

December 20, 2013

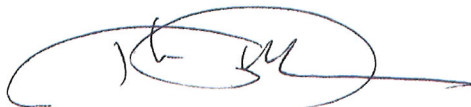
Governor Dave Heineman
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Governor Heineman:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. section 68-1518 of the Disabled Person and Family Support Act, please find the enclosed annual report. The report includes the number of clients who applied for and were served by the program, types of services applied for and provided, and the effects of support on clients with disabilities and their families.

If you have additional questions or concerns regarding this report, please contact myself or Jodie Gibson, at (402) 471-1069.

Sincerely,



Thomas Pristow, MSW, ACSW, Director
Division of Children & Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Enclosure

**FY 2013 Annual Report
Disabled Persons and Family Support Program**

Prepared by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 68-1518

The Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Program provides state-funded assistance to individuals of all ages who meet specified income and disability criteria. The program assists people with disabilities to remain employed, maximize their independence, and remain in their homes with their families. Eligible individuals may receive funding up to \$300 a month or \$3,600 annually for services such as personal care, housekeeping, transportation, special equipment, and vehicle or home modifications. The Program does not operate as an entitlement and services are intended to supplement, but not reduce the responsibility for the services and supports available through other programs for which the family or disabled person is eligible such as Medicaid, Social Services Block Grant or other programs with Federal funding.

❖ **Number of persons applying for and receiving support**

735 persons applied for DPFS services or had their eligibility for services re-determined in FY 2013. Of these, 444 persons were served at an annual cost of \$910,000.

<u>Ages of Clients</u>	<u>Number of Clients</u>
Children (Birth-18)	2
Adults (19-64)	76
Elderly (65-105)	366
Total	444

Funding for DPFS has remained level since 1988. Referrals frequently come from Area Agencies on Aging staff assisting persons discharged from either a hospital or nursing facility to their own home. 429 individuals served in FY 2013 did not qualify for Medicaid and were not eligible for other programs. DPFS workers screen all applications to assure that other funding sources are accessed when appropriate.

Applications are prioritized so that individuals with a personal care need are served first. Personal care includes assistance with essential daily activities such as bathing, dressing, eating and preparing meals.

❖ **Payment and Eligibility**

1. The CONNECT Database system (Office of Communications and Information Officer – OCIO) supports monitoring client eligibility and provider payment/client reimbursement of DPFS.
2. Claims are processed at Central Office with the EnterpriseOne system and include a three-level claims payment approval process by a Payment Reviewer, Program Staff, and Program Manager to validate accuracy.
3. Total gross monthly income guideline based on family size:

Family Size of 1	\$1,364
Family Size of 2	\$1,784
Family Size of 3	\$2,203
Family Size of 4	\$2,623
4. DPFS requires medical information to determine severe chronic disability. Priorities for support are set based on available funding.

DPFS assistance during FY 2013 averaged \$2,050.00 per person which enabled individuals to remain at home as independently as possible, thereby reducing institutional costs funded by other programs. The types of services provided are presented in the following table:

DPFS Services	# of persons
Personal Care	381
Housekeeping	288
Home Delivered Meals	96
Incontinent Supplies	42
Architectural Modifications	38
Special Equipment	12
Mileage	9
Vehicle Modifications	9
Transportation (Commercial Travel)	4
Meals	3
Lodging	1

❖ **Effects of support on clients with disabilities and their families**

The following case synopses illustrate the impact of DPFS support for six clients. Individuals served by the program have differing personal situations and may have service needs that vary in scope, amount, and duration. These examples demonstrate how

DPFS services are used and are coordinated with other types of assistance to meet the clients' specific needs.

Client 1 – Female, age 65, suffered a stroke in 2003. She also has an inoperable brain tumor, uses oxygen due to respiratory issues, and ambulates with a walker due to her balance issues. The program provides support with personal care and housekeeping services. Judy's monthly income is approximately \$1,200.00 per month and the \$300.00 allotment of program funds enables Judy to live in an independent living arrangement in Omaha. She is very appreciative for the assistance and opportunity to remain in her home.

Client 2 – Female, age 63, has recently moved in with her daughter in a small town due to health issues. She requires daily home dialysis and needs assistance with personal hygiene and mobility. The program provides her the ability to receive care from her family in their home.

Client 3 – Female, age 91, lives with her son in a midsize town. She uses a wheelchair for mobility and her son assists with most of her daily needs. Through the program, she receives bathing assistance so that this service does not have to be provided by her son. The program also supports home delivered meals and incontinence products for her to enable her to remain at home where she is happy.

Client 4 – Male, age 82, lives independently in a small town. He has a diagnosis of neuromuscular disorder which severely limits his ability to care for himself. In addition, he has heart and respiratory issues. He needs help with bathing, catheter care, grocery shopping, bill paying, and medical transportation. According to the recent Doctor's report, which is required with the client's application, he is able to stay home with assistance that is offered through the program.

Client 5 – Male, age 24, has a traumatic brain injury. He requires care for all of his activities of daily living. In order for him to leave the nursing facility and live with his family in a community setting, entrance modification was needed to provide him accessibility into the family home. DPFS supported this modification request and funded the project so that he was able to move home with his family.

Client 6 – Female, age 66, works part-time. She has a diagnosis of post-polio syndrome which has limited her ability to only the use of the fingers on her right hand. She continues to reside in her own home. The program contributes \$300 to meeting her daily care needs to support her continuing to remain in her home.

❖ **Proposals for amendment of sections 68-1501 to 68-1519**

No amendments to the DPFS statutes are proposed.