



Division of Developmental
Disabilities

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Organizational Leadership



Department of Health and Human Services

Steve Corsi

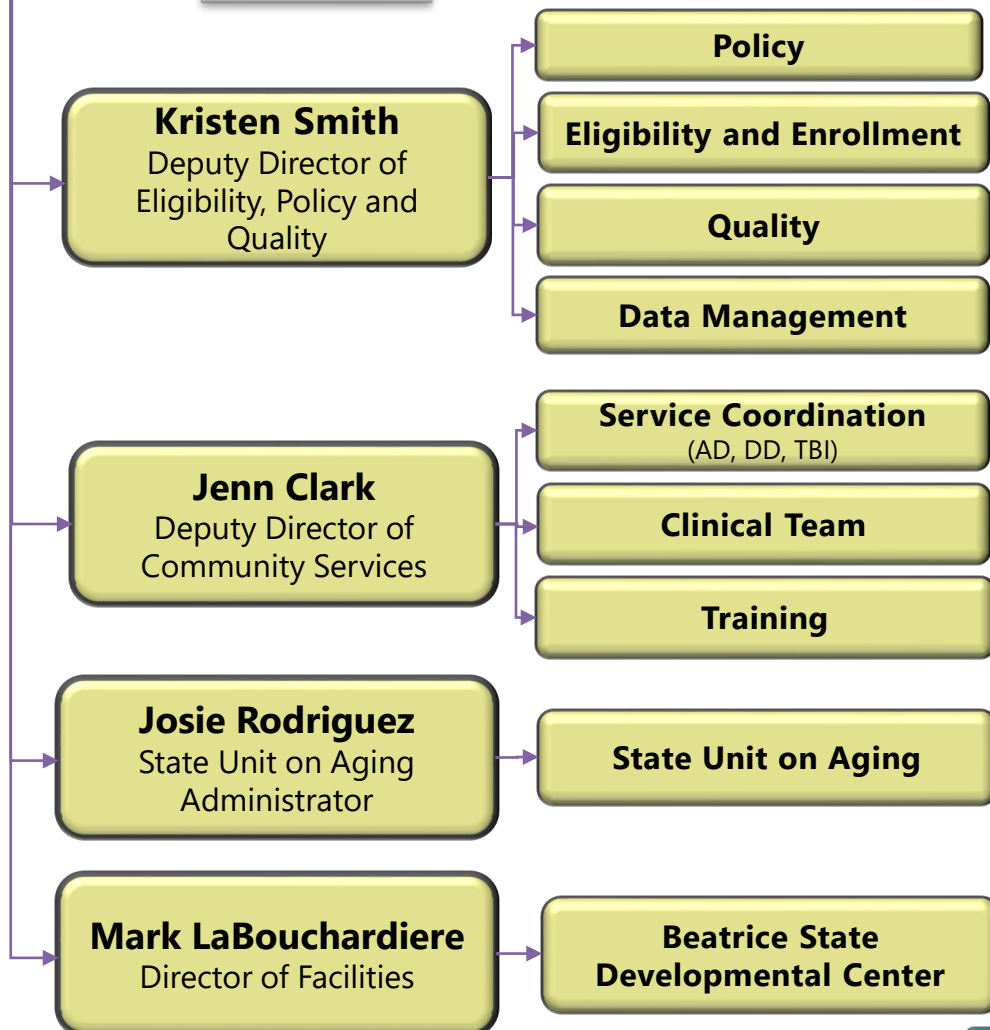
Chief Executive Officer



Division of Developmental Disabilities

Tony Green

Director



Governor appointed

Message from Director Green

Dear Nebraskans,

As we approach the end of another year, I want to thank you all for your support and collaboration throughout Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. It is our privilege to serve around 15,500 Nebraskans who are disabled and/or aging across our great state and at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC). Our goal remains to ensure that each Nebraskan lives the highest quality of life as they work, age, play, and pursue their goals.

This year we have embarked on a transition that will transform the Developmental Disabilities (DD) system to ensure that each eligible person and their family will receive specialized services at the time of need by eliminating the current DD Waitlist. Creating a needs-based system that supports every eligible Nebraskan with a disability is our fundamental change. This is doing business smarter and doing the right thing. We couldn't do this without everyone's support and will end the wait for services by October 2025.

In FY 2024, the DD Division continued to expand. In January 2024, we welcomed the Medically Handicapped Children's Program (MHCP), Lifespan Respite Subsidy Program, and the Disabled Children's Program (DCP). In June 2024, the State Unit of Aging (SUA) also joined the division. Under SUA the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program increased services for Nebraskans by 36 percent.

In FY 2024, the DD Division increased the service array within the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver, creating opportunities for services to be provided across the state in a variety of settings, including services to support those who want employment. The Division also partnered with VA HUD/VASH to allow section 8 funding to supplement room and board for veterans in Assisted Living Facilities receiving the Aging/Disabled Waiver.

Please enjoy this end-of-the-year report and take a few minutes to reflect on the last 12 months alongside us.

Sincerely,

Tony Green

Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Division of Developmental Disabilities At-A-Glance

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) provides administration and funding for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services to participants who are aging or disabled, through five (5) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services 1915 (c) Waivers.

- Aged and Disabled Waiver (AD)
- Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBI)
- Family Support Waiver (FSW)
- Developmental Disabilities Adult Day Waiver (DDAD)
- Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities Waiver (CDD)

The Division oversees the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC). The Beatrice State Developmental Center is a 24-hour state and federally funded residential treatment facility dedicated to the provision of specialized psychological, medical and developmental supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The Division integrated Special Health Care Needs services into its comprehensive services, effective January 2024. These services include: Medically Handicapped Children's Program (MHCP), Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS), Disabled Children's Program (DCP), Genetically Handicapped Person's Program (GHPP) and Lifespan Respite Subsidy (LRS).



Pictured above: Service Coordination Lincoln team members.

Division of Developmental Disabilities At-A-Glance



Pictured above: State Unit on Aging in recognition of 2024 Elder Abuse Awareness day.

