

Nebraska Department of
Health and Human Services

Social Services Block Grant Plan

Federal Fiscal Year 2027

October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027



Table of Contents

Administrative Operations	Page 3
SSBG Program Services	Page 4
Fiscal Operations	Page 5
Program Operations	Page 7
Characteristics of Individuals to be Served	Page 7
Types of Activities to be Supported and Service Descriptions	Page 9

Administrative Operations

The Governor of Nebraska has designated the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as the state agency to receive and administer the Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). 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.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) regulations authorize the use of up to 10 percent of a state's TANF grant to the SSBG pursuant to Title XX of the Social Security Act.

TANF funds transferred to SSBG will support activities in this report, subject to the federal requirement that TANF funds transferred to SSBG should be used only for programs and services to children and their families whose income is below 200 percent of the federal income poverty guidelines.

The DHHS mission is "Helping People Live Better Lives." This is the focus of the work completed every day, whether it is educating and protecting people through public health efforts; assisting the elderly, the impoverished, and those with disabilities; providing safety to abused and neglected children or vulnerable adults; or serving those in need of 24-hour facility care.

The responsibilities for SSBG services are administered by the Office of Economic Assistance (OEA). The services provided by SSBG 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:

- a. Case Management;
- b. Congregate Meals;
- c. Day Care -- Adults;
- d. Home Delivered Meals;
- e. Home-Based Services;
- f. Homemaker for Adults;
- g. Special Services Disabled; and
- h. Transportation Services.

2) Services for children and their families, which include:

- a. Case Management;
- b. Day Care -- Children (Center-Based Child Care Services);
- c. Independent and Transitional Living Services;
- d. Child Protective Services;
- e. Substance Abuse Services;
- f. Legal Services;
- g. Adult Protective Services; and
- h. Transportation Services.

DHHS delivers staff-provided services 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:

DHHS follows the federally approved Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan (PACAP) to identify administrative costs related to the SSBG.

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 from the Nebraska Family Online Client User System (N-FOCUS), the eligibility, and the payment system are used to determine the costs. Time reporting and direct charge items are also used in the overall accumulation of SSBG.

Program Operations

SSBG Statutory Goals the State Plans to Achieve:

Social services are authorized based on the client's need for service and income eligibility, but services 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. A 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.

An 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 in 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 TANF.
2. Current recipients of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program, persons eligible for SSI special benefits, or recipients of the Nebraska State Supplemental Program.
3. Low Income Aged: Persons 60 years or older with a gross monthly income of \$1,563 or less for a family of one, or a gross monthly income of \$1,755 or less for a family of two or more.
4. Low-Income Disabled: Persons aged 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 \$1,563 or less for a family of one, or a gross monthly income of \$1,755 or less for a family of two or more.
5. Low-Income Family: A family unit with a gross monthly income, adjusted by family size, less than \$2,680 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: A family unit with a gross monthly income, adjusted by family size, less than \$4,957 for a family of four for Transitional Child Care and less than \$2,680 for a family of four for non-Transitional Child Care.
8. Income adjustments for Social Services for Aged and Disabled (SSAD) services are made annually to coincide with the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment 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 of a person's 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 that are considered 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 service 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 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 individuals with disabilities to health-related treatment or care and other allowable 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 service cases to maintain and strengthen families, alleviating stresses in the home, or preparing the biological family for the 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 homelessness to independent living.
- b. 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. Protective Services – Children

- a. Activities to protect the rights, health, and welfare of children under age 18 to ensure that they have an opportunity for healthy growth and development;
- b. Receiving and responding to reports, investigating reported situations, counseling, and arranging for needed services;
- c. Services to children and families to maintain and strengthen families and alleviate stresses within the home; and
- d. Services to foster parents who are employed or in an education/training program can receive childcare assistance without a co-pay requirement.

4. 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.

- b. Activities may include individual service plan development, monitoring, developing, securing, and coordinating services, monitoring and evaluating client progress, and assuring the client's rights are protected.
- 5. Legal Services
 - a. Assists families in seeking or obtaining legal help in civil matters such as housing, divorce, child support, guardianship, paternity, and legal separation.
- 6. Substance Abuse Services
 - a. Provides a comprehensive range of personal and family counseling through substance abuse treatment programs. The program is provided in a facility where women and their children safely remain together during treatment.

Services to Elderly Individuals, Adults with Disabilities, and Children and Families:

- 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.
 - b. Activities may include individual service plan development, monitoring, developing, securing, and coordinating services, monitoring and evaluating client progress, and assuring the 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	Housing Services
16	Independent/Transitional Living Services	Independent/Transitional Living Services
17	Information & Referral	N/A
18	Legal Services	Legal Services
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	Substance Abuse Services
28	Transportation	Transportation

3. Method of Delivery and Geographic Area

- a. Services are delivered statewide by case managers at customer service centers and local offices through the purchase of direct services.

