

Benefits Provider Choice or Declination

Name of Client: _____

Choice of Providers: _____ Date: _____

Signature indicating you decline benefits services, if applicable:

EASTERSEALS NEBRASKA

Easterseals Nebraska 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. ESN has the unique ability to **provide statewide services**.

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: www.easterseals.com/ne

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER NEBRASKA, INC.

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: www.goodwillne.org

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – NEBRASKA

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 are interested in the impact of work on these benefits as well as any other benefits you may receive and live 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.

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.

APACE

Ryan Neal Community Partner Work Incentives Counselor (CWIC)

General Benefits Orientation - a summary of available benefits programs, benefits management strategies, Work Incentives, and application processes.

Personalized Benefits Planning - this is an analysis of your benefits status at that moment. It would start with a request for a Benefits Planning Query (BPQY) from the Social Security Administration. This information would then be analyzed for errors or omissions and written out in a report for the beneficiary called the Benefits Summary and Analysis (BS&A). It would further include a Work Incentives Plan (WIP) which would in effect be the Action Plan of the BS&A, essentially, what needs to be done next?

Development of a Plan to Achieve Self-Support - The Plan to Achieve Self-Support, or PASS, is a powerful tool in assisting the beneficiary to obtain the training or materials they need to go to work and become more self-sufficient. This service would include a detailed explanation of this plan, including the responsibilities of the beneficiary during the life of the plan, as well as how the PASS would affect benefits. The counselor would write up the PASS, submit it to the beneficiary for their approval, and then submit the PASS to Social Security's PASS cadre. The counselor would provide ongoing support during the life of the PASS as necessary.

As needed Benefits Counseling and Advocacy – Social Security can be a very confusing program at the best of times. Changes occur and often times the beneficiary may have no idea why they occurred or how to challenge a decision made by Social Security. The counselor at these times will be there to explain what various pieces of correspondence from Social Security mean, what their importance is, and what actions may need to be taken.

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