This Division manages the State Unit on Aging, which oversees funding to help Nebraskans stay in their homes. These funding sources include the Older Americans Act, the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act, and the Aging & Disability Resource Center Act. Area Agencies on Aging and other providers deliver a wide range of services to the community. These services promote health, safety, and long-term independence.

The Division administers the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act (DDCOCA). This statute was enacted in the early 2000's and was first utilized in 2009. These statutes were created to find appropriate treatment options for individuals who have a developmental disability and present a high risk of harm to others.

In partnership with the Division, the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities advises the Division on funding and delivery of services. This includes:

- Providing oversight to make sure people placed in the custody of the department under the Developmental Disabilities Court-Ordered Custody Act receive the least restrictive treatment and services necessary;
- Overseeing the design and implementation of the quality management and improvement plan; and
- Assisting, providing feedback, and guiding the implementation of the family support program.

Pictured to the right:
Members of the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities: Kristen Larsen, Suzanne Wahlgren, Debbie Salomon, Angie Willey, Cris Petersen, Mike Browne (Vice Chair), Dianne DeLair, Christina Zeleski, Mark Shriver, Lorie Regier (Chair), Jenn Clark, Kristen Smith, Tony Green, Paul Murdock



Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Demographics

15,566

People Served FY 2024

**Some people move between waiver services. When this occurs, an individual would be counted in multiple waivers during a fiscal year, therefore, the sum of people across the waiver service types is greater than the total served.*

Gender

45.8% Females **54.2%** Males

Age

11% <1-19
52% 20-64
37% 65+

Race

1% American Indian or Alaskan Native
6% Asian or Pacific Islander
10% Black or African American
7% Hispanic or Latino
2% Two or More
6% Unknown
69% White (Not Hispanic)



Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

Number of Persons Served by Waiver - FY 2024

Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) Level of Care

**Comprehensive
Developmental
Disabilities
(CDD) Waiver**

5,023

For people of all ages with a developmental disability.

**Developmental
Disabilities Adult
Day (DDAD)
Waiver**

499

For people ages 21 and over with a developmental disability.

**Family
Support
Waiver
(FSW)**

19

For people ages birth to 21 years with a developmental disability.



Family Support Waiver (FSW)

March 1, 2024 waiver approved by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

FSW will serve up to 850 children with developmental disabilities. Each participant will have a maximum annual budget of \$10,000.



Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

Number of Persons Served by Waiver - FY 2024

Nursing Facility (NF) Level of Care

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver

21

Available for people ages 18 to 64 with a traumatic brain injury diagnosis.

Aged and Disabled (AD) Waiver

10,054

For people ages 65 and older, and people of all ages with disabilities.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver

expanded on October 1, 2023,
to support participants in a variety of settings.

TBI Providers

Prior to expansion TBI services were historically provided by one provider. By the end of FY 2024 we have seen growth!

Provider Training

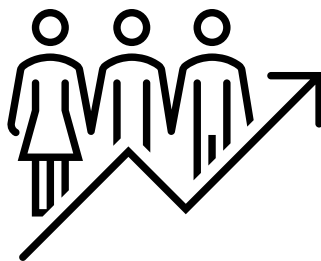
16

Agency
Provider

have completed the TBI
Training through DHHS.

5

Independent
Provider



Provider Enrollment

15

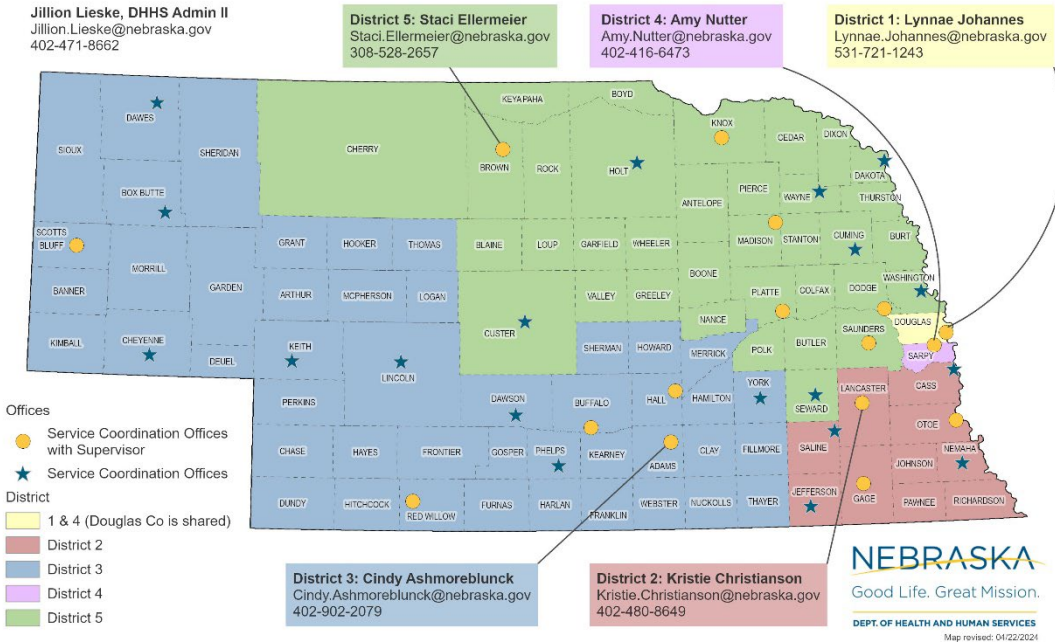
Providers are approved as Medicaid providers for the TBI Waiver through Maximus.

Service Coordination for Waivers

Service coordination assists participants in coordinating services, developing Person-Centered Plans (PCP), monitoring service deliveries and ensuring the health and welfare of the participants they support.

