Public Health

The Division of Public Health promotes good health and the prevention of disease. This includes preventive and community health programs and services, regulation and licensure of health-related professions and occupations and health care facilities, and health care services. The Division provides leadership and assistance to Nebraska's 20 county and district health departments to increase our surveillance and diagnostic capacities and help better coordinate preparedness efforts.

Public health activities include: healthy mothers and healthy babies, breast feeding, vaccinations, clean drinking water, car seats and seat belts, clean air, nutrition programs, tobacco-free environments, cancer screening, healthy homes, safe health facilities, licensed health professionals, limiting disease outbreaks, and increasing years of healthy life.

"Thanks to your ***tireless efforts****, you have* ***protected*** *more than 20 high-risk people who might otherwise been left at risk.* ***Thank you*** *from the bottom of my heart."*

-- Director of Nursing, Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home, in response to vaccination efforts for H1N1 flu.

Veterans' Homes

Providing care and service worthy of our nation's heroes, our veterans, is top priority for the Division of Veterans' Homes. The Division includes the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home in Bellevue, the Grand Island Veterans' Home, the Norfolk Veterans' Home and the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home in Scottbluff. These facilities serve more than 500 members with assisted living, skilled care and specialized services.

"I had the pleasure last month of spending some time at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home. ***Words can't express*** *how truly impressed I am by everyone working at the Home or how* ***kind and generous*** *you all were ."*

--A family member

Contact us for more information

Information about the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is available at:
www.dhhs.ne.gov

Do you have questions or concerns about your services or anything about DHHS? Call our Helpline Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Central Standard Time.
DHHS Helpline (800) 254-4202
In Lincoln call: (402) 471-6035
E-mail: dhhs.helpline@nebraska.gov

Phone numbers you may find useful:

General Information	(402) 471-3121
Child/Adult Abuse Hotline	(800) 652-1999
Child Care Licensing	(800) 600-1289
Child Support Enforcement	(877) 631-9973
Home & Community Services	(800) 358-8802
Licensure	(402) 471-2115
Medicaid (main inquiries)	(402) 471-9147
Medicaid (provider inquiries)	(877) 255-3092
Nebraska Family Helpline	(888) 866-8660
Vital Records	(402) 471-2871

To see if you are eligible for economic assistance benefits, or to apply for benefits online, go to:
www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov

Follow DHHS on Twitter and Facebook:
http://twitter.com/NebraskaDHHS
http://bit.ly/btFtGH

Department of Health & Human Services
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Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

It's about people...
helping people live better lives.

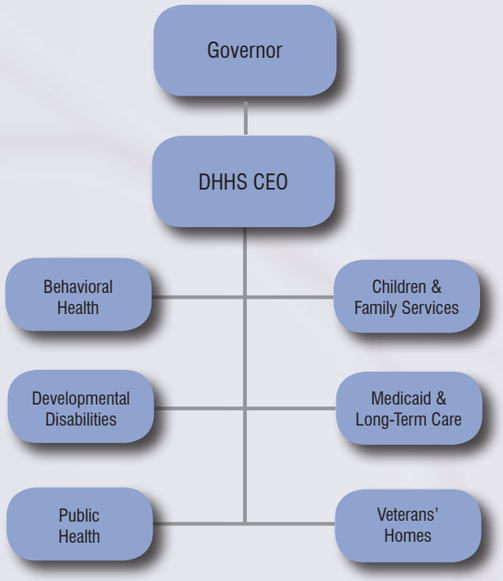
DHHS and You

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides important, often life-sustaining, services to Nebraskans in need.

Our mission, *helping people live better lives*, captures our motivation to make a difference. It's what we do every day, whether we're educating and protecting people through public health efforts; assisting the elderly, the poor, and those with disabilities; providing safety to abused and neglected children; or serving those in need of 24-hour facility care.

Accountability and transparency are our guiding principles. As a public agency, we have a responsibility to use tax dollars wisely and to uphold the highest standards of fiscal integrity.

Programs and services fall under six Divisions described in more detail throughout this brochure. Each Division Director reports to the Department's Chief Executive Officer, who in turn reports to the Governor.



Behavioral Health

The Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) connects people to treatment and community support systems throughout the state. DBH operates Regional Center hospitals in Lincoln, Hastings and Norfolk. Today, these hospitals serve approximately 375 people.

The Division provides funding and contract management to six behavioral health regions and a variety of providers to ensure that community-based mental health, substance abuse, and problem gambling prevention and treatment services are available.

*"I would just like to thank everyone in Building 10 for all the help they gave my son... **You have made his life better** as well as mine ."*

-- A family member of a former Lincoln Regional Center patient

Developmental Disabilities

Promoting greater independence for people with developmental disabilities is the Division of Developmental Disabilities' goal.

The Division operates the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC), a 24-hour residential care facility, and Bridges, a 14-bed secure setting for people with challenging behaviors. The Division provides service coordination statewide and technical assistance, payment and general oversight for community-based providers.

Children & Family Services

The Division of Children and Family Services provides child protection and safety services (child welfare, adoption and foster care, juvenile services, and two Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment centers), adult abuse services, economic and family support services (Aid to Dependent Children, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - formerly food stamps, low income home energy assistance, child care subsidies), and child support enforcement.

The Division's online application process and self-screening tool allows people to apply for public assistance benefits. Through ACCESSNebraska, families have the opportunity to apply for benefits anywhere there is Internet access and at any time.

*"I want you to know I appreciate your **kindness, time and attention** that you have given me in dealing with my food stamps, Medicaid, etc. It is such a blessing and a relief to know that I have a caseworker who **genuinely cares** about her clients, and that I'm not just another number ."*

-- A service recipient

Medicaid & Long-Term Care

*"We want to **thank you for all your help** in qualifying my mom for Medicaid. She is very happy in the assisted living facility where she now lives ."*

-- A satisfied customer

The Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care runs the Medicaid program which provides health care services to eligible people (elderly, children and people with disabilities) and helps them access necessary and appropriate health care and other related services.

The Division provides services to help elderly people and people with disabilities to remain independent in their own homes or a community setting. The State Unit on Aging provides funding and assistance to local Area Agencies on Aging to help clients with meals, care management and other services.

*"Now that my sister is **closer to home**, she's able to attend family celebrations. She's rarely been able to do that before ."*

-- Sister of BSDC client now living in community