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## **August 2026 State Rehabilitation Council** **ATP Report**

### **Resource Coordination/Financial Programs – Angie Ransom**

Continuing to build resources for home/vehicle modifications as well as other assistive technology.

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant**

Current Enrichment Foundation grant funds are being used to help people in Douglas and Sarpy counties.

### **DHHS Program – May Faith 4/1/26 through 6/30/26**

189 projects were authorized, utilizing \$1,273,148.14 in AD Waiver, Family Supports Waiver, and DD Waiver projects were authorized. No TBI Waiver referrals were made during this time frame. These projects assisted 169 consumers with greater independence, and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Assessment times in the western and central portions of the state remain under 35 days. Assessment times in the eastern portion of the state have remained longer than desired. Progress is being made to improve this wait time.

### **Education – Brian Wojcik**

The ATP Education Program has expanded statewide impact through equipment lending and professional learning. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 loan pool activity for FY26 reached 105% of FY25 volume (1,112 loans), with \$498,486.81 in assistive technology (AT) equipment borrowed by school district staff to support AT trials, short-term accommodations, and training. ATP Education staff also showcased and trained on 2,861 items for professional development (equipment value: \$998,694.79).

In FY 26 the program received 338 education requests—181% of FY25 requests (186). Since July 1, 2025, ATP has had 160 individuals enrolled in the ATIA Learning Center.

### **iCanConnect Program Update- Brooke Harrie**

The iCanConnect (iCC) Program is also known as the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program. This is a nationwide program that provides free telecommunication equipment and training to low-income individuals with significant hearing and vision loss. There are currently 3 active iCC cases in Nebraska and 1 individuals in the application process. One application was also found ineligible due to having income outside of the program's income guidelines.

ATP has officially submitted our application to be recertified and keep managing the iCC program for the state of Nebraska for the next 5 years. This application is for the program year starting July 1, 2027 and we



should hear if our application was accepted by the Spring of 2027. Staff have continued with attending various events for outreach, including the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska's state convention and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Omaha April 17<sup>th</sup> and the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska Annual Convention in Kearney on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A Constant Contact message was sent out for Deafblind Awareness week on June 25<sup>th</sup> acknowledging the importance of the week and providing information on resources and services to our community partners. The iCC program year ended June 30, 2026 and we look forward to working with more iCC clients in the 2026-2027 year that started July 1.

### **Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie**

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 76 service requests from 4/9/2026 to 7/10/2026. Of those 76 service requests, 7 were for new and/or existing VR staff members. Technology Specialists provide all VR staff members ergonomic assessments of their workstations as well as training on the VR/ATP partnership. Of the additional service requests received, 6 were for Pre-ETS and 63 were for adult VR clients. The 76 service requests received were for the following equipment: ADL (2), cognitive aids (25), communication (1), DME (1), ergonomics (7), vehicle modifications and repairs (10), computer/software (3), hearing devices (10), worksite AT (12), mobility device (1), entrance modification (1), other home modifications (1), vision devices (1) and information (1).

Technology Specialists throughout the state have been working closely with clients in the VR Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program as they prepare for college in the Fall. The ATP Program Supervisor is working to schedule and prepare for the annual ATP team meetings happening in August and September. During these meetings the ATP Program Supervisor meets with all VR teams across the state reviewing the past year, providing updates on policies and procedures, answering questions and gathering feedback for the following year. ATP also is continuing the process of working with VR on creating the automated ATP referral process that we hope to roll out this year.

### **General Update -Tobias Orr**

We would like to welcome Adam McCown and Andrea Boring to the ATP team. Adam started in June as our Lincoln Equipment manager, and Andrea will be taking over our marketing position at the end of July. At the time of this report we have one DHHS Technology Specialist opening posted in Omaha. Hopefully by the August SRC meeting the position will be filled.

### **ATP Events:**

1. The ATP Advisory Council will be held Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
2. ATP will had a booth and provided used AT and DME at the Disability Pride Event on 7/25/26 in Lincoln at Antelope Park.