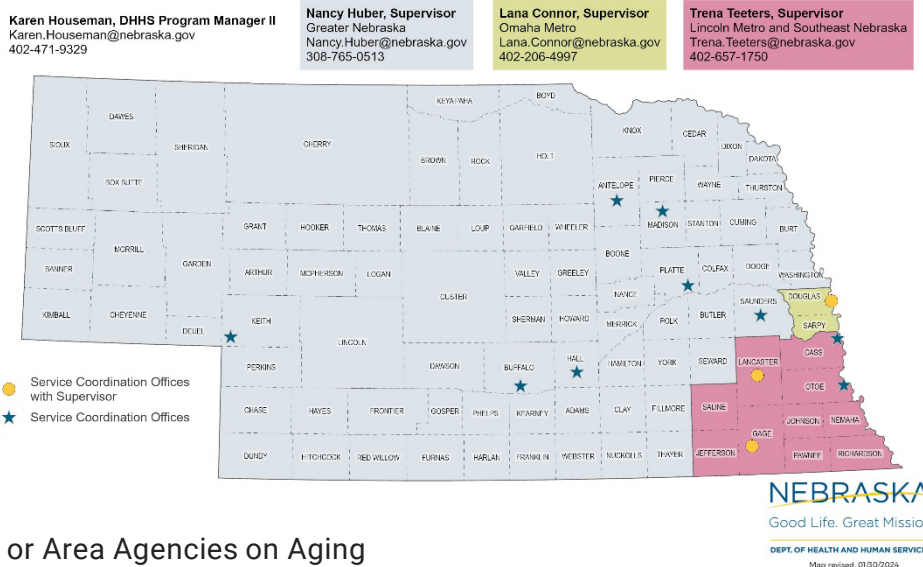
For the DD waivers service coordination is provided by DDD.

Developmental Disabilities Service Coordination



For the AD Waiver, service coordination is provided by DDD for participants ages 3 to 17 years old.

Aged and Disabled Service Coordination



Contracted agencies provide service coordination for other ages:

- Birth – 3 years: Early Development Network
- 18 years and older: League of Human Dignity or Area Agencies on Aging

Programs for Special Health Care Needs

Number of Persons Served by Programs - FY 2024

Same Programs, New Division

DHHS moved programs related to Special Health Care Needs under DDD on January 1, 2024. This integration of these programs into DDD was part of the expansion to broaden the continuum of support for individuals and connect additional resources and services. The expansion of these services to the Division was in direct alignment with the commitment to provide inclusive and comprehensive services to meet the diverse needs of our community.

Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS)

240 served

The DPFS program assists persons of all ages who have a medically determinable chronic disability. The program is designed for the preservation of the family unit, maintaining independent living situations, and for disabled adults to remain or become employed.

Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP)

4 served

The GHPP program provides specialized medical services for persons diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis, Hemophilia, and/or Sickle Cell disease. Available to eligible participants 21 and older.

Lifespan Respite

494 served

The program is a service designed to provide caregivers a break from the demands of ongoing care for recipients with special needs. Lifespan Respite is available for eligible participants and their unpaid family caregivers to purchase respite services.

Medically Handicapped Children's Program (MHCP) – includes Disabled Children's Program (DCP)

1,275 served

MHCP provides specialized medical services, such as diagnostic/consultative services and treatment services, for children and youth with special health care needs. DCP serves children and youth with disabilities through payment assistance for non-medical services and supports such as respite care, medical mileage, and home/vehicle modifications.

State Unit on Aging Demographics



The State Unit on Aging oversees funding to assist Nebraskans in staying in their homes and communities. Funding sources include the Older Americans Act, the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act, and the Aging & Disability Resource Center Act.



53,959

Unduplicated People Served FY 2024

Gender



64%
Female



36%
Male

Age

6% < 60
35% 60-74
32% 75-84
25% 85+

8%
Frail/
Disabled

Race/Ethnicity

1% American Indian or Alaskan Native
6% Asian or Pacific Islander
10% Black or African American
7% Native Island or Pacific Islander
2% Two or More
6% Not available
80% White
3% Hispanic (Ethnicity)

18%

Greatest Social and Economic Need
(at or below the federal poverty level)



59%
Urban



41%
Rural

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The ADRC is for Nebraskans 60 years or older, people with disabilities of all ages, family members, caregivers, and advocates.

ADRCs provide one or more services, including Information & Assistance, Options Counseling, Transitions Options Counseling, Benefits Assistance, and Mobility Training.

**8 Area Agencies on Aging
5 Disability Partners**

- Aging Office of Western Nebraska
- Aging Partners
- Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging
- Brain Injury Alliance
- Easter Nebraska Office on Aging
- Easterseals
- League of Human Dignity
- Midland Area Agency on Aging
- Monroe Meyer Institute
- Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging
- South Central Area Agency on Aging
- West Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging
- 211 Nebraska

10,104
Unique ADRC Consumers

45,336
ADRC Contacts

38,754
Information and referral contacts

3,419
Hours of Benefits Assistance

2,689
Hours of Options Counseling

Consumers can reach the Nebraska ADRC by calling 1 (844) 843-6364

Community Aging Services Act

CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The state-certified Care Management Program provided by Nebraska's Area Agencies on Aging plays an important role in coordinating essential in-home and community-based services to support the needs of older adults.

Individuals receiving Care Management:

2,443

- ✓ Consultation
- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Care Plan Development
- ✓ Referral and Review



Hours of Care Management:

35,329

SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

To Have A Friend; To Be A Friend

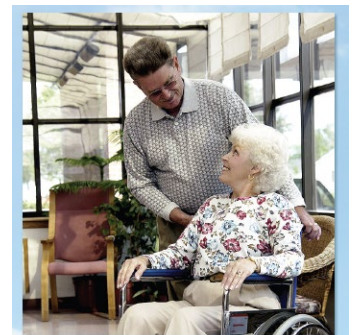
The purpose of the Nebraska Senior Volunteer Program is to provide volunteer community service opportunities for older Nebraskan's following priorities outlined in the federal Older Americans Act.

854 Individuals were served in FY 2024.



14,888.5 hours of service provided.

Services included: personal care, nutrition duties, social or recreational activities, home management, information and advocacy, respite care, service senior center meals, and home delivered meals



"To Have A Friend; To Be A Friend"

3 Senior Volunteer Programs serving 9 Counties:

Buffalo, Nemaha, Deuel, Cheyenne, Dawes, Sioux, Kimball, Garden, Sheridan

Beatrice State Developmental Center

The Division oversees Beatrice State Development Center (BSDC) Intermediate Care Facilities home to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).

