

Division of Developmental Disabilities

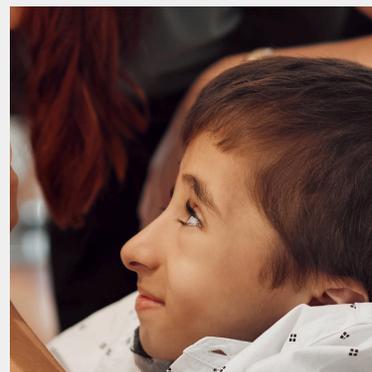
Fiscal Year 2025

Annual Report

NEBRASKA

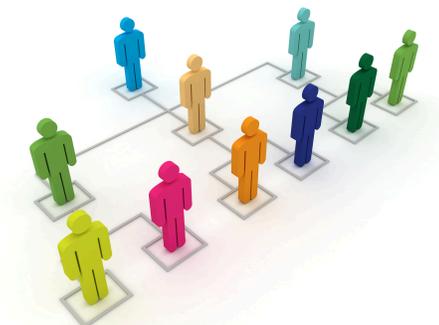
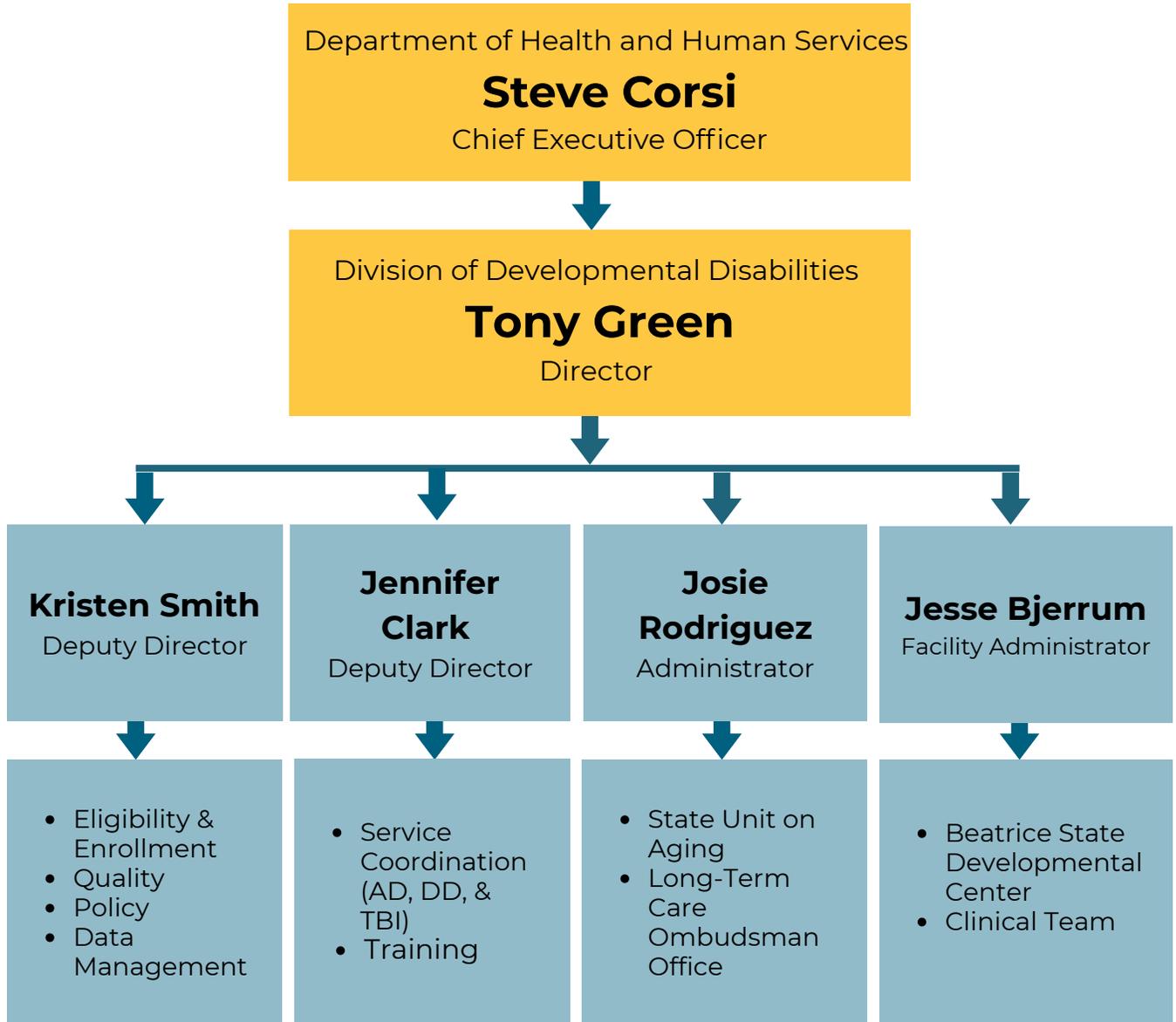
Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Supporting
dignity and
choice through
community
connections.

Organizational Leadership



Message from Director Tony Green

On behalf of our Division, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for fiscal year 2025.

This past year underscored the vital role our agency plays in supporting older adults, people with disabilities, and their families across Nebraska. Through partnership, innovation, and a continued commitment to person-centered services, we worked to strengthen access to long-term services and supports, promote independence, and protect the rights and dignity of those we serve.

Despite ongoing challenges, including workforce pressures and increasing demand for services, our staff and partners remained focused on quality, compliance, and continuous improvement. This report highlights key accomplishments, emerging initiatives, and data that reflect both our progress and the areas where focused attention remains essential.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, providers, advocates, and stakeholders whose collaboration makes this work possible. Together, we continue to advance a system that supports choice, inclusion, and community living for individuals of all ages and abilities.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.