# Nebraska Client Assistance Program (CAP)

## August 2026

# State Rehabilitation Council Report

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### 1. Outreach + Interagency Coordination

CAP continued outreach follow-up and interagency coordination during the reporting period. Increased CAP complaint activity required greater staff attention to direct client services, including record review, communication, meeting preparation, and follow-up.

### 2. Federal Advocacy + Budget Monitoring

CAP continued monitoring FY27 federal funding developments.

The House Appropriations Committee has advanced an FY27 funding bill that maintains Client Assistance Program funding at \$13 million nationally, the same as the FY26 enacted level. The administration's FY27 budget request proposed no funding for CAP. Senate action remains pending.

FY27 CAP funding has not been finalized.

### 3. Data & Documentation Systems

CAP continued reviewing and improving internal case documentation and tracking practices to support consistent follow-up and reporting.

### 4. CAP Case Activity Summary

**Update:** CAP began the reporting period with four active cases and opened eight additional cases. Of the eight new cases, five involved Nebraska VR and three involved the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

CAP managed 12 cases during the reporting period. Two cases were closed, leaving 10 active CAP cases as of July 14, 2026.

**Brief Case Summary:** CAP assisted a client whose transportation and vehicle-modification needs had not been fully addressed through an earlier Assistive Technology Partnership referral. CAP's involvement focused on review of the client's circumstances, communication with VR staff, advocacy for additional consideration of the transportation barrier, and referral for further assistive technology assessment.

## **Service: Informal Advocacy / Short-Term Technical Assistance**

Policy(ies):

1. Nebraska VR Program Manual - Case Services: Assistive Technology Partnership
2. Nebraska VR Program Manual - Assessment Services/Planning: Driving Control Systems
3. Nebraska VR Program Manual - Assessment Services/Planning: Assessment for Determining Competitive Integrated Employment
4. Nebraska VR Program Manual - Individualized Plan for Employment

## **Client Request/Complaint - Summary of Initial Concern and Service Barrier**

The client contacted CAP with concerns that VR was not considering vehicle modification as a possible service. The client had previously been referred to the Assistive Technology Partnership; however, driving controls and potential vehicle-modification needs were not specifically addressed during the earlier referral.

The client reported transportation barriers affecting the ability to access competitive integrated employment. Questions also arose regarding where and how the client could realistically work without an accessible and reliable transportation option.

## **Case Evidence - Review of Documentation and Communication**

CAP reviewed information provided by the client and communicated with VR staff regarding the client's transportation needs, functional limitations, employment access, and prior ATP involvement.

The available information reflected that the client had previously been referred to ATP, but driving controls and potential vehicle modification had not been specifically evaluated. Questions were also raised regarding the client's ability to access a competitive integrated employment setting without an appropriate transportation option. CAP identified the need for the existing records and updated information to be reviewed together and for the client's driving and transportation needs to be more specifically addressed through the ATP referral process.

## CAP Response / Current Status - Actions Taken and Collaborative Results

CAP communicated with VR staff and advocated for additional review of the client's records, transportation barriers, and ability to access competitive integrated employment.

Following those discussions, VR reviewed updated documentation, submitted an additional ATP request, and referred the client for further assessment of driving controls and potential vehicle-modification needs.

The referral did not constitute approval of a driving control system or vehicle modification. It provided an opportunity for the client's needs to be more fully evaluated before VR made a service or funding determination.

The CAP case was closed after the additional review and referral were completed. The client may contact CAP again if concerns arise regarding the assessment process or VR's eventual service decision.

## Recommendations - Next Steps and Considerations for Ongoing Support

- Address transportation and vehicle-access needs when they may affect a client's ability to obtain or maintain competitive integrated employment.
- Ensure ATP referrals clearly identify all areas requiring assessment.
- Review existing and updated documentation before determining whether a potential service should be considered.
- Clearly distinguish between a referral for assessment and approval of a specific service.
- Provide clear information regarding assessment results, service decisions, and applicable appeal rights.