81
Census at the end of FY 2024

57 years

Average Age

39 years

Average Length of Stay

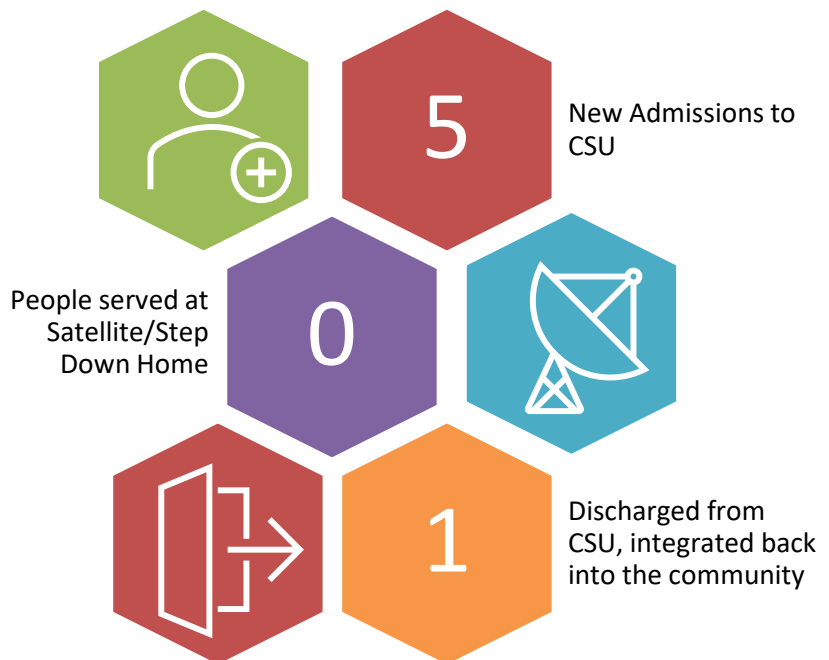
BSDC is a 24-hour state and federally funded residential treatment facility dedicated to the provision of specialized psychological, medical and developmental supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Crisis Stabilization Unit

Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Community Reintegration Program began in May 2017, to address a critical gap in serving the population participating in home and community-based services (HCBS) DD waiver programs.

- Placement at the specialized unit designed to be a temporary stay.
- The Crisis Program provides a period of intense treatment and habilitation.
- The participant's team from the Crisis Program continues transition supports for a period of time after they integrate back into the community with a DD risk provider.

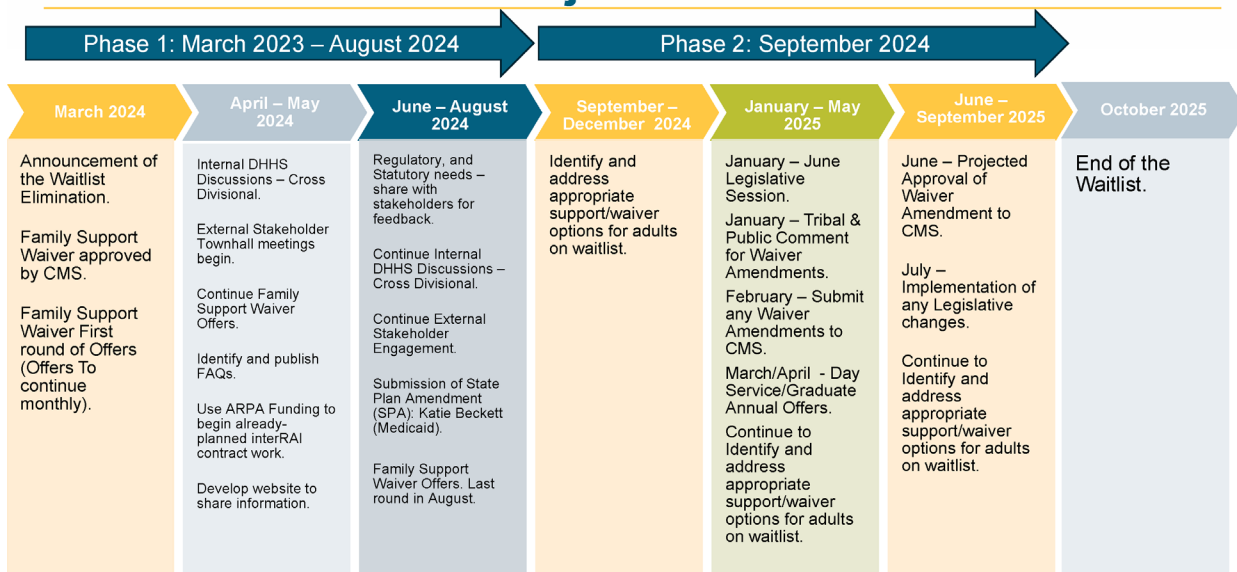
Fiscal Year 2024



Ending the DD Waitlist

In March 2024, Governor Jim Pillen joined DDD to announce a comprehensive plan to eliminate the wait for developmental disabilities services. This will better support Nebraskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The Waitlist Elimination Project aims to provide timely access to services for all eligible individuals by October 2025.

Waitlist Elimination Projected Timeline



Expanding Access to Services: Project Outcomes

Timely Service Access

All eligible individuals are projected to receive services by October 2025.

“ This is a breakthrough way to reimagine how services are offered to individuals with IDD in Nebraska and save taxpayer dollars. This is the first time in Nebraska history the DD Registry will be eliminated, which is a huge step forward to ensure all Nebraskans have the opportunity and support to live the Good Life. ”

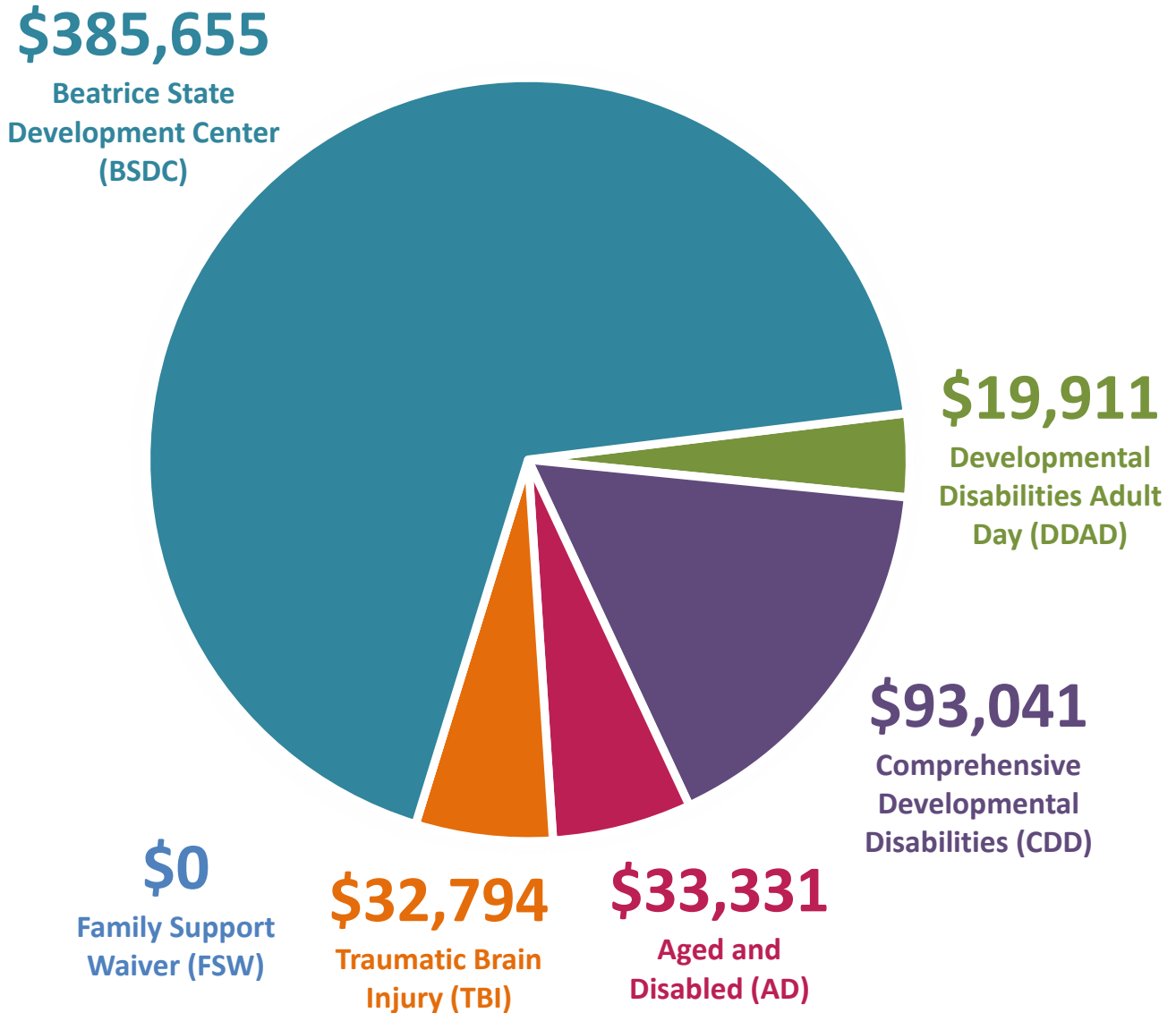
Governor Pillen, March 2024

Enhanced Quality of Life

By reducing wait times and improving service coordination, the project aims to enhance the overall quality of life for individuals with IDD and their families.

Average Annual Cost Per Person

Fiscal Year 2024
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



Expenditures

\$844,317,753

Total funds expended through the Division of Developmental Disabilities
FY 2024

\$467,342,835

Comprehensive
Developmental Disabilities
(CDD) Waiver

\$31,238,072

Beatrice State
Developmental
Disabilities (BSDC)

\$0

Family Support
Waiver (FSW)

0%

55.4%

3.7%

39.7%

1.2%

\$9,935,624

Developmental
Disabilities Adult Day
(DDAD) Waiver

.1%

\$688,678

Traumatic Brain
Injury (TBI)

\$335,112,544

Aged and Disabled (AD)
Waiver

Eligibility and Enrollment

The Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) team processes applications for all HCBS Waivers; completes Level of Care assessments; completes the Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) to determine need level for DD waivers; and maintains the Waitlist for people eligible for DD waivers.

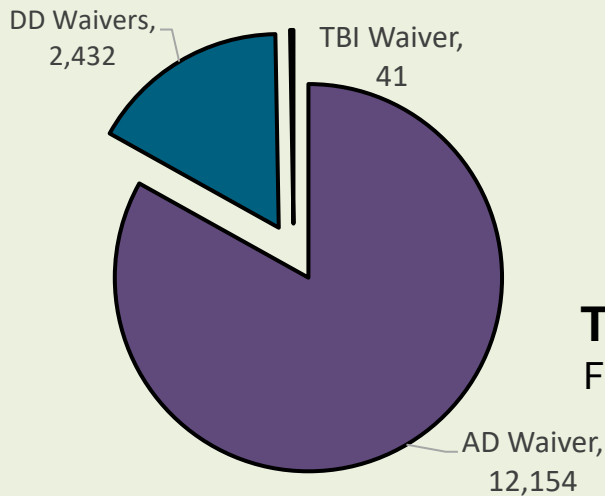
Number of Applications Processed FY 2024

5,741

Aged & Disabled Waiver

1,421

Developmental Disabilities Waivers

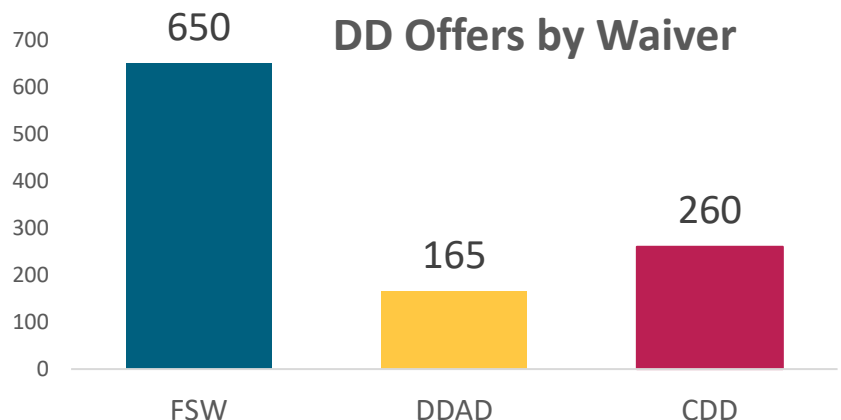


14,627

Total Assessments Completed:
For Eligibility, Level of Care, and Funding.

975

People received a funding offer for a Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver in FY 2024.



Transition to the interRAI

In the final quarter of FY 2024, DDD launched an initiative to transition from the Developmental Index (DI) to the interRAI assessment tool to modernize practices and improve person-centered care.

Stakeholder engagement was held in June 2024. DDD held sessions led by Myers & Stauffer to introduce the interRAI. Sessions focused on:

- The purpose and benefits of interRAI tools.
- How these tools are already used in Nebraska's AD and TBI Waivers.
- Plans for adoption in the Developmental Disabilities (DD) program.

What is the interRAI?

A COMPREHENSIVE TOOL



The interRAI suite offers standardized assessments that provide reliable, person-centered data across multiple domains.

MULTI-PURPOSE USE



It will be used for eligibility decisions, determining individual budgets, acuity-based rate reimbursements, and informing person-centered planning.

SUPPORTS NEBRASKA'S GOALS



Aligned with both state and federal regulations, interRAI is encouraged by CMS for its validated approach.

Benefits

ENHANCED PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING

Provides a holistic view of individual needs and supports person-centered conversations.

EFFICIENCY GAINS

Serves multiple purposes with a single assessment, saving state administrative resources.

STATE AND FEDERAL ALIGNMENT

Questions conform to current and proposed Nebraska regulations; CMS encourages the use of standardized assessments.

An interRAI pilot project is planned for FY25.



Quality Management



The Division of Developmental Disabilities began partnership with Liberty Healthcare Corporation in January 2021.



Mortality Reviews

Liberty reviews **100%** of mortalities on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers and at the Beatrice State Developmental Center

Increase Education

Training Topics:

- Identifying changes in health status.
- Recognizing and responding to Fatal Five Plus conditions.
- How to respond to acute care needs.



Human and Legal Rights Advisory Committee (HLRAC)

The HLRAC began in Dec 2023. It evaluates and provides consultation regarding human and legal rights and restrictions, and ensures people are exercising their full rights.

251 Participant's rights restrictions reviewed



Critical Incident Management Process (CIMP) and Root Cause Analysis (RCA)

The Critical Incident Management Process (CIMP) process reviews 100% of high notification General Event Reports (GERs), 10% of medium GERs on the CDD and DDAD waivers; and 100% of GERs for the AD and TBI waivers.

281 RCAs complete

Liberty uses RCA to work with providers to determine causes of incidents and identify solutions to prevent similar incidents in the future.

RCA completed with **53** DD Providers.



Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP began in May 2024 to provide training and technical assistance (TA) to providers based on requests.

The TAP team will:

- Receive and review TA requests.
- Coordinate needed assistance.
- Create a resource library.
- Analyze data to identify providers or regions that need additional support.
- Provide trainings

National Core Indicators

Nebraska participates in three National Core Indicator (NCI) survey processes: Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD), Developmental Disabilities (NCI-DD), and workforce. The surveys to help assess the quality of life for adults receiving services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.



The University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute partners to conduct face-to-face interviews with adults receiving services.

The goal is to improve services for the people of Nebraska by using the feedback and opinions gathered from the Nebraskan's using those services.

Aged and Disabled (AD) Survey Report

The Aging and Disabilities National Indicators Survey (NCI-AD) reaches out to adults receiving services through the Aged and Disabled Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver, and individuals receiving services through nursing care facilities or in their homes through the Personal Assistance Services (PAS) program.

649
Surveys Conducted

AD Waiver compared to the Average Survey Year 2022-2023



Percentage of people who can contact their case manager when they need to.

99%



6%

Percentage of people who often feel lonely.
National average is 19%.



98%

Percentage of people who had a physical exam/ wellness visit in the past 12 months.
National average is 86%.

94%

Percentage of people whose services help them live the life they want!
National average is 87%.

National Core Indicators Continued

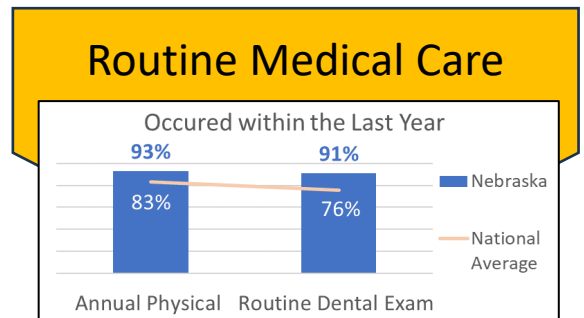
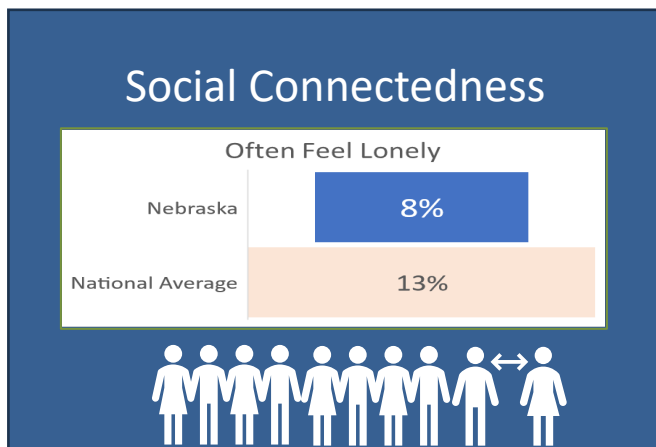
Developmental Disabilities Survey Report

The Munroe-Myer Institute provides an interactive dashboard with National Core Indicators for Developmental Disabilities (NCI-DD) responses. The dashboard permits people to explore all questions answered by respondents.