Director, Division of
Developmental Disabilities



Division 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)



Special Health Care Needs programs are available to specific populations with special needs and their families. Special Health Care Programs include: Medically Handicapped Children's Program (MHCP); Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS); Disabled Children's Program (DCP); Genetically Handicapped Person's Program (GHPP); Lifespan Respite Program (LRS).

The Division also oversees the **Beatrice State Developmental Center** (BSDC). 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.

Finally, the 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.

Within the State Unit on Aging is the **Long-term Care Ombudsman** (LTCO) program. The LTCO works with nursing home and assisted living residents. They help answer resident concerns and complaints. The LTCO advocates for resident rights and their well-being.



End of the Waitlist

The end of FY 25 brought a huge win for the Division of Developmental Disabilities and all Nebraskans. After having a waitlist for waiver services for decades, the Developmental Disabilities waiver waitlist has come to an end.

The elimination of the waitlist is the result of an unprecedented investment of over \$18 million, plus matching federal funds, to better enable the delivery of support services to children/adults with disabilities and their families.

“

Eliminating the DD waitlist is a great accomplishment for the state of Nebraska.

Now, children and adults with IDD can access support at the time they need it.

The new approach ensures a full continuum of care for individuals and their families, creating better opportunities and outcomes. Our kids are our future, and it is our responsibility to give each one the best future possible.

- Governor Jim Pillen

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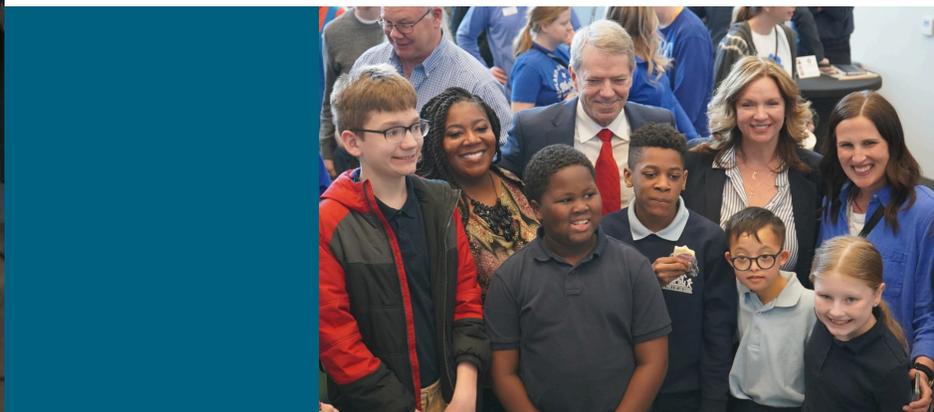




Historically, the DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has maintained a waitlist for developmental disability (DD) waivers. In March of 2024, there were 2,706 individuals on the waitlist. At that time, Gov. Pillen joined representatives from DHHS in announcing that the state would eliminate the waitlist and establish a new approach to DD waiver services.

During that 15-month process, more than 3,000 individuals were from the waitlist, including those who came on after March 2024. The new system provides the following:

- Medicaid for DD-eligible children that meet the required level of care.
- Additional access to family support and day service waivers that allow families to live together.
- Case management services for individuals who do not require waiver services.
- Employment services.
- Comprehensive DD waivers based on a nationally validated needs assessment adopted by DHHS with the support of stakeholders.
- New models of staffing, including remote support and Legally Responsible Individuals (LRI) as paid providers for personal care.
- Expansion of independent providers.



Demographics

Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

2,078

More people served in FY 2025 compared to 15,566 served in FY 2024 .

17,644

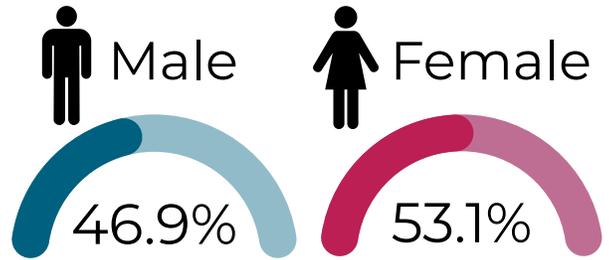
Persons Served FY 2025*

RACE/ ETHNICITY

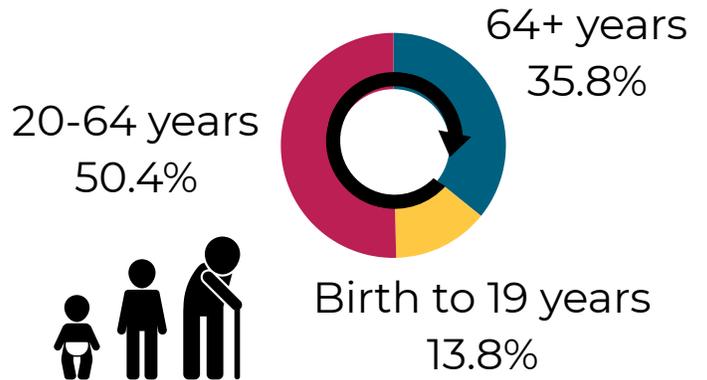


American Indian/Native Alaskan	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6%
Black/African American	11%
Hispanic/Latino	8%
Two or more races	2%
Unknown	6%
White	66%

