Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Social Services Block Grant Plan

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Public Inspection of the State Plan and Pre-expenditure Report

A draft of Nebraska's State Plan for the Social Services Block Grant was published on the Department of Health and Human Services website on May 1, 2015. The Plan was made available by mail to allow interested groups and individuals the ability to provide comment. Newspaper advertisements were published to announce the availability of the draft report for review. The public notice was published on Friday May 1, Saturday May 2, 2015 and Sunday May 3, 2015 in the Omaha World Herald. Alerts were generated to 1,572 subscribers of the Department of Health and Human Services Home and Community Services webpage notifying recipients of the posting of the State Plan for comment.

Narrative Pre-expenditure Report

Administrative Operations

The Governor of Nebraska has designated the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as the state agency to receive and administer the Title XX Social Services Block Grant. The department has composed this plan to meet the requirements for receiving Title XX Social Services Block Grant funds and to facilitate public comment on the services to be supported by Title XX funds.

The Department's mission is "Helping people live better lives." This is the focus of the work that is completed every day, whether we are educating and protecting people through public health efforts; assisting the elderly, the impoverished and those with disabilities; providing safety to abused and/or neglected children or vulnerable adults; or serving those in need of 24-hour facility care.

The responsibilities for SSBG services are administered by the Division of Children and Family Services. The services provided by the Block Grant are designed to support the following objectives:

1. Enable families to stay together;
2. Allow elderly individuals and persons with disabilities to remain independent;
3. Promote integration in communities for elderly individuals and persons with disabilities; and;
4. Prevent or remedy abuse and neglect.

SSBG Program Services

The following is a brief description of the services:

1) Services for the elderly and adults with disabilities which include the following:

   a. Case Management;

   b. Congregate Meals;

   c. Adult Day Care;

   d. Home Delivered Meals;

   e. Home-Based Services;

   f. Homemaker for Adults;

   g. Special Services Disabled; and

   h. Transportation Services.

   i. Adult Protective Services.

2) Services for children and their families which include the following:

   a. Case Management;

   b. Day Care-Children (Center Based Child Care Services);

   c. Homemaker;

   d. Independent and Transitional Living Services;

   e. Child Protective Services;

   f. Adult Protective Services; and

   g. Transportation Services.

Staff provided services are delivered by the Children & Family Services Division to all populations at the local level. Other services are delivered through independent contractors.

Fiscal Operations

1. Description of Criteria for Distribution:

   Nebraska identifies all expenditures claimable under SSBG and distributes federal funding on a pro-rata basis.

2. Distribution and Use of Funds:

   Nebraska uses historical expenditures and caseload trends to project the need for SSBG funds and distributes federal funds accordingly.

3. Description of Financial Operations System:

   The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services follows the federally approved Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan (PACAP) to identify administrative costs related to the Social Service Block Grant.

The allocations in the PACAP have a variety of allocation methodologies depending on the category of costs. A Random Moment Time Study is used to identify costs for the Social Services section of the Service Area activities. The number of clients receiving benefits is used to identify the costs from NFOCUS, the eligibility and payment system. Time reporting and direct charge items are also used in the overall accumulation of Social Service Block Grant Costs.

Program Operations

<u>SSBG Statutory Goals the State Plans to Achieve:</u>

Social Services are authorized based on the client's income eligibility and needs and are not provided based on demand. Need for a particular service implies that the provision of that service will assist the client to advance toward the achievement of one of the five statutory goals:

1. Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency;
2. Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
3. Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;
4. Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care; and
5. Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

Characteristics of Individuals to be Served

Definitions:

1. Child is defined as an individual age 18 or under.
2. Adult is defined as an individual age 19 to age 59.
3. Elderly is defined as an individual age 60 or older.
4. Family is defined as a unit consisting of one or more adults (individuals at least age 19 or age 18 for Adult Protective Services) and children, if any, related by blood, marriage, or adoption who reside in the same household. (An unborn child may be included in determining family size if proof of pregnancy is obtained.) The following individuals are not considered when determining family size:
    a. Related adults other than spouses and unrelated adults who reside together;
    b. Children living with non-legally responsible relatives;

c. Emancipated minors; and

d. A minor parent.

Eligible Individual is defined as a person who meets the following criteria:

1. Is financially eligible;
2. Demonstrates a need for service;
3. Is a resident of Nebraska;
4. Has lawful presence in the United States; and
5. Does not permanently reside in an institution.

Area Served

Services are available in all 93 Nebraska counties to eligible persons in need to aid them reaching one of the five program goals listed above. An individual must have a need for each specific service.

Income Guidelines

Persons must be eligible under one of the following categories:

1. Current recipients of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF).
2. Current recipients of the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI), persons eligible for SSI special benefits, or recipients of the Nebraska State Supplemental Program.
3. Low Income Aged: Persons who are 60 years of age or older with gross monthly income of $1,123 or less for a family of one, or gross monthly income of $1,260 or less for family of two or more.
4. Low Income Disabled: Persons age 19 through 59 with:
    a. A medically verifiable physical or mental impairment which substantially hinders them from engaging in employment or homemaking; and

   b. Gross monthly income of $1,123 or less for a family of one, or gross monthly income of $1,260 or less for a family of two or more.

5. Low Income Family: A family unit with gross monthly income, adjusted by family size, less than $1,988 for a family of four.
6. Without Regard to Income: All persons requiring Protective Services, or families receiving Family and Child Welfare Services.
7. Child Care Services: Persons whose gross monthly income is at or below 185% of poverty (e.g. below $3,677 for a family of four) for Transitional Child Care and 130% of poverty (e.g. below $2,584 for a family of four) for non-Transitional Child Care.
8. Income adjustments were effective July 1, 2012 for Social Services for Children and Families (SSCF). Income adjustments for Social Services for Aged and Disabled (SSAD) services were made in January 2015 to coincide with the Social Security COLA increases.

Types of Activities to be Supported and Service Descriptions

Services for Elderly Individuals and Adults with Disabilities:

1. Congregate Meals
   a. Preparation of nourishing meals served in a dining facility.
2. Day Care -- Adults (Adult Day Care)
   a. Services provided for part of the day in a supervised setting outside a person's own home to prevent unnecessary institutionalization through intensive and individualized opportunities for intellectual, physical, and social activities and instruction in personal care and independent living; and
   b. In-home supervision to allow caregiver participation in employment and training

3. Home-Based Services (Chore Services)
    a. Activities include housekeeping tasks, laundry, food preparation, personal assistance and essential shopping.
4. Home Delivered Meals
    a. Preparation of nourishing meals delivered to a person's home; ready to eat.
5. Protective Services -- Adults
    a. Receiving and responding to reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults 18 years of age and older who are unable to protect or care for themselves; and
    b. Investigating reported situations, counseling and providing services coordination to arrange needed services or legal intervention.
6. Special Services–Disabled
    a. Special services for individuals with disabilities are services or activities to realize the potential of persons with disabilities, by helping alleviate the effects of disabilities and enabling these individuals to live in the least restrictive environment possible. Component services or activities may include respite care; homemaker; transportation; aid to assist with independent functioning in the community; and training in mobility, communication skills, the use of special aids and appliances, and self-sufficiency skills.
7. Transportation Services for Adults
    a. Travel for the aged and persons with disabilities to health related treatment or care and other designated community facilities and resources.

Services for Children and Families:

1. Homemaker – Families
    a. Homemaker services provide in-home assistance and instruction to maintain and strengthen families and alleviate stress within the home. This may include the supervision and care of children. Out-of-home instruction in child welfare or child protective services cases to maintain and strengthen families, alleviate stresses in the home or prepare the biological family for return of the child to the home.
2. Independent and Transitional Living Services
    a. Independent and transitional living services are designed to help older youth in foster care or homeless youth make the transition to independent living, or to help adults make the transition from an institution or from homelessness to independent living. Component services or activities may include educational and employment assistance, training in daily living skills, and housing assistance. Specific component services and activities may include supervised practice living and post-foster care services.
3. Day Care—Children (Center Based Child Care Services)
    a. Child care services provided to foster parents or low income families to support parent(s) in employment and/or training/education when such services are being provided in a proprietary child care center. In-home or out-of-home supervision and care of children for up to 24 hours per day due to temporary absence of the usual caregiver due to hospitalization and/or recovery from an illness.
4. Protective Services – Children

a. Activities to protect the rights, health and welfare of children under age 18 to insure that they have an opportunity for healthy growth and development;

b. Receiving and responding to reports, investigating reported situations, counseling and arranging for services needed; and

c. Services to children and families to maintain and strengthen families and alleviate stresses within the home.

d. Services to Foster Parents who are employed or in an education/training program can receive child assistance with no co-pay requirement.

5. Transportation Services – Families

a. Travel necessary to receive Child Care Services, Family Planning Services, to participate in Health Check (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment), to receive necessary health-related treatment or care, to allow parents to visit a child in the hospital and to receive certain services provided by the Health and Human Services Agency or other community resources.

<u>Services to Elderly Individuals, Adults with Disabilities, and Children and Families:</u>

1. Case Management

a. Provides services or activities to assist with the arrangement, coordination, and monitoring of services to meet the needs of individuals and families. Activities may include individual service plan development; monitoring, developing, securing, and coordinating services; monitoring and evaluating client progress; and assuring that client's rights are protected.

2. Organize services by Uniform Definition of Services and the corresponding State service title.

	Federal Uniform Definition of Services	Nebraska Service Title
1	Adoption Services	N/A
2	Case Management	Case Management
3	Congregate Meals	Congregate Meals
4	Counseling Services	N/A
5	Day Care--Adults	Adult Day Care
6	Day Care--Children	Center Based Child Care Services
7	Education and Training Services	N/A
8	Employment Services	N/A
9	Family Planning Services	N/A
10	Foster Care Services--Adults	N/A
11	Foster Care Services--Children	N/A
12	Health-Related Services	N/A
13	Home-Based Services	Chore Services
14	Home-Delivered Meals	Home Delivered Meals
15	Housing Services	N/A
16	Independent/Transitional Living Services	Independent/Transitional Living Services
17	Information & Referral	N/A
18	Legal Services	N/A
19	Pregnancy & Parenting	N/A
20	Prevention & Intervention	N/A
21	Protective Services--Adults	Adults Protective Services
22	Protective Services--Children	Children Protective Services-
23	Recreation Services	N/A
24	Residential Treatment	N/A
25	Special Services--Disabled	Respite, Training Independent Skills, and Homemaker
26	Special Services--Youth at Risk	N/A
27	Substance Abuse Services	N/A
28	Transportation	Transportation

3. Method of Delivery and Geographic Area
    a. Services are delivered at the local level through a case manager and through purchase of direct services. SSBG services are provided statewide.

Proof of Audit

The Social Services Block Grant is included in the annual statewide single audit conducted by the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts.

http://www.auditors.nebraska.gov/APA_Reports/2015/SA200-03252015-July_1_2013_through_June_30_2014_Statewide_Single_Report.pdf