



**Lincoln** 3901 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 5, 68521 Fax (402) 471-6052  
**Kearney** 315 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, 68845 Fax (308) 865-5322  
**Omaha** 1313 Farnam Street, Suite 305, 68102 Fax (402) 595-1919  
**Columbus** 3100 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 5, 68601 Fax (402) 564-7995  
**Scottsbluff** 505 A Broadway, Suite 500, 69361 Fax (308) 632-1392  
Phone (877) 713-4002 [www.atp.nebraska.gov](http://www.atp.nebraska.gov)

---

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

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

ATP Advisory Council meetings for 2026 are scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2026 (hybrid option) and Friday, September 25, 2026 (in-person). We have had two new council members apply.

ATP staff will continue to make all documents WCAG 2.1 AA standards for digital accessibility, including the Service and Device Application. Currently the form is in English and Spanish.

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant**

ATP is happy to announce that we were awarded the Enrichment Foundation Grant (EFG) funding for 2026 in the amount of \$200,000. ATP staff is currently calling people on the waitlist and assigning projects.

### **DHHS Program – May Faith 9/13/25 through 12/31/25]**

172 projects were authorized, utilizing \$1,171,459.79 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 151 consumers with greater independence, and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers seemed to reach a new standard level of around 100 referrals per month resulting in continued longer wait times for assessment services.

### **Education – Brian Wojcik**

Since July 1, 2025, the ATP Education Program has expanded statewide impact through equipment lending and professional learning. Loan pool activity has reached 53% of FY25 volume (556 of 1,054 loans), with \$236,369.30 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 1,207 items for professional development (equipment value: \$410,848.19).

Service demand remains high: since July 1, 2025, the program received 142 education requests—76% of FY25 requests (186). Since July 1, 2025, ATP Education trained or coached approximately 2,041 people, and 130 individuals enrolled in the ATIA Learning Center, representing a potential impact on more than 6,200 children, students, and individuals with disabilities.



To build long-term capacity, ATP Education partnered with three teacher preparation programs on a service-learning initiative that produced 43 AT demonstration videos for statewide sharing.

Outreach continues to grow, with 74K YouTube impressions (19.3K views; 408 watch hours; ~1.7K monthly audience), 26,640 Facebook/Instagram views, and nearly 3,000 LinkedIn impressions since LinkedIn launched in August 2025.

### **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 12 iCC cases currently in Nebraska.

Of these 12 cases, 2 cases have already been through the process, received their equipment and completed their cases. Seven cases have been made eligible and are in the process of completing an assessment and getting recommendations. The remaining 3 cases are working on completing their iCC applications so eligibility can be determined. Of these 12 cases, 7 are individuals that have worked with Nebraska iCC in the past and 5 are new to the program. New referrals have been received from partnering agencies such as NCBVI, NCDHH and the SSP program. One of the recently completed cases needed equipment such as an iPhone, iPad and a Logic keyboard with large print to assist them with telecommunications.

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

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 89 service requests from 9/9/2025 to 1/9/2026. Of those 89 service requests, 13 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, 13 were for Pre-ETS and 63 were for adult VR clients. The 89 service requests received were for the following equipment: ADL (2), bathroom modifications (1), bicycle (1), cognitive aids (24), communication (2), ergonomics (15), vehicle modifications and repairs (15), kitchen modifications (1), entrance modifications (1), computer/software (1), hearing devices (8), worksