

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.

With vocational rehabilitation training, counseling and resources, 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:

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):

1. Increase the number and percentage (above 68.9%) of clients achieving full-time competitive employment outcomes.
2. Increase the rehabilitation rate (to 45%) for transition aged clients achieving full-time 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

	FY12 Actual	FY13 Approp	FY14 Request	FY14 Recomm	FY15 Request	FY15 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	645,636	846,113	846,113	852,330	846,113	858,680
Cash Fund	64,641	84,296	88,746	89,111	88,746	89,483
Federal Fund	3,050,488	2,836,995	3,022,346	3,068,010	3,022,346	3,114,683
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations	3,760,764	3,767,404	3,957,205	4,009,451	3,957,205	4,062,846
Aid Funding						
General Fund	359,432	176,890	176,890	176,890	176,890	176,890
Cash Fund	16,259	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Federal Fund	412,972	478,718	774,310	774,310	774,310	774,310
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	788,663	665,608	961,200	961,200	961,200	961,200
Total Funding						
General Fund	1,005,067	1,023,003	1,023,003	1,029,220	1,023,003	1,035,570
Cash Fund	80,900	94,296	98,746	99,111	98,746	99,483
Federal Fund	3,463,459	3,315,713	3,796,656	3,842,320	3,796,656	3,888,993
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	4,549,427	4,433,012	4,918,405	4,970,651	4,918,405	5,024,046

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Program 357 - BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Program 357 assists visually impaired adults 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 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 the expectation that they will be employed as adults.

The focus of direct services to older individuals is to enable 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 number and percentage (above 68.9%) of clients achieving full-time competitive employment outcomes.
2. Increase the rehabilitation rate (to 45%) for transition aged clients achieving full-time 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: 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: Satisfaction surveys, telephone interviews, job placement data, length of continued employment after closure & independent living. Meetings with groups of consumers and the public, to conduct Board business and obtain public input and comments. Formal Statewide Needs Assessment will be conducted in Biennium.

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