

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 31, 2023

The Honorable Jim Pillen
Governor of Nebraska
State Capitol Room 2316
Lincoln, NE 68509

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol Room 2028
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Nebraska Health Care Funding Act Report

Dear Governor Pillen and Mr. Metzler:

Attached please find the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act Report for State Fiscal Year 2023, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-7606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Meals".

John Meals
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment

Department of Health and Human Services

Nebraska Health Care Funding Act Report

State Fiscal Year 2023

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-7606

Use of Appropriated Funds

Illustrated below are the appropriations from LB380 (2021); the expenditures through June 30, 2023; and the committed funds at the end of the fiscal year. Note that expenditures are not always indicative of the use of funds as some services are rendered in one fiscal year and paid in the following year.

Program Number & Description	Appropriation	Expenditures	Committed
Prog 030 Tobacco Prevention Programs	\$ 2,570,000	\$ 1,486,348	\$ 1,083,652
Prog 033 Community Health Operations	\$ 100,000	\$ 74,353	\$ 25,647
Prog 033 Lifespan Respite Services Program Administration	\$ 404,643	\$ 195,196	\$ 209,447
Prog 033 Medicaid Smoking Cessation Program Administration	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Prog 033 Minority Health Satellite Offices	\$ 220,000	\$ 155,563	\$ 64,437
Prog 033 Out of Hospital Emergency Care Providers Licensing	\$ 13,688	\$ 13,688	\$ -
Prog 033 Parkinson's Disease Registry	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ -
Prog 038 Community Based Mental Health Services	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 4,574,127	\$ 1,925,873
Prog 038 Emergency Protective Custody Mental Health Care	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 943,021	\$ 556,979
Prog 250 Mental Health Services for Juvenile Offenders	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 781,755	\$ 218,245
Prog 344 Children's Health Insurance	\$ 6,835,700	\$ 6,835,700	\$ -
Prog 347 Lifespan Respite Services Program Aid	\$ 810,000	\$ 279,344	\$ 530,656
Prog 348 Tobacco Use Cessation Coverage	\$ 450,000	\$ 10,346	\$ 439,654
Prog 424 Developmental Disability Aid	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -
Prog 502 Community Health Centers Uninsured	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 0
Prog 502 Local Public Health Departments	\$ 5,605,000	\$ 5,605,000	\$ -
Prog 502 Minority Public Health Services	\$ 2,875,000	\$ 2,097,920	\$ 777,080
Prog 514 Brain Injury Trust Fund	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -
Prog 514 Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative NEW	\$ 130,000	\$ 93,008	\$ 36,992
Prog 514 Poison Control Center	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -
Prog 621 Stem Cell Research Program	\$ 450,000	\$ 447,234	\$ 2,766
Prog 623 Biomedical Research	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 14,197,609	\$ 802,391
Agency 03 Legislative Council	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ -
Agency 11 Attorney General	\$ 595,807	\$ -	\$ 595,807
Agency 16 DOR Tobacco Settlement Agreement Administration	\$ 329,808	\$ 247,975	\$ 12,207
Agency 16 DOR Compulsive Gamblers Assistance	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -
Agency 51 UNMC Pancreatic Cancer NEW	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ -
Agency 70 Foster Care Review Office	\$ 190,249	\$ 156,500	\$ 33,749
	\$ 67,386,895	\$ 59,920,689	\$ 7,321,580

Associated Outcomes for DHHS Programs

In many cases, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) awards the funds to a third-party entity and the outcome for the department is the successful granting of the award. In those cases, a brief description of the program is listed below.

Prog 030 Tobacco Prevention & Control

Tobacco Prevention Programs

Funding is used for tobacco prevention, reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, addressing tobacco-related health disparities, and helping people quit tobacco. Program areas include the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline, an educational media component, as well as program surveillance and evaluation, youth prevention efforts, and sub-grants to nine areas for tobacco prevention and control work.

Prog 033 Administration

Community Health Operations

Please see Prog 502 Local Public Health Departments for outcome details.

Lifespan Respite Services Program

Please see Prog 347 Lifespan Respite Services Program Aid for outcome details.

Medicaid Smoking Cessation Program

Please see Prog 348 Tobacco Use Cessation Coverage for outcome details.

Minority Health Satellite Offices

Please see Prog 502 Minority Public Health Services for outcome details.

Out of Hospital Emergency Care Providers Licensing

This funding is used for base costs for licensing individual providers of emergency medical services. Base costs include expenses such as salaries, postage, e-commerce, equipment, and communications. Under this program, there are 1,586 paramedics, 53 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT), 36 Emergency Medical Technicians I (EMT-I), 5,747 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), 332 Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), 281 EMS Instructors, 304 EMS Basic Life Support Services, 114 Advanced Life Support Services, and 19 EMS Training Agency that are licensed.

Parkinson's Disease Registry

DHHS Office of Health Statistics uses these funds to collect, validate, and update the Parkinson's Disease Registry to monitor the incidence and mortality of Parkinson's Disease (PD) in Nebraska. Approximately 17,700 cases have been reported since the inception of the Registry. These funds are also used to process and complete data requests, collaborate with facilities and providers to report this critical data to the state Registry and promote the use of the registry data in finding potential causes and innovative treatments for this devastating disease.

- Design of a Parkinson's Registry Electronic data platform is complete. The Registry team is working closely with state Providers and facilities to report cases electronically. Providers will be able to input data directly into the system, upload their files, or set up electronic data exchange.
- Collaboration continues to establish standard data requirements for PD with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Council of State Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), other States, and the Michael J. Fox Foundation.
- The Registry team works closely with the PD Advisory team to limit reporting to only the most critical data elements and remove any duplicative language or problematic data elements to ease the reporting burden.

Registry data is used in well water and occupational correlation studies. The Registry data is also linked to other DHHS databases such as cancer and traumatic brain injury, the state death file, and hospital discharge data for research.

Prog 038 Behavioral Health Aid

Community-Based Mental Health Services

Continued services to consumers in communities (non-state hospital-based).

Emergency Protective Custody Mental Health Care

Crisis Centers/hospitals reimbursed for days of service related to Emergency Protected Custody.

Prog 250 Mental Health Services for Juvenile Offenders

Outcomes for this program include:

- An average of 65 youths received mental health therapy services each month, along with all youths admitted to YRTC-Lincoln.
- 16 youth transitioned to the YRTC-Lincoln for specialized stabilization and treatment of disruptive behavior or acute mental health needs.
- An average of 28 youth were provided with substance abuse treatment services each month.
- 86% of youth admitted to YRTC-Kearney, and 100% of youth at YRTC-Hastings, had substance use issues warranting treatment.
- An average of 20 youth were provided psychiatric telehealth services by Boys Town National Research Hospital each month.

- All youth at YRTC-Hastings participated in weekly psycho/educational Recovery Groups related to substance use issues.
- Mental health medication management was provided by an APRN for an average of 13 youths each month.
- Case Managers and Unit Managers made 5,217 contacts with parents and 5,855 contacts with Children and Family Services Specialists and Probation Officers.

Prog 344 Children’s Health Insurance

Provides health care to Nebraskans under the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Prog 347 Lifespan Respite Services Program

The Lifespan Respite Services Program provides funding for eligible unpaid primary family caregivers, hereinafter “caregivers”, to purchase respite services. The Program is authorized by Nebraska Revised Statute §§ 68-1520 through 68-1528. Respite services are designed to give caregivers a break from providing ongoing care for recipients with special needs who cannot care for themselves. The program continues to focus its efforts on increasing the subsidy’s utilization and meeting the needs of Nebraskans.

In FY23, 72% of the total cases reviewed by the program staff for respite services were under the age of 19 years old. The program worked 467 total cases in FY23. This was an increase from FY22, as 459 client cases were reviewed and managed by program staff in the prior fiscal year. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 216 open cases of individuals utilizing respite services. This was the same number of open cases at the end of FY22.

The program provides \$125 per month per eligible participant for the purchase of respite services. Additionally, an adult respite recipient or their caregiver may submit an Exceptional Circumstance or Exceptional Need Application to request an additional monthly subsidy utilizing exceptional circumstance funding (crisis respite). The maximum exceptional circumstance funding per client is \$1000 per 12-month eligibility period. With the provision of respite funding, the basic intent is to:

- Prevent or postpone out-of-home placements or care at public expense.
- Reduce family and caregiver stress.
- Enhance the family and the caregiver’s coping abilities.
- Strengthen the family and the caregiver’s ability to meet the demands of caring for family members; and
- Reduce the risk of abuse or neglect of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable individuals.

Living Arrangement	Number of Clients
Adult Living with Child	*
Adult Living with Relative	51
Adult Living with Spouse	7
Child Living with Adoptive Parent(s)	10
Child Living with Bio Parent(s)	308
Child Living with Grandparent(s)	11
Child Living with a Kinship Caregiver	*
Child Living with a Relative	8
Child Living with Unrelated Adult	*
Elderly Living Alone	*
Elderly Living with Relative	20
Elderly Living with Spouse	29
Not disclosed on the Initial Application	11

* All Values between 1-5 are masked to protect privacy.

The Lifespan Respite Services program utilized \$259,102 of the allocated funds to provide services to open eligible cases in FY23. There is evidence of an increase in the level of need of respite clients resulting in a higher amount of additional assistance through exceptional circumstances applications submitted to the program. In FY23, \$71,792 of the total utilized funds was used for exceptional circumstances.

Prog 348 Tobacco Use Cessation Coverage

Provides funding for clients to receive medication and up to four counseling sessions to support up to two quit attempts per year. Used to enhance the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline, provided through Tobacco Free Nebraska. In the calendar year 2022, which is the most recent data available, 3,876 people called the Quitline, and 1,776 registered for services. There were 28,502 motivational texts sent to Nebraskans for the Quitline and 63% were women, while 36% were men. A total of 3,556 weeks' worth of quit medication was supplied to Quitline participants and participants heard about the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline through Health Care Professionals (30%), Television (23%), Family/Friends (9%), and the remaining through another avenue (38%).

Prog 424 Developmental Disability Aid

The Department utilizes this funding to provide developmental disability services to participants. In SFY23, the Division was able to fund an additional 565 participants' needs on the comprehensive waiver per funding priorities in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 83-1216.

Prog 502 Public Health Aid

Community Health Centers Uninsured

Funds are used to help provide health care services to the uninsured as Community Health Centers serve all people regardless of ability to pay. In the previous year, 37,209 people without insurance were served by the seven Community Health Centers.

Local Public Health Departments

Provides technical assistance to 18 local public health departments to provide the 10 essential services.

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

Minority Public Health Services

Eighteen local health departments were provided funding through the Minority Health Initiative (MHI) program for FY 2023. The MHI program goal was to assess, co-plan, and implement programs and services with and for minority communities to improve health outcomes during the state FY23. Through partnerships with eighteen Local Health Departments (LHDs), they utilized MHI funding to develop and implement programming based on minority community need assessments completed in the previous funding period in 2021-2022.

Prog 514 State Health Aid

Brain Injury Trust Fund

The Brain Injury Assistance Program is administered through a contract with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and aids individuals with a brain injury by paying for contracts with outside sources that specialize in brain injury. The outside sources operate, at a minimum, statewide, to work to secure and

develop community-based services; provide support groups and access to pertinent information, medical resources, and service referrals for individuals with a brain injury; and educate professionals who work with individuals with a brain injury.

Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative

The Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative is supported through an agreement with the University of Nebraska Medical Center and works to improve the delivery of and access to evidence-based healthcare for all Nebraska mothers and newborns. It works to identify opportunities to optimize measurable perinatal outcomes and implement initiatives for sustained improvement and works to reduce the impact of premature births statewide.

Poison Control Center

This funding is a sub-award administered by UNMC to provide 24-hour telephone access to the Nebraska Regional Poison Center.

Prog 621 Stem Cell Research Program

Five research grants were awarded. Two grants were awarded to Creighton University: one for \$110,000 and one for \$95,750. Two grants were awarded to the University of Nebraska Medical Center: one for \$110,000 and one for \$95,750. One grant was awarded to University of Nebraska-Lincoln for \$25,000. The remaining \$13,500 will be used to support the administrative costs of the program.

Consistent with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-7606(3), no funds appropriated or distributed under the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act are use for “abortion, abortion counseling, referral for abortion, or research or activity of any kind involving the use of human fetal tissue obtained in connection with the performance of an induced abortion or involving the use of human embryonic stem cells or for the purpose of obtaining other funding for such use.” The Request for Applications (RFA) document that notifies prospective applicants about a funding opportunity includes language outlining the prohibition of awarding grant funds for research using human embryonic stem cells, and subsequent signed agreements reference both the statutory language in the Health Care Funding Act and the RFA.

Prog 623 Biomedical Research

A contract and sub-award for biomedical research were awarded to the Board of Regents on behalf of the University of Nebraska Medical Center for \$11,230,259 and to the Creighton University, Father Flanagan’s Boys Home, Boys Town National Research Hospital, and the Creighton University – Boys Town Healthcare Foundation in the amount of \$3,769,741. One million dollars per year, reallocated from the cigarette tax revenue, will also be allocated to these entities specifically for biomedical research.