GENDER



AGE



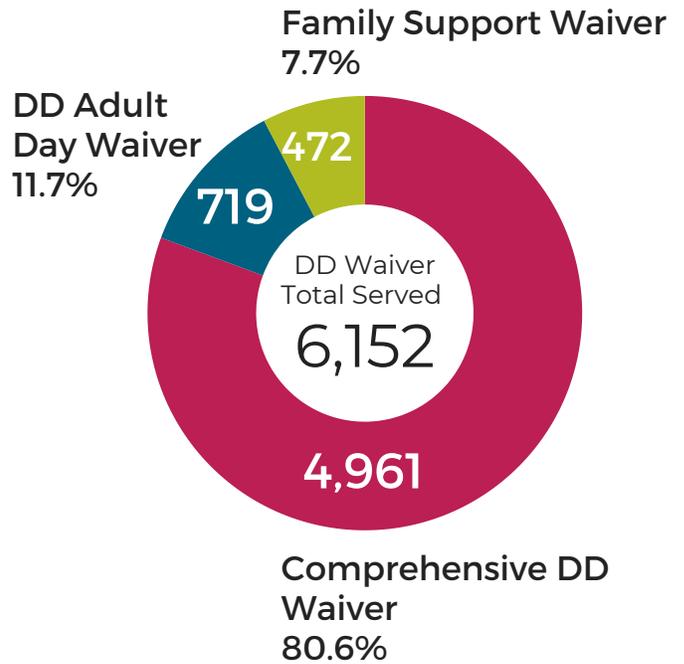
*Some people move between waiver services. When this occurs, an individual would be counted in multiple waivers during a fiscal year, therefore the sum of people across the waiver service types is greater than the total served.

People Served by Waiver

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers

Number of people with a service authorization

To be eligible for DD waiver services, people must meet Level of Care for an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).



Aged and Disabled (AD) Waiver

To be eligible for AD Waiver services, people must have a disability or be over the age of 65, meet Nursing Facility Level of Care



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver

To be eligible for TBI Waiver services, you must be age 18 years or older, have a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury, meet Nursing Facility Level of Care



Demographics

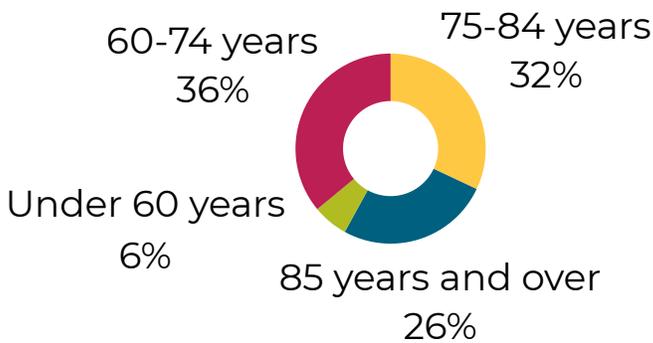
State Unit on Aging

The State Unit on Aging oversees funding to assist Nebraskans to stay 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.

48,756

Unduplicated People Served FY 2025

AGE



RACE

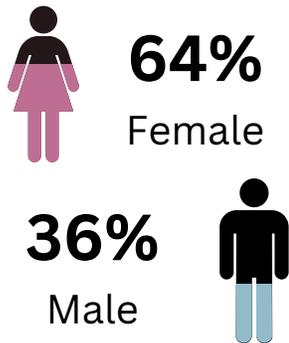
American Indian/Native Alaskan	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Black/African American	3%
Native Island or Pacific Islander	5%
White	95%

Serving those with the greatest social & economic need

22%

are at or below poverty

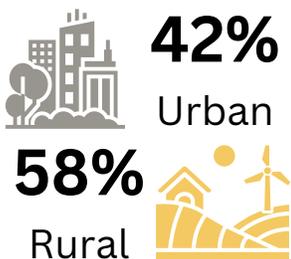
GENDER



Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino	3%
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LOCATION



3,416

Frail/
Disabled



Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) State Unit on Aging

The ADRC is for Nebraskans aged 60 years or older, people with disabilities of all ages, family members, caregivers, and advocates. ADRCs provide one or more services, including Information and Assistance, Options Counseling, Transitions Options Counseling, Benefits Assistance, and Mobility Training.

8 Area Agencies on Aging and 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.

9,587

Unique ADRC Consumers

40,034

Information and referral contacts



50,214

ADRC
Contacts



3,946

Hours of Benefits
Assistance

1,800

Hours of Options
Counseling



All ADRC services are
free for eligible persons



For more information:

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



Community Aging Services Act

State Unit on Aging

Senior Volunteer Program

Nebraska offers three (3) senior volunteer programs serving eight (8) counties (Buffalo, Nemaha, Deuel, Cheyenne, Dawes, Sioux, Kimball, & Garden) that provide opportunities for aged individuals to assist their communities while helping seniors maintain independence and companionship.

669

Supported
Volunteers

18,170

Volunteer
Hours

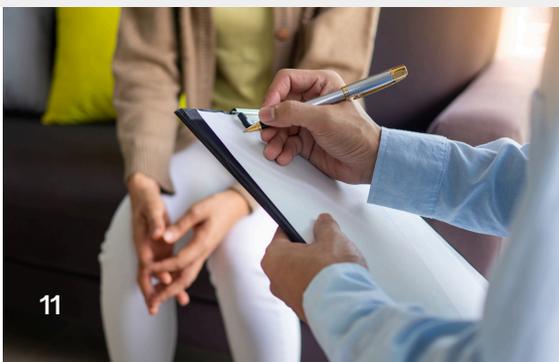


Care Management Program

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.

2,530

Individuals received
Care Management,
an increase of 87
individuals since FY 24.



36,662

Hours of Care
Management



Programs for Special Health Care Needs

Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS)

632
served }

The DPFS program is designed for the preservation of the family unit, maintaining independent living situations, and for disabled adults to remain or become employed.

Lifespan Respite Program (LRP)

Lifespan respite is designed to provide unpaid caregivers a break from the demands of ongoing care for recipients with special needs.