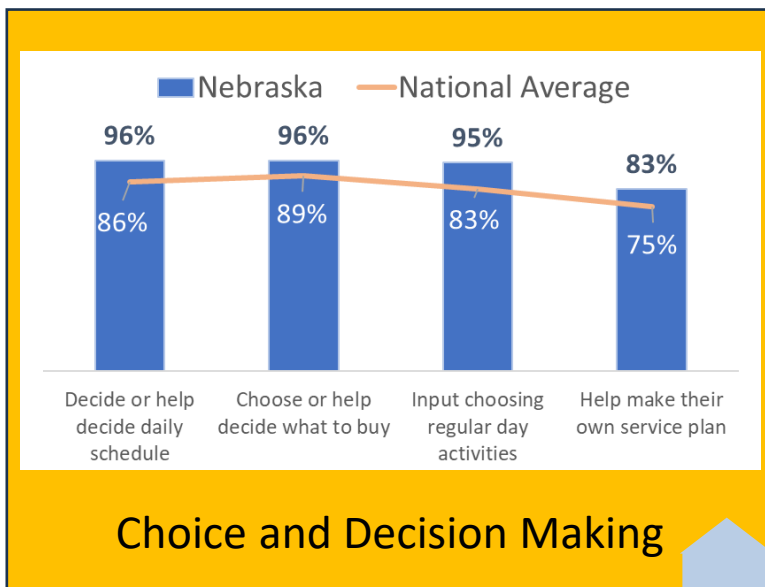
420
Surveys
Conducted

Survey Response Examples

Survey Year 2022-2023



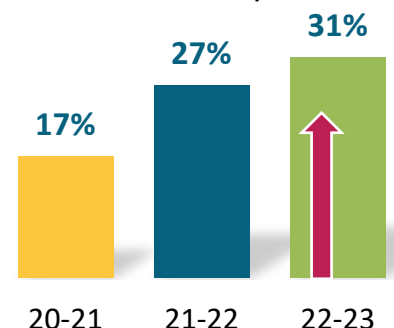
Nebraska is #1 for Routine Dental Care!



Nebraska is in the Top 10 states for people making their own service plans!

Employment

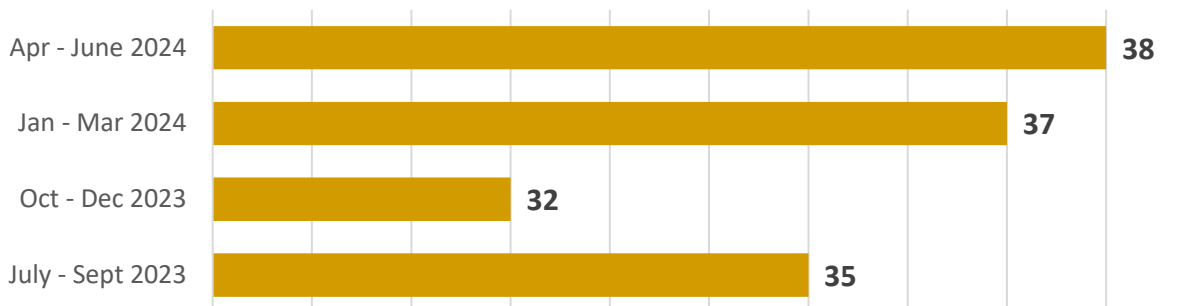
Has paid job in their community



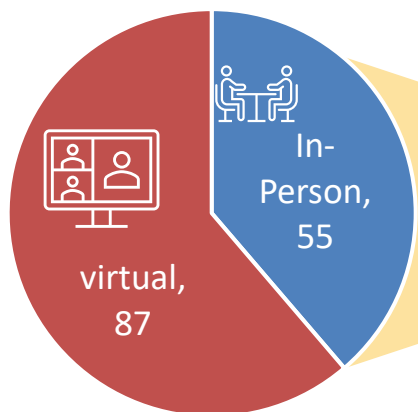
Training, Support, and Outreach

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is committed to providing free training and attending community engagement events.

