

**RECEIVED**  
**NCBVI AND NEBRASKA VR**  
**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**  
**BY:**

## **PURPOSE**

Nebraska's two public vocational rehabilitation programs are authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended by Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), with oversight provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS), Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA).

Nebraska VR is a division of the Nebraska Department of Education, and provides services to persons who experience severe disabilities other than blind/visual disabilities. Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) provides services to persons who experience blind/visual disabilities. Both parties of this agreement will carry out their respective roles under the law and regulations as set forth by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and state statute. The federal allotment of total dollars to Nebraska is divided as follows: 15.5% to NCBVI and 84.5% to VR.

This cooperative relationship is entered into between VR and NCBVI to provide maximum referral, coordination and utilization of the services and programs of each agency to improve services to individuals who experience multiple disabilities, one of which is visual.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Individuals with multiple disabilities, one of which is visual, will be assessed by NCBVI to determine whether the individual meets their eligibility requirements. Individuals who meet NCBVI eligibility shall be served by NCBVI. If the individual is not eligible for NCBVI services and has multiple impairments VR will assess whether the individual meets its eligibility criteria based on the non-visual impairment and serve the eligible individual.

## **REFERRAL**

When an individual with multiple impairments initially contacts NCBVI and is found not to meet eligibility, staff shall provide the necessary assistance to effectively link the individual with VR. This might include calling the local VR office to arrange an appointment for the individual, communicating that the individual is not eligible for NCBVI services and providing appropriate information for VR staff.

When an individual with multiple impairments, one of which is visual, initially contacts VR the staff shall provide the necessary assistance to effectively link the

individual with NCBVI so a determination can be made as to the individual's eligibility for the NCBVI program.

Examples:

- If an individual calls a VR office expressing interest in services and indicates they have a visual impairment VR staff might explain that NCBVI would be the appropriate place to contact and provide the phone number for NCBVI.
- If an individual sees a VR staff member in person staff might take the time to hear the individual's situation, explain the reason NCBVI might be the appropriate avenue for them, and call the local NCBVI office to arrange an appointment for the individual.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

A person is eligible for Nebraska VR services if they have a disability that impacts their ability to prepare for, get, or keep a job. A person must also require and be able to benefit from VR services. Students age 14-21, who are involved in Special Education, or are served under a 504 Plan, may receive pre-employment transition services (PETS).

Persons of all ages are eligible to receive services from the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired if they have a visual condition which may lead to blindness, or if their sight is so defective as to seriously limit their ability to engage in the ordinary vocations and activities of life. This typically includes experiencing visual difficulties in pursuing daily activities, and maintaining or obtaining employment. Students age 14-21, who are involved in Special Education, or are served under a 504 Plan, may receive pre-employment transition services (PETS).

Both agencies may include students with a disability typically served by the other agency when providing group pre-employment transition services.

## **CONSULTATION SERVICES**

Nebraska VR and NCBVI agree to work cooperatively together to provide consultative services at no cost when circumstances indicate a client could benefit from the expertise of both agencies.

Consultation services provided by Nebraska VR

- Disability Information
- Advice on Vocational Evaluations
- Assistive Technology Partnership

Consultation services provided by Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Instruction or training for the individual to minimize the limitations of the visual disability, which may include cane travel, Braille, disability information, non-visual techniques, and advice on assistive technology.

## INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

### Ticket Tracker Social Security Reimbursement infrastructure

Nebraska VR will serve as the host site for the Ticket Tracker infrastructure. External costs for the Ticket Tracker system will be split between the agencies at 65% VR and 35% NCBVI.

### American Job Center (WIOA) infrastructure and shared service delivery costs

Unless otherwise specifically allocated within the budgets of the Annual Funding Agreement for the American Job Centers, or negotiated lease agreements by the Department of Administrative Services on behalf of NCBVI or Nebraska VR, infrastructure and shared service delivery costs will be apportioned between NCBVI and Nebraska VR at the federal allotment percentages: 15.5% to NCBVI and 84.5% to VR.

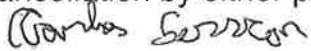
## DUAL CASES

In rare cases an individual may have an active case with both state vocational rehabilitation programs (VR and NCBVI) so long as the services provided by each are not duplicated and both agencies would be allowed to record a successful employment outcome. Approval to open a case with an individual currently being served by NCBVI must be approved by the VR Program Director for Counseling.

## RELEASE OF INFORMATION

In order to exchange client information between the two programs, a release of information form must be obtained from the client.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect until written notice of cancellation by either party or a revised Memorandum is agreed to.

  
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Carlos Servan  
Executive Director, NCBVI

Date

1-2-2018

  
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Mark Schultz  
Deputy Commissioner, Nebraska VR

Date

12/20/17

