

**Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
Vocational & Life Skills Program
Quarterly Report**

DATE: July 1, 2016

TO: Pete Ricketts, Governor
Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature

FROM: Dawn-Renee Smith, Reentry Administrator

RE: Vocational & Life Skills (VLS) Program

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Statute 83-904, the following provides a report on aid distributed under the Vocational & Life Skills Program.

The following community organizations have received funding under the vocational and life skills grant program:

Goodwill Industries – RESTART; Western Alternative Corrections, Inc.; Center For People In Need; Metropolitan Community College; Released and Restored, Inc.; Mental Health Association of Nebraska; Prairie Gold Homes; ResCare Workforce Services

Funding was awarded in January and programs could begin program design and hiring, effective February 1, 2015. All programs are fully staffed and providing services to the target population.

Number of Individuals Receiving Programming this quarter (January – March 2016)	437
Types of Programming	Vocational; life skills
Cost per Individual	See below *
Number of Individuals Successfully Completed Programming this quarter	190**

*Although cost per individual is identified, it does not provide an accurate picture of the true cost per client. These numbers will be much more accurately represented at the end of the grant cycle, quarter ending June 30, 2016.

**Successful completion is difficult to capture during the grant period as grantees are working with individuals even after they obtain employment. Additionally, some programs conduct one-day seminars, for example, and there are no specific criteria for successful completion outside of their attendance. The number displayed reflects the total expenditures for the total number of individuals served through March 31, 2016.

Grantee	# receiving program for the QTR.	# successfully completed for the QTR.	Total # receiving programing to date	Total # successfully receiving programing to date	Cost per individual to date
Mental Health Assoc.	32	22	109	39	\$4,416.83
Metro Community College	146	44	1000	122	\$359.71
Released & Restored	46	20	123	75	\$570.60
Prairie Gold Homes	18	19	61	49	\$9,852.80
Goodwill Restart	55	6	183	6	\$1,095.04
Center for People In Need	22	18	198	84	\$3,619.96
Bristol Station	32	8	112	27	\$5,588.48
ResCare	86	53	267	140	\$822.02

Explanation of Differences from Previous Reports by UNO Evaluators

Beginning in 2015, quarterly grantee data was collected to meet grant requirements established in LB 907. At this point, additional data was not being collected and numbers were self-reported by programs to NDCS staff through the end of 2015.

Starting in January 2016, evaluators began to collect monthly grant requirement data in addition to other program data that was already being collected. Definitions for grant requirement data were established at this time. Creating definitions was important to make sure data was being submitted in the same way representing the exact participant data for each program. By creating definitions for program data that currently did not exist, the numbers being reported may have changed from previous reports. The current quarterly data report reflects these changes.

In the new grant cycle, starting July 1st, programs will be submitting program data directly into an online data management system. Evaluators will then access this data directly and use a detailed process to collect required grant data in the same way across programs using established definitions. This data will then be combined with background information on each program for quarterly reporting.

Funds not expended:

The grant cycle includes the five months of FY 2014-2015 and all of FY 2015-2016. All available funds were awarded to eight organizations. Any funds not expended will be known at the end of FY 2015-2016 and, per statute, will be carried into the next fiscal year.

cc: Scott R. Frakes, Director
 Senator Bob Krist, Chair, Executive Board of the Legislature
 Rosalyn Cotton, Chair, Board of Parole
 Mike Rothwell, Deputy Director
 Kevin Hand, Vocational & Life Skills Coordinator
 Grantees
 File

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