**2025/2026 VR Client Satisfaction Survey**

Q1. Please rate the following.

|                                                                                        | Strongly Agree |     | Agree  |    | Neutral |   | Disagree |   | Strongly Disagree |          | Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|--------|----|---------|---|----------|---|-------------------|----------|-------|
| I am satisfied with the service I received.                                            | 72.73%         | 112 | 24.68% | 38 | 1.30%   | 2 | 0.65%    | 1 | 0.65%             | 1        | 154   |
| I was treated with courtesy and respect.                                               | 83.12%         | 128 | 16.23% | 25 | 0.00%   | 0 | 0.00%    | 0 | 0.65%             | 1        | 154   |
| My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.                                   | 65.58%         | 101 | 29.87% | 46 | 3.25%   | 5 | 0.65%    | 1 | 0.65%             | 1        | 154   |
| I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received. | 73.86%         | 113 | 22.22% | 34 | 2.61%   | 4 | 0.65%    | 1 | 0.65%             | 1        | 153   |
|                                                                                        |                |     |        |    |         |   |          |   |                   | Answered | 154   |
|                                                                                        |                |     |        |    |         |   |          |   |                   | Skipped  | 0     |

Q2. Are you currently employed?

| Answer Choices | Responses |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes            | 88.96%    | 137 |
| No             | 11.04%    | 17  |
| If yes, where? |           | 0   |
|                | Answered  | 154 |
|                | Skipped   | 0   |

Q3. If not, did you quit, were you fired or laid off?

| Answer Choices | Responses |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Quit           | 58.82%    | 10  |
| Fired          | 11.76%    | 2   |
| Laid off       | 29.41%    | 5   |
|                | Answered  | 17  |
|                | Skipped   | 137 |

Q4. Does your job meet your current needs?

| Answer Choices         | Responses       |            |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Yes                    | 94.89%          | 130        |
| No                     | 2.19%           | 3          |
| Other (please specify) | 2.92%           | 4          |
|                        | <b>Answered</b> | <b>137</b> |
|                        | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>17</b>  |

Q5. If no, what needs are not being met by your job?

| Answer Choices       | Responses       |            |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| No Benefits          | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Not Enough Pay       | 25.00%          | 2          |
| Not a Good Fit       | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Work Schedule        | 12.50%          | 1          |
| Not Enough Hours     | 12.50%          | 1          |
| Other                | 50.00%          | 4          |
| Specify Other Reason |                 | 0          |
|                      | <b>Answered</b> | <b>8</b>   |
|                      | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>146</b> |

Q6. Please specify the need not being met that was not listed.

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Answered</b> | <b>4</b>   |
| <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>150</b> |

Q7. Can you tell me why you  
(quit)?

| Answer Choices                                   | Responses       |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| No Benefits                                      | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Better Job                                       | 14.29%          | 2          |
| Day Care                                         | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Disability Interfered                            | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Hospitalized or Illness (Not disability related) | 7.14%           | 1          |
| Housing                                          | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Not Enough Pay                                   | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Not a Good Fit                                   | 7.14%           | 1          |
| Returned to college                              | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Transportation                                   | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Work Schedule                                    | 7.14%           | 1          |
| Other                                            | 0.00%           | 0          |
| COVID19                                          | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Other (please specify)                           | 64.29%          | 9          |
|                                                  | <b>Answered</b> | <b>14</b>  |
|                                                  | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>140</b> |

Q8. Please describe Not a Good  
Fit

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Answered</b> | <b>9</b>   |
| <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>145</b> |

Q9. What did Nebraska VR provide that was most helpful to you? Mark the categories the client indicated were the most helpful.

| Answer Choices                                                                                             | Responses       |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)                    | 18.18%          | 28         |
| Education (post-secondary training)                                                                        | 3.90%           | 6          |
| Assistive/ Rehab Technology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods) | 19.48%          | 30         |
| Career Exploration and Job Fit                                                                             | 42.21%          | 65         |
| Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc. )         | 12.34%          | 19         |
| Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)  | 27.92%          | 43         |
| Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis                                                                     | 11.69%          | 18         |
| Encouragement/Support                                                                                      | 46.75%          | 72         |
| Nothing/Don't know                                                                                         | 2.60%           | 4          |
| Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)                                                                 | 1.30%           | 2          |
| Client mentioned the following which was not on the list.                                                  |                 | 18         |
|                                                                                                            | <b>Answered</b> | <b>154</b> |
|                                                                                                            | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>0</b>   |

Q10. How likely are you to recommend Nebraska VR to a friend or family member who experiences a disability?

| Answer Choices    | Responses       |            |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Very Likely       | 88.96%          | 137        |
| Somewhat Likely   | 9.09%           | 14         |
| Neutral           | 1.95%           | 3          |
| Somewhat Unlikely | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Very Unlikely     | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Please state why? |                 | 0          |
|                   | <b>Answered</b> | <b>154</b> |
|                   | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>0</b>   |

Q11. Please share why you are very unlikely, somewhat unlikely and neutral

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Answered</b> | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>151</b> |

Q12. Please share any other comments or suggestions you may have.

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| <b>Answered</b> | <b>61</b> |
| <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>93</b> |

Q13. Which of the following describes you?

| Answer Choices            | Responses       |            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Client                    | 90.26%          | 139        |
| Family member             | 9.74%           | 15         |
| Authorized Representative | 0.65%           | 1          |
| Other (please specify)    | 1.30%           | 2          |
|                           | <b>Answered</b> | <b>154</b> |
|                           | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>0</b>   |

Q14. Which Nebraska VR Team served you or the client?

| Answer Choices           | Responses       |            |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| State Office-Enriquez    | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Scottsbluff-Fisher       | 5.19%           | 8          |
| North Platte-Calvin      | 7.79%           | 12         |
| Kearney-Anderson         | 9.09%           | 14         |
| Grand Island-Allee       | 12.99%          | 20         |
| Columbus                 | 5.19%           | 8          |
| Norfolk-Mitchell         | 12.99%          | 20         |
| Omaha West-Petersen      | 25.32%          | 39         |
| Omaha-Dixon              | 11.69%          | 18         |
| Omaha-Brown              | 0.65%           | 1          |
| Lincoln-Bergmann/Best    | 3.90%           | 6          |
| Lincoln-Wettstead        | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Lincoln-Miller           | 5.19%           | 8          |
| State Office-Kunes-Neary | 0.00%           | 0          |
| Lincoln-Miller           | 0.00%           | 0          |
|                          | <b>Answered</b> | <b>154</b> |
|                          | <b>Skipped</b>  | <b>0</b>   |

**Client Satisfaction Survey  
Quarter 3 2025/2026 YTD Comparison**

|                                                                                     | <b>FY 24-25 Quarter 3 YTD</b>                                                                                                                               | <b>FY 25-26 Quarter 3 YTD</b>                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Surveys Completed</b>                                                            | 177                                                                                                                                                         | 154                                                                                                               |
| <b>% Still Employed</b>                                                             | 92.66%                                                                                                                                                      | 88.96%                                                                                                            |
| <b>Why Not Employed</b>                                                             | Quit (9)- 64.29%<br>Fired- (3)- 21.43%<br>Laid Off (2) – 14.29%                                                                                             | Quit (10)- 58.82%<br>Laid Off (5)- 29.41%<br>Fired (1)- 11.76%                                                    |
| <b>Job Meets Current Needs</b>                                                      | 89.63%                                                                                                                                                      | 94.89%                                                                                                            |
| <b>Most Helpful Service</b>                                                         | Encouragement/Support (94)- 53.11%<br>Employment Services- (63)- 35.59%<br>Career Exploration/Job Fit (45) 25.42%<br>Assistive/Rehab Technology (45) 25.42% | Encouragement/Support (72)- 46.75%<br>Career Exploration/Job Fit (65)- 42.21%<br>Employment Services (42)- 27.92% |
| <b>Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member</b> | 94.92%                                                                                                                                                      | 98.05%                                                                                                            |

For these questions the responses being captured include: those answering Strongly Agree, Agree and Neutral.

|                                                                                              | <b>24-25 Quarter 3</b> | <b>25-26- Quarter 3</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>I am satisfied with the service I received</b>                                            | 97.17%                 | <b>98.71%</b>           |
| <b>I was treated with courtesy and respect.</b>                                              | 99.43%                 | <b>99.35%</b>           |
| <b>My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.</b>                                  | 96.02%                 | <b>98.70%</b>           |
| <b>I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received</b> | 98.87%                 | <b>98.69%</b>           |



NYLC was created “by youth, for youth”. We are leaders and self-advocates who experience a disability. We travel the state promoting disability awareness and educating our peers on transitioning to college or work

### **NYLC SRC Report: April 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Activities**

NYLC welcomed new members: Hannah Deschane, Waverly and Videll Wheatley, Niobrara.

There are currently 16 active members participating in NYLC.

### **April-June NYLC events.**

#### **Virtual Meetings- dates/agenda items:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Agenda/Meeting Focus</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4-9-26      | 9                 | Group project—sharing your story of lived experience with disability and identifying strengths, future goals; upcoming outreach event and members speaking to youth interested in joining NYLC. |
| 4-23-26     | 8                 | Group project—NYLC members shared their outlines/story of lived experience with disability; discussed as powerful tool for disability education/advocacy; upcoming bowling outreach activity.   |
| 5-14-26     | 6                 | NYLC summer events and planning for capital visit this summer; listening skills.                                                                                                                |
| 6-11-26     | 8                 | Social skills activity; brainstorm disability awareness campaigns/events that NYLC could focus on in fall 2026 and planning for Disability Pride event.                                         |
| 6-25-26     | 9                 | Discussed NYLC Capital Experience Day at the State Capital with Civic Nebraska on July 9—agenda, what to expect, legislative advocacy, questions to ask senator.                                |

**In person Meetings—these meetings are occurring once a month (Last Saturday of the month) in different locations, held at a local public library meeting room**

| <b>Date</b>        | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Agenda/Meeting Focus</b>                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4-11-26<br>Lincoln | 8                 | Speaker-Joni Thomas, Disability Rights Nebraska—shared her personal disability experience and importance of disability rights advocacy (historically and currently). |
| 5-30-26<br>Lincoln | 4                 | Improving your speaking and communication skills—hands on activities and practice.                                                                                   |
| 6-23-26<br>Omaha   | 3                 | Legislative disability advocacy; button making for NYLC table at Disability Pride Day in July; social skills hands-on activity.                                      |

#### **NYLC Presentations/Outreach**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Event</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4/15/26     | NYLC presentation and outreach event with ESU 6—NYLC coordinator presented about NYLC to potential partners—UNL sports for students with disabilities and Nebraska Special Olympics.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4/22/26     | ESU 15/16 Transition Teacher PLC meeting- NYLC Overview.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4/25/26     | NYLC Bowling outreach event at Bowling alley in York; held in partnership with ESU 6. Ten students attended: 4 current NYLC members and 6 youth who were interested in learning more about NYLC. Current members shared their NYLC experiences and importance of leadership skill building for youth with disabilities (Seth, Kadee, Justyce, Isaiah). |
| 4/27/26     | Grand Island VR office zoom meeting—NYLC overview.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 5/11/26     | NTACT—national TA meeting, NYLC presentation and potential partnerships.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 6/29/26     | ESU transition coordinators meeting—NYLC presentation, planning for fall speaking events for NYLC youth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

#### **Upcoming:**

Capital Experience Day at the State Capital—July 9. Experience led by Civic Nebraska staff—opportunity for NYLC members to learn more about citizen activism and engaging in

legislative advocacy; meet with state senator for Q&A about youth legislative advocacy; capital tour; mock legislative hearing experience; disability advocacy.

Disability Pride Day—Antelope Park, Lincoln on July 25<sup>th</sup>. NYLC will have table to set up with information about NYLC and outreach/education activities. NYLC members will be present for the event/rotate time slots at the NYLC table.

August—multiple ESU back to school events planned, NYLC members will be participating in online Chat-n-Chew lunch sessions with students with disabilities across the state (helping facilitate communication skill building activity and also sharing about NYLC and self-advocacy).