

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

November 5, 2020

Governor Pete Ricketts
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Re: Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Annual Report FY 2020

Dear Governor Ricketts:

Attached please find the Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Annual Report for FY 2020. This report covers the State Fiscal Year 2020, July 1, 2019 through June 30th, 2020.

The Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Program provides state-funded assistance to individuals statewide who meet income and disability criteria based upon intent of statutes. In assessing client needs for Program services, personal care needs and personal care services receive priority. Personal care includes assistance with essential daily activities such as bathing, dressing, eating and preparing meals, grooming/dressing/hygiene, toilet use, mobility and transferring and medication management. Level of cognitive need and memory support is critical.

In FY 2020, one hundred and seventy-four (174) persons were reviewed for eligibility, with 90 of those persons being eligible at a cost of \$164,356.80 in general funds.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 402-471-1757 or Stephanie.L.Beasley@nebraska.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Beasley".

Stephanie Beasley, Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

**FY 2020 Annual Report
Disabled Persons and Family Support Program**

October 2020

This report highlights the number of persons with disabilities applying for support, the number receiving support and the types of services and supports provided for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services administers the Disabled Persons and Family Support Program (DPFS) based upon Nebraska State Statute Sections 68-1501 through 68-1519, regulation citation NAC Title 472. The program is designed to encourage:

- (A) Employable persons with disabilities who live independently to remain or become employed; and
- (B) Disabled adults who reside in an independent living situation to maintain their maximum level of independence.

The Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Program provides state-funded assistance to individuals statewide who meet income and disability criteria based upon intent of statutes. The maximum amount authorized is based on documented need and available funds, up to \$300 per month or \$3,600 per eligibility year. In assessing client needs for Program services, personal care needs and personal care services received priority. Personal care includes assistance with essential daily activities such as bathing, dressing, eating and preparing meals, grooming/dressing/hygiene, toilet use, mobility and transferring and medication management. The individual's level of cognitive need and memory support is critical. The services that may be authorized include the following:

- Personal care assistance;
- Purchase or lease of adaptive equipment or architectural modification of a home;
- Disability-related counseling or training;
- Medical, surgical, therapeutic, diagnostic and other health services related to the disability or disabilities;
- Housekeeping and essential shopping for adults living alone or married couples when both parties are determined disabled;
- Payment of medical supplies and physical and/or mental health services;
- Medical mileage; and
- Vehicle modifications.

The program does not operate as an entitlement. Services are intended to supplement, but not replace or reduce, the responsibility for the services and supports available through other programs for which the family or person with a disability is eligible, or may be eligible, such as Medicaid, Social Services Block Grant or other programs with federal funding. The program is a client-directed program that, by state statute, requires the client or his/her authorized representative to hire and fire providers based on personal satisfaction with service delivery. The U.S. Department of Labor Home Care Rules, Fair

Labor Standards Act (FLSA), regarding overtime pay and protections to home care workers, do not apply to DPFS providers.

Promulgated rules and regulations are being revised so they are not duplicative of what is already in statute, are clear, and are aligned with statutory intent. Changes will also be made to update eligibility requirements, which will include changing income guidelines to assist needy individuals who are in the process of, but not yet receiving Medicaid.

Numbers and Expenditures

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, one hundred and seventy-four (174) persons were reviewed for eligibility, with 90 of those persons being eligible (up from 75 the previous year) at a cost of \$164,356.80 in general funds of the annual \$185,003 budget allocation. The previous year's cost was \$123,977 and the allocation was \$135,000. The most frequent reasons cases were denied or closed were that a person did not meet application requirements (such as the providing eligibility paperwork), the individual was over the income/resources threshold, or no current application was submitted. Another common reason for eligibility denial or case closure was a person's eligibility for other government programs that could meet the person's needs.

Funding, income and resource limits have remained level since 1988.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Income (140% Federal Poverty Level)</u>
1	\$1,364
2	\$1,784
3	\$2,203
4	\$2,623

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Maximum Financial Resource Limit</u>
1	\$7,280
2	\$10,930

**Yearly Unduplicated Cases Worked
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020
(Individuals counted in the total no more than once)**

	Open	Deny	Close	Total
Children (Birth – 18)	3	7	8	18
Adults (19 - 59)	17	22	24	63
Elderly (60+)	15	55	23	93
Grand Totals:	35	84	55	174