.
4. Serve 100% clients with significant disabilities.
5. Meet or exceed the average hourly earnings for clients who get jobs, compared to the state average hourly rate.
6. Meet or exceed required percentage of clients who are self-supporting at closure after receiving services.
7. Meet or exceed required ratio of persons served from racial or ethnic minorities.
8. Increase successful independent living closures each year, with special emphasis on persons who are blind, are deaf-blind, have other multiple disabilities, and/or are from underserved minorities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Track staffing levels and number of hours worked to provide services. Compare resources used to results for efficiency of effort, outcomes and quality levels achieved.

Monitor and measure the amount of government aid provided (both Vocational Rehabilitation-VR and Independent Living-IL). Increase outputs in line with funding, especially the amount of nonfederal match available for the full federal allotment and to support needed inputs.

Track and monitor labor and material costs per services provided. Utilize previous year data to measure efficiency levels expected for the subsequent biennium.

The primary outcome measures are the number of persons served in the two tracks (VR & IL) and performance on the Program Objectives described.

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| Total Program | 4,264,482 | 4,385,483 | 4,675,341 | 4,342,422 | 5,097,669 | 4,342,422 |