464
served }

Medically Handicapped Children’s Program

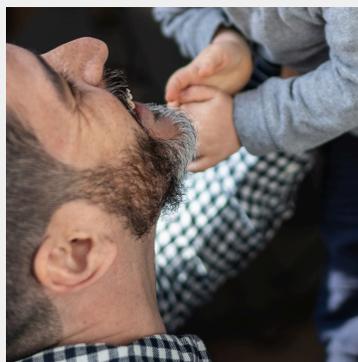
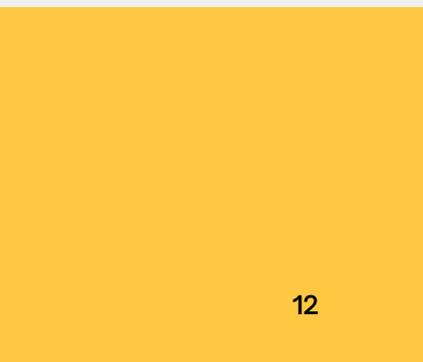
321
served }

Specialized medical services such as diagnostic/consultative services and treatment services, for children and your with special health care needs.

Disabled Children’s Program (DCP)

Service children and youth with disabilities through payment assistance for non-medical services and supports such as medical mileage and home/vehicle modifications

458
served }



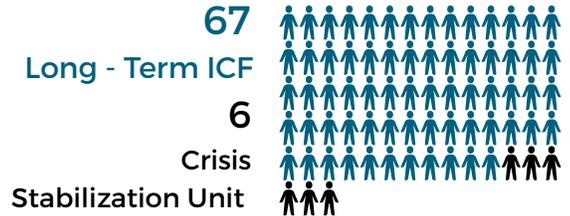
Beatrice State Developmental Center

The Division oversees Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC). BSDC is home to accredited Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID). 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.

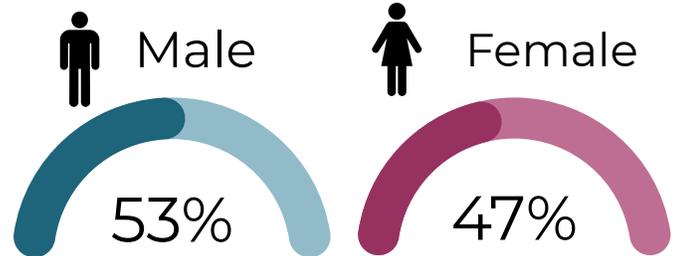
Also housed at BSDC is the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and Community Reintegration Program which address a critical gap in serving the population participating in home and community-based services (HCBS) DD waiver programs. Placement at the specialized unit is designed to be a temporary stay, providing a period of intense treatment and habilitation. The 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.

73
Total Campus Census at the end of FY 2025.

CENSUS BREAKDOWN



GENDER



AVERAGE AGE



AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY



Eligibility & Enrollment

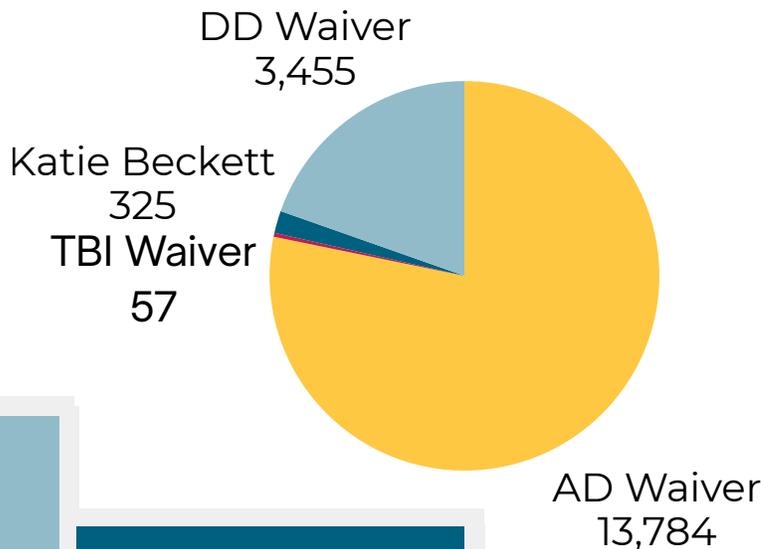
In FY 2025, the Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) team processed applications for all HCBS Waivers; completed Level of Care assessments; completed the inventory for Clients and Agency Planning (ICAP) to determine need level for DD waivers; and maintained the waitlist for people eligible for DD waivers.



Total Assessments Complete

for Eligibility, Level of Care, and Funding

17,621



interRAI

Developmental Disabilities Waivers Transition to the interRAI

An initiative that began in FY 2024 to modernize practices and improve person-centered care has come to an end. In FY 2025, the division completed stakeholder engagement, pilot project, trainings, and CMS approval. The division began utilizing the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD July 2025.

Service Coordination

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers

Service Coordination assists participants in coordinating services, developing Person-Centered Plans, monitoring services delivered, and ensuring the health and welfare of the participants they support.

“ Here to support you in having the most independent and fulfilling life possible ”

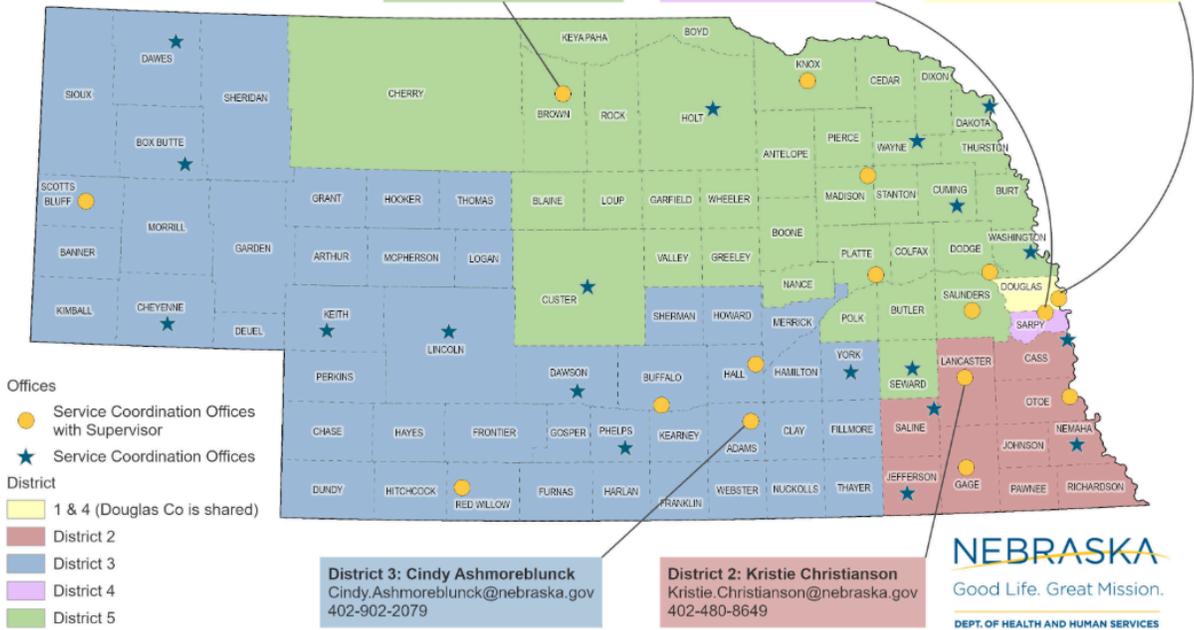
Developmental Disabilities Service Coordination

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 Jillion.Lieske@nebraska.gov
 402-471-8662

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 Staci.Ellermeier@nebraska.gov
 308-528-2657

District 4: Amy Nutter
 Amy.Nutter@nebraska.gov
 402-416-6473

District 1: Lynnae Johannes
 Lynnae.Johannes@nebraska.gov
 531-721-1243



275
DD Service Coordinators
Statewide



Service Coordination

Aged and Disabled (AD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waivers

When you have the AD Waiver, Service Coordination can be provided by:

- Nebraska Early Developmental Network (EDN)
- Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- League of Human Dignity (LHD) office.
- DHHS Local Officers

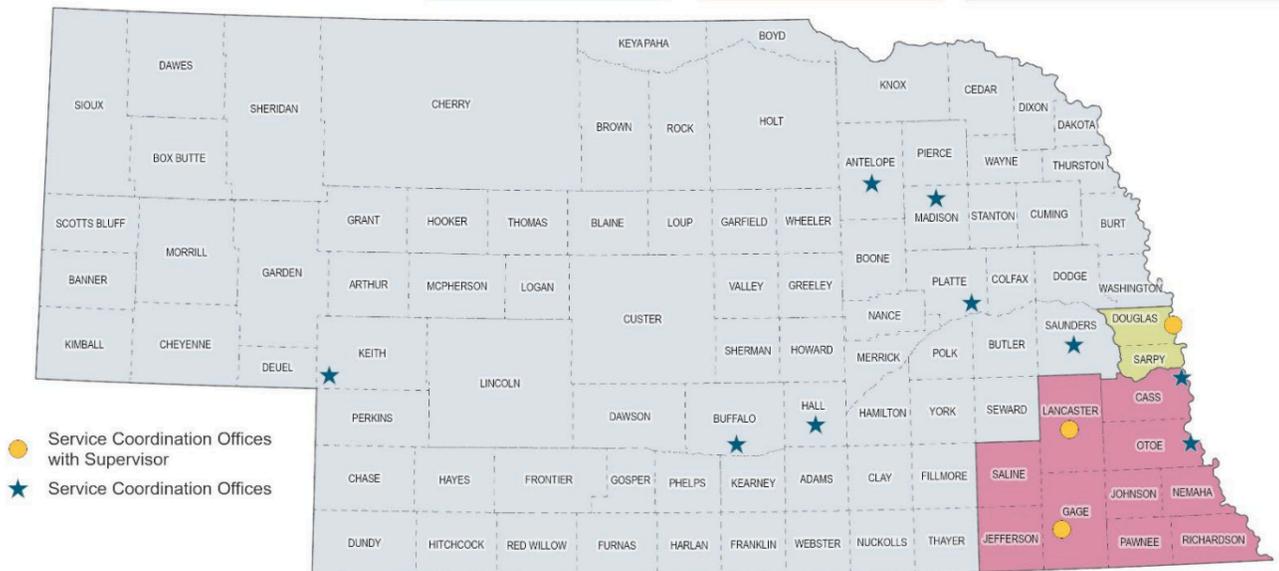
DHHS Aged and Disabled Service Coordination Office Locations

Karen Houseman, DHHS Program Manager II
 Karen.Houseman@nebraska.gov
 402-471-9329

Nancy Huber, Supervisor
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 Nancy.Huber@nebraska.gov
 308-765-0513

Lana Connor, Supervisor
 Omaha Metro
 Lana.Connor@nebraska.gov
 402-206-4997

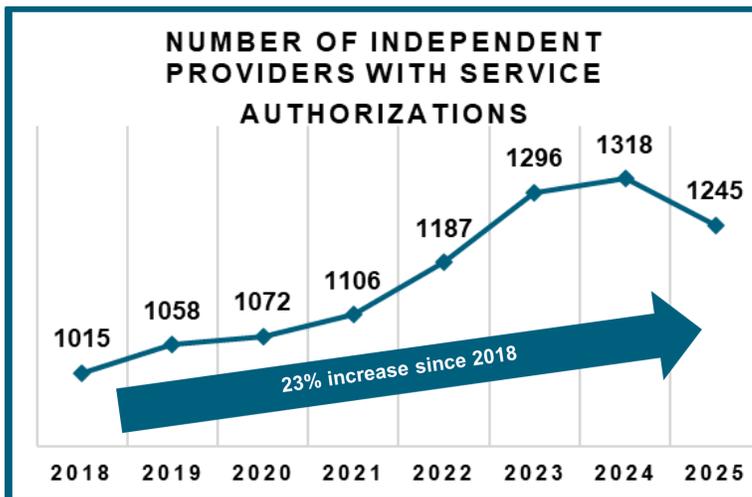
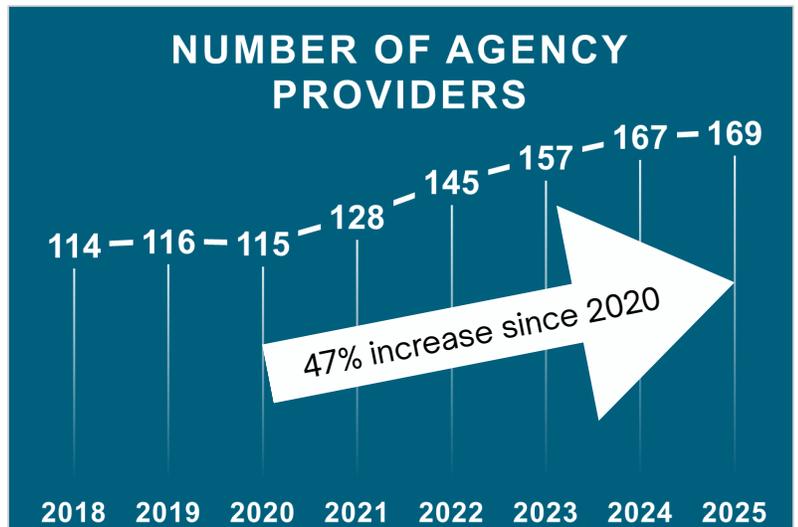
Trena Teeters, Supervisor
 Lincoln Metro and Southeast Nebraska
 Trena.Teeters@nebraska.gov
 402-657-1750



Developmental Disabilities Waiver Providers

You can choose the provider(s) you want to work with. There are different types of providers available for Medicaid HCBS waiver services.

DD agency providers are enrolled with Medicaid and certified by DHHS to provide developmental disabilities services. The agency provider is responsible for hiring and supervising employees and contractors who work with participants, and perform other administrative functions.



A **DD independent provider** is a person enrolled as a Medicaid provider and employed by the participant/guardian. The participant/guardian is responsible for hiring and supervising independent providers. Once a participant chooses a person, the service coordinator will help with the process as the state must ensure requirements are met.



Quality Management

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



Mortality Reviews

Liberty reviews **100%** of mortalities on Home and Community-Based Waiver services and at the Beatrice State Developmental Center.

Liberty also assists DHHS in chairing the Mortality Review Committee (MRC) where additional systemic and case-specific recommendations may be made by a panel of professionals and key stakeholders. Fifteen (15) cases reviewed by Mortality Review Committee provided **ten (10) case-specific and six (6) systemic recommendations made.**

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

The Critical Incident Management Process (CIMP) reviews 100% of high notification General Event Reports (GERs), and 10% of medium GERs.

256 Root Cause Analysis complete

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

Human and Legal Rights Advisory Committee

The HLRAC initiative was developed in partnership with Liberty Healthcare. Beginning in April 2025, the DDD QI team assumed responsibility for this initiative on an ongoing basis. The initiative includes oversight reviews of participant rights restrictions and provider HLRCs and committee review of referred cases. On average **30 direct stratified participants' rights restrictions reviewed per month.**



National Care Indicators



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

NCI - Aging and Disabilities

2023-2024 Adult Consumer Survey

856

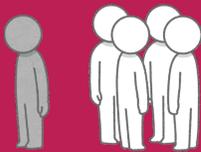
Surveys Completed

STATE PROGRAMS SURVEYED

- 308 • Aged & Disabled Waiver
- 276 • Personal Assistance Services
- 265 • Nursing Facility
- 7 • Traumatic Brain Injury

WELLNESS

8%



People that often feel lonely
National Average 21%

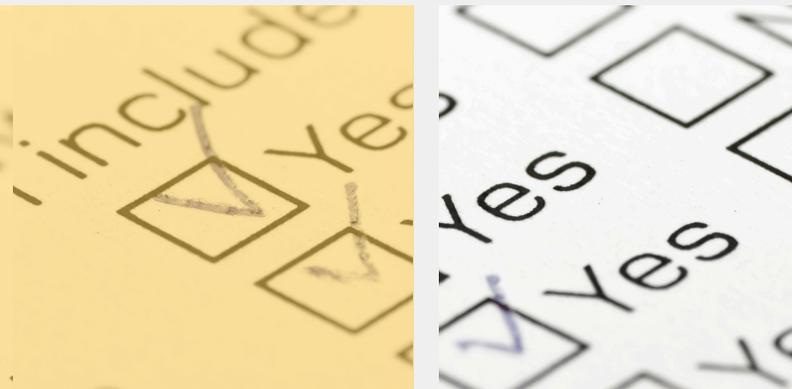
PERSON CENTERED-PLANNING

94%

Very or fully involved in making decisions about what is in the service plan
National Average 84%

SATISFACTION
95%

Percentage of people whose services and supports help them live the life they want!
National average 88%



NCI - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

2023-2024 In-Person Survey

The survey data represents the population of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) receiving at least one service in addition to case management/ service coordination from their state developmental disability service system.

401
Surveys Completed



Had a routine dental exam in the past year

HEALTH



Had a complete physical exam in the past year

92%

SERVICE COORDINATION

96%

Service coordinator knows what is important to person.

National Average 90%



EMPLOYMENT



31%

Has a paid community job!
National Average 17%

SCAN HERE

for additional quality assurance information or NCI survey responses.



FY 2025 Expenditures

Total funds expended through the Division of Developmental Disabilities

\$960,553,188

Community-Based Waiver Services

\$902,532,738

Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver	\$480,054,737
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Developmental Disabilities Adult Day (DDAD) Waiver	\$11,964,931
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Family Support Waiver (FSW)	\$315,082
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Aged & Disabled (AD) Waiver	409,466,027
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Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver	\$731,961
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Special Health Care Needs Programs

\$1,523,637

Disabled Children's Program (DCP)	\$133,278
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Lifespan Respite Program (LRP)	\$326,656
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Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS)	\$897,440
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Medically Handicapped Children's Program (MHCP)	\$161,463
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Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP)	\$4,800
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State Unit on Aging

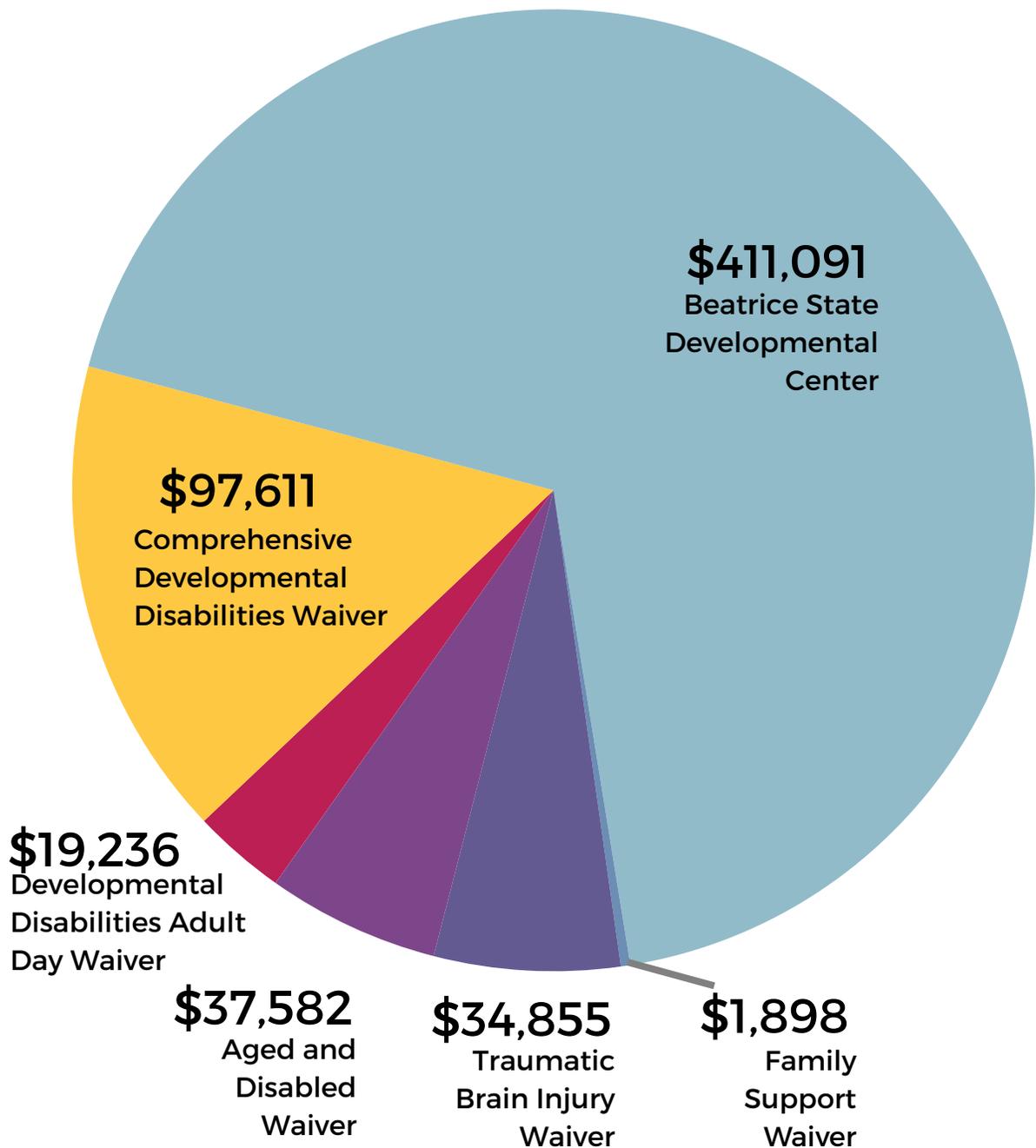
\$24,842,753

Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC)

\$31,654,060

Average Annual Cost Per Person

Home and Community-Based Services Waivers and Beatrice State Developmental Center



DD Awareness Month Awards

On April 30, 2025, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) announced the winners of the 2025 Developmental Disabilities (DD) Awareness Month Awards.

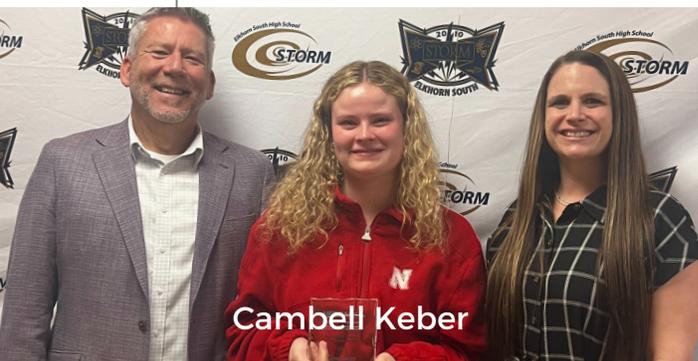
Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) and members of the developmental disabilities community across Nebraska had the opportunity to nominate individuals, providers, community leaders, and employers for one of four awards.

Community Leader Award

This award recognizes a person or group who is extraordinary in giving their time (paid or unpaid) to help people with IDD. These selfless leaders work toward promoting independence and making positive changes. This leader showcases a passion for making advances in individual lives.

The Community Leader Award was presented to:

- Sam Comfort – Omaha
- Cambell Keber – Elkhorn
- Dr. Jay Gilbert – Crete



Individual Spotlight Award

The Individual Spotlight Award was presented to:

- Jason Gieschen – Ogallala,
- Edward Kraska – Omaha,
- Davonisha Tolbert-Baker – Omaha.

This award recognizes a person with IDD who has overcome adversity to achieve or go beyond their goals. This person demonstrates a drive to be better, a desire to be more independent, and wants to make a difference in their life and the lives of others.

Outstanding Provider Award

This award recognizes a provider who excels in delivering services, strives for person-centered outcomes, creates or supports a welcoming culture, and goes above and beyond to support people with IDD to live their best life as defined by them.

The Outstanding Provider Award was presented to:

- Betty Poe (Independent Provider) – Hastings
- Seth Jackson of Habilitative Opportunities – Lincoln
- Jean Hunt (Independent Provider) – Ainsworth (No picture available)

Seth Jackson



Jason Gieschen



Edward Kraska



Davonisha Tolbert-Baker



Betty Poe



Creative Employer Award

This award recognizes a community employer who employs someone with IDD. This employer goes above and beyond expectations to help the employee thrive in their workplace. The culture at this place of employment is open and creative.

The Creative Employer Award was presented to:

- Wisper Skate Shop – Norfolk,
- Front Street Steakhouse – Ogallala,
- High Street Insurance Partners – Norfolk



Celebrating DD Awareness Month



In March 2025, DDD celebrated DD Awareness month with a proclamation signed by Governor Jim Pillen to recognize March as DD Awareness Month.



Contacts

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Policy

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Division Leadership

Eligibility, Policy, and Quality

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Beatrice State Developmental Center

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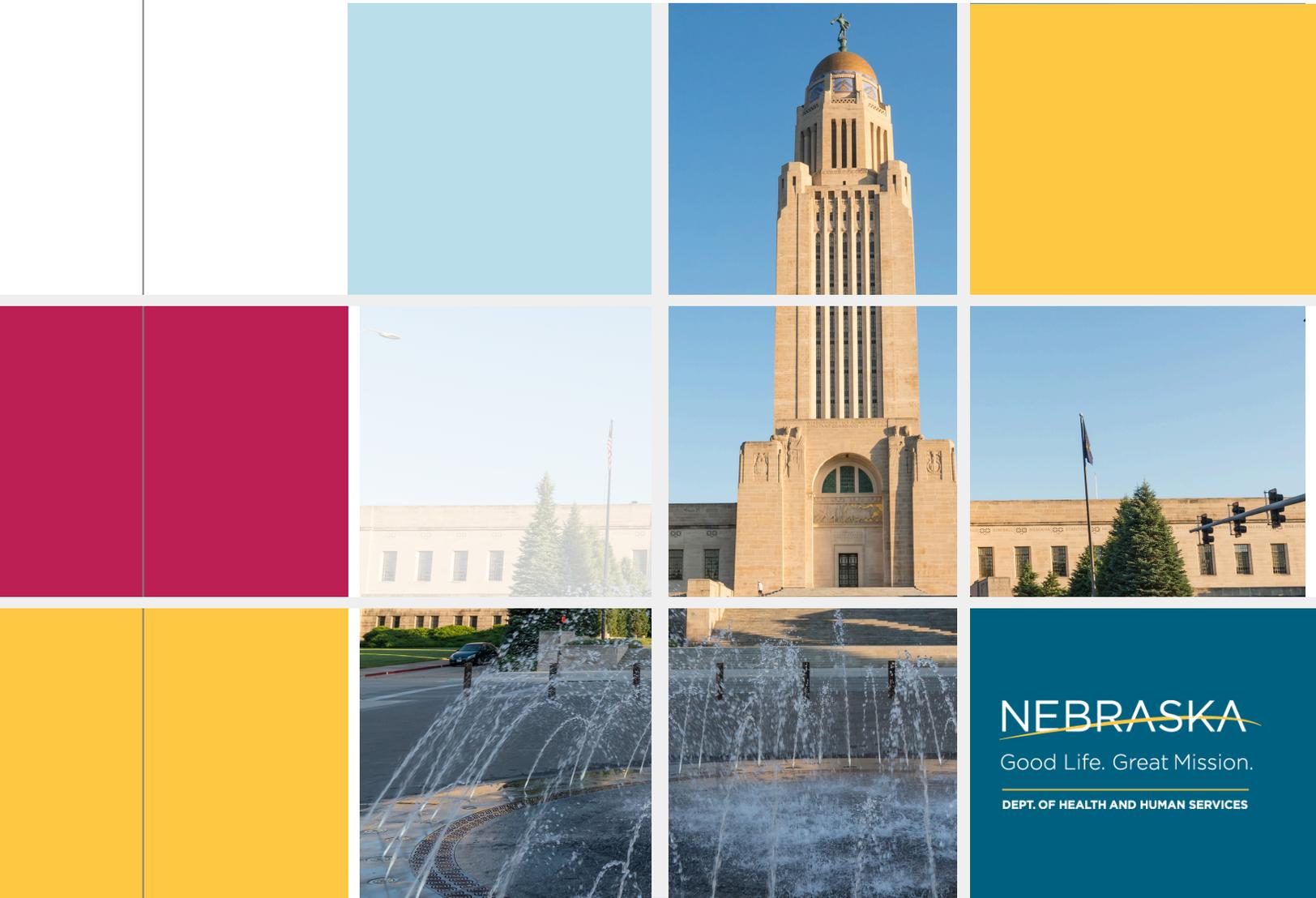
Eligibility and Enrollment

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Email: Crystal.Wheeler@nebraska.gov





NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

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

 877-667-6266

 www.dhhs.ne.gov