

December 31, 2014

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

Dear Governor Heineman:

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. section 68-1518 of the Disabled Persons and Family Support Act, please find the enclosed annual report indicating the number of clients who applied for and were served by the program, types of services applied for and provided, 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,



Jill Schreck, Deputy Director
Division of Children & Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Enclosure

FY 2014 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**

437 persons applied for DPFS services or had their eligibility for services re-determined in FY 2014. Of these, 397 persons were served and billed for authorized services during July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 at a cost of \$867,325.00 of the annual \$910,000.00 budget allocation.

| <u>Ages of Clients</u> | <u>Number of Clients</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Children (Birth-18) | 6 |
| Adults (19-64) | 81 |
| Elderly (65-105) | 310 |
| Total | 397 |

Funding for DPFS has remained level since 1988. Referrals frequently come from Area Agencies on Aging staff assisting persons to remain in their own home. 397 individuals served in FY 2014 did not qualify for Medicaid or 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 2014 averaged \$2,185.00 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 | 318 |
| Housekeeping | 228 |
| Home Delivered Meals | 55 |
| Incontinent Supplies | 26 |
| Architectural Modifications | 37 |
| Special Equipment | 8 |
| Mileage | 17 |
| Vehicle Modifications | 7 |
| Transportation (Commercial Travel) | 4 |
| Meals | 7 |
| Lodging | 2 |

❖ **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 39, lives with her husband and two children on a farm. Because of orthopedic and other health impairments she requires the use of a wheelchair. Unfortunately, she was unable to adequately access her bathroom. DPFS funding, coordinated with other programs, enabled the completion of essential architectural modifications. She now enjoys her bathroom and reports a renewed sense of dignity and self-respect.

Client 2 – Male, age 91, has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. He lives with his daughter and son-in-law in Omaha. The help he receives through DPFS with his personal care needs provides a much-needed break in the 24/7 caregiving responsibilities provided by the family.

Client 3 – Female, age 79, lives alone in rural western Nebraska. She has lost her vision due to advanced macular degeneration. Parkinson's disease, severe arthritis, heart problems and hypertension limit her mobility and independence. Help from family has not been available on a consistent basis. For the past seven years she has been determined eligible for assistance with personal care needs and housekeeping. DPFS has supported her choice to remain in her own home despite multiple hospitalizations.

Client 4 – Female, age 88, is determined to remain independent despite her mobility impairment and difficulties resulting from a respiratory system disorder, coronary heart failure, vision limitations and diabetes. The disability report provided by her physician indicates she is unable to walk without the assistance of a walker or cane. She is unable to navigate the stairs of her home and uses a stair glide to the upper level where her bedroom and bathroom are located. DPFS provides funding assistance to support much-needed help with personal care, essential shopping, meal preparation, and light housekeeping duties.

Client 5 – Female, age 68, lives alone in a small town. Three years ago she had a stroke which left her paralyzed on her right side and she now tires easily. Her short-term memory problems affect when she takes her medications or remembering she has medical appointments. She is no longer able to drive or manage her finances. Her daughter helps all she can and is appreciative of the \$300 monthly support her mother receives for help with personal care and housekeeping tasks.

Client 6 – Female, age 85, lives alone in Grand Island. DPFS provides funding to allow her to direct a provider to assist her with bathing, dressing and help with meal preparation. She has medical issues related to arthritis, visual impairments and complications with diabetes. She is able to remain in her own home with the assistance of the program.

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

No amendments to the DPFS statutes are proposed. However, program staff are actively proposing regulation changes to better reflect statutory intent and are revising program forms to improve eligibility determination.