

## Benefits Provider Choice or Declination

Name of Client \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive Benefits Services.  Yes  No

If yes, I choose the following provider from the list below:

- Apace  Easterseals Nebraska  Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc.  
 Mental Health Association of Nebraska

If no, my signature indicates I decline benefits services. (I understand I may request such services at any time my case is open.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Apace

Apace offers services to individuals in the following counties: Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Johnson, Jefferson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Platte, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, and York.

Apace provides benefits planning services to people who are recipients of Social Security Benefits in southeast Nebraska. Apace can help people across the continuum of employment services. We can help people who want to enter the workforce for the first time or after a break from employment, all the way through finding and maintaining successful employment.

Apace benefits planning includes, but is not limited to:

- Helping individuals understand their benefits and how employment can affect those benefits.
- Ensuring the information provided on the Benefits Planning Query is accurate and assisting with any issues related to suspension or loss of benefits.
- Working with individuals on their employment goals by working with them to create a Plan to Achieve Self-Support.
- Providing information regarding community resources.
- Offering ongoing support to help navigate through the Social Security Administration, Medicaid, and other government agencies.

### EASTERSEALS NEBRASKA

Easterseals Nebraska (ESN) provides services statewide.

ESN serves individuals who receive Social Security Benefits that want to enter or re-enter the workforce and have a need to understand how benefits could be impacted by earnings. ESN serves clients who experience any disability or impairment that are between the ages of 14 to retirement age.

#### **Benefits Planning Services include:**

- Comprehensive and individualized analysis of the impact of employment on SSA cash benefits and other public benefits.
- Work incentives education and management.
- Plan to Achieve Self Support (PASS) development.

- Practical tools and guidance on reporting income to SSA and other administrative agencies.
- Information and referral to appropriate resources.
- Follow up support as you make progress toward your employment goal.

For additional information visit our website at: <https://ne.easterseals.com/>

### **GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER NEBRASKA, INC.**

Goodwill provides services statewide.

Goodwill offers comprehensive benefits services for beneficiaries of Social Security Disability benefits (SSDI, CDB, and DWB benefits) and recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI based on disability) or a variety of other state benefits. Benefits Specialists provide individualized benefits assessments and analyses, ongoing benefits management, work incentive assistance, and problem-solving and advocacy. The team helps you understand how wages from work affect eligibility for disability-related cash and medical benefits and use State and Federal incentive programs to keep benefits, even while working.

Goodwill's benefits planning team consists of Community Partner Work Incentive Coordinator (CPWIC) certified Benefits Specialists to serve Nebraska. Goodwill is a Ticket to Work provider and can serve you beyond VR services to meet your ongoing benefits and employment support needs through a team of Benefits and Employment Specialists across the state.

For additional information, visit our website at: <https://goodwillne.org/>

### **MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – NEBRASKA**

Mental Health Association – Nebraska provides services to individuals in the Region V area including the counties of Butler, Filmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, and York.

Hello! This is Melissa and Madeline. We are Benefits Specialists with the Kame Benefits Program. We would like to tell you a little bit about ourselves and the Kame Program.

What makes our program unique is that we are peers. This means that we have lived experience with being on benefits and going back to work. We know how scary it can be to take that first step toward employment not knowing what impact it will have on our benefits.

We will work very hard to make a connection with you and understand your unique benefits situation and be by your side as you navigate the Social Security work incentives that are your safety nets if you choose to move forward with employment. Our goal is to provide information you need to make informed choices about working and your future. We have specialized training to provide you with the most accurate information we can.

Although it's scary, there are so many benefits to working and considering it as an option for yourself. It can be difficult to live within the constraints of a disability payment. Employment opens so many doors including dignity and self-respect and a sense of purpose as well as the ability to pursue individual passions.

For ourselves being employed has allowed us to budget for art supplies, crafts, the cost associated with a pet, going out into the community and enjoying activities that we weren't able to afford, being on benefits.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and working as a team as you move toward **your** goals. Whatever your employment goals are we can meet you where you are at.

To participate in our program, you need to be at least 19 years old, receiving SSI or Title II (SSDI or CDB) Social Security Benefit and have interest in the impact of work on these benefits as well as any other benefits you may receive.

We will work closely with you to:

- Provide a comprehensive written benefits analysis tailored to your individual financial situation and work goal.
- Provide information about Social Security work incentives.
- Meet one-on-one to discuss the analysis.
- Provide follow-up services on an as needed basis.
- Assist with communicating with Social Security Administration, Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies as needed.
- Provide resources and referrals as needed.
- Promote, teach, and encourage "benefits literacy."
- Peer support is an integral part of the services we provide.