

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

December 17, 2021

Governor Pete Ricketts
Nebraska State Capital
1445 K Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Governor Ricketts,

The Neb. Rev. Stat. section 68-1518 requires the Department of Health and Human Services to provide an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS) Program. The report is to include the number of families and disabled persons applying and receiving support under the DPFS Act, the types of services and programs being applied for as well as those being provided through the act, and the effects of the supports provided under the act. The attached report fulfills that statutory mandate.

We appreciate the opportunity to share with the Governor and the Legislature the essential supports provided through this program for Nebraska family caregivers and recipients of the services. Please contact Kristen Smith, Special Populations Program Administrator I. Ms. Smith's email address is Kristen.Smith@nebraska.gov or you can call her at 402-450-9837.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure



FY 2021 Annual Report Disabled Persons and Family Support Program October 2021

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, 2020, to June 30, 2021. 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 provide for:

- (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 the 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 (housekeeping) 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 effects of the supports provided through the DPFS program allow for individuals to remain living within their homes and also offer the opportunity to access employment via vehicle modifications, purchase and/or lease of adaptive equipment, and through the support of disability-related counseling or training.

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 function 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. It 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, less restrictive, clearer, and 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, but not yet receiving Medicaid.

Numbers and Expenditures

One hundred and fifty-three (153) persons were reviewed for eligibility, with 70 of those persons being eligible between July 1st, 2020 and June 30, 2021 (a decrease from the 90 persons found eligible the previous year) at a total cost of \$189,067 in general funds of the annual \$185,003 budget allocation (previous year's cost was \$164,356.80 and the allocation was \$185,003). Out of 70 persons that were determined eligible for the program, 40 (57%) of those persons were able to continue to reside independently within their residences or were able to continue to reside with their spouse.

The most common reason cases were denied or closed was that the person(s) did not meet application requirements; such as the failure to provide eligibility paperwork when requested, they were over income/resources, and no current application was submitted for renewal within the program. Another common denial reason that was found for denial or closure was that there were other government programs available that the person(s) were eligible for that could meet their needs.

Funding, income, and resource limits have remained level since 1989.

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income (140% Federal Poverty Level)	Maximum Financial Resource Limit
1	\$1,364	\$7,280
2	\$1,784	\$10,930
3	\$2,203	
4	\$2,623	

Yearly Unduplicated Cases Worked
(Individuals counted in the total no more than once)

Age	Open	Deny	Close	Total
Children (Birth – 18)	2	2	4	8
Adults (19 - 59)	39	23	12	74
Elderly (60+)	31	32	8	71
Grand Totals:	72	57	24	153

DPFS Types of Services and Programs being Billed/Utilized FY21

Services	Number of Bills Submitted per Service
Personal Care	611
Architecture Modifications	6
Housekeeping	204
Incontinence/Medical Supplies	29
Medical, Surgical, Therapeutic Diagnostics	2
Mileage	11
Prescriptions	49
Special Equipment	13
Vehicle Modifications/Equipment Repair	3
TOTAL	928