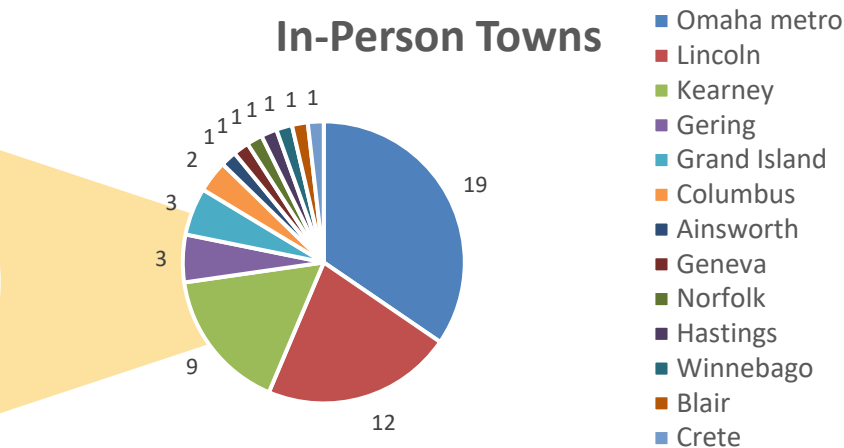
Events by Quarter



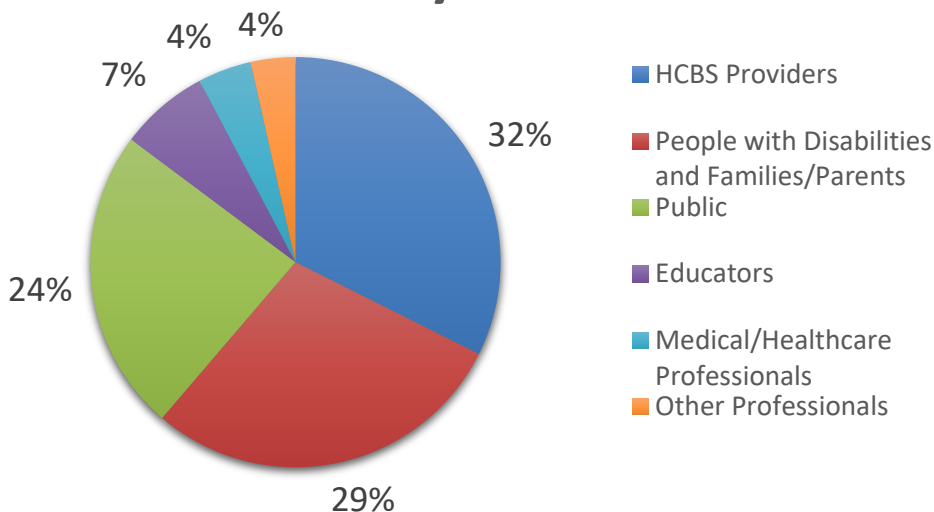
Location



In-Person Towns



Primary Audience



Celebrating DD Awareness Month



In March 2024, DDD celebrated DD Awareness month with a proclamation signed by Governor Jim Pillen to recognize March as DD Awareness Month. Thank you to who joined us for the proclamation signing!



DD Awareness Month Awards

In March 2024, DDD celebrated DD Awareness month by encouraging individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) and members of the developmental disabilities community across Nebraska to nominate individuals, providers, community leaders, and employers for one of four awards.

The outpouring of nominations was commendable. DDD awarded three winners per award as listed on the following pages.

Celebrating DD Awareness Month

Individual Spotlight Award

Recognized people with IDD who overcame adversity to achieve or go beyond their goals. These individuals demonstrated a drive to be better, a desire to be more independent, and want to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.



Trish Worley Kamler
(Pictured above: Trish Worley Kamler)



Bob Winchester
(Pictured Tony Green, Bob Winchester, and Kristen Smith)



Caitlin Donaldson
(Pictured Caitlin Donaldson and Tony Green)

Outstanding Provider Award

Recognized providers who excel in delivering services, strive for person-centered outcomes, create or support a welcoming culture, and go above and beyond to support people with IDD to live their best lives as defined by them.

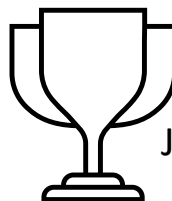


Easterseals Nebraska

(Pictured Jami Biodrowski accepting award from family that nominated Easterseals for provider award, Kristen Smith and Steve Corsi)



NorthStar Services
in O'Neill
(Not pictured)



Jordan Squire: Mosaic Tri-City

(Pictured above Tony Green, Jordan Squire, and Kristen Smith)



Celebrating DD Awareness Month

Community Leader Award

Recognized people and groups who are extraordinary in giving their time to help people with IDD. These selfless leaders work toward promoting independence and making positive changes. These leaders showcase a passion for making advances in individual lives.

Madonna School and
Community-Based
Services

O'Neill Lanes

Kearney Police
Department and Buffalo
County Sheriff's Office



(pictured above – Members of Kearney Police and Buffalo Sheriff's Office with DHHS, Kristen Smith & Tony Green)

Creative Employer Award

Recognized community employers who employ someone with IDD. These employers go above and beyond expectations to help their employees thrive in their workplace. The culture at this place of employment is open and creative.

TRADER JOE'S

Trader Joe's
in Lincoln

(left to right pictured Jenn
Clark, Trader Joe's Captain
TJ, Kristen Smith, Tony
Green)



Arthur's
Pizza in
Scottsbluff

(pictured left to right -
Steve Corsi, Arthur
w/Arthur's Pizza, Arthur
Pizza Employee,
Tony Green)

RUNZA

Runza
Restaurants

(pictured left to right -
Ashley Ficken &
Kristen Smith)



DDD Contact Information

Division of Developmental Disabilities

P.O. Box 98947
Lincoln, NE 68509-8947
Phone: **(402) 471-8501**
Toll-Free: **(877) 667-6266**
Website: www.dhhs.ne.gov

Division Director

Tony Green
Phone: (402) 471-6038

Director of Facilities

Mark LaBouchardiere
Phone: (308) 865-5313
Email: mark.labouchardiere@nebraska.gov

Division Leadership

Eligibility, Policy, and Quality

Kristen Smith, Deputy Director
Phone: (402) 471-8704
Email: kristen.smith@nebraska.gov

Community Services

Jenn Clark, Deputy Director
Phone: (402) 471-7909
Email: jennifer.j.clark@nebraska.gov

Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC)

Jesse Bjerrum, Interim Facility Administrator
Phone: (402) 239-5889
Email: jesse.bjerrum@nebraska.gov

State Unit on Aging

Josie Rodriguez, Administrator II
Phone: (402) 471-9155
Email: josie.r.rodriguez@nebraska.gov

Policy

Colin Large, Administrator II
Phone: (402) 583-1452
Email: colin.large@nebraska.gov

DD – Service Coordination

Jillion Lieske, Administrator II
Phone: (402) 471-8662
Email: jillion.lieske@nebraska.gov

Clinical Services

Jenn Clark, Deputy Director
Phone: (402) 471-7909
Email: jennifer.j.clark@nebraska.gov

Quality

Paul Edwards, Administrator I
Phone: (531) 249-8789
Email: paul.edwards@nebraska.gov

AD and TBI – Service Coordination

Karen Houseman, Program Manager II
Phone: (402) 471-9329
Email: karen.houseman@nebraska.gov

Eligibility and Enrollment

Brianne Berres, Program Manager II
Phone: (402) 450-0018
Email: brianne.berres@nebraska.gov



Division of Developmental Disabilities

If you or a loved one have an intellectual or developmental disability and is in need of services or supports to help you live a happy, healthy, and full life, reach out to us for resources and assistance.

There are resources available, and we are here to support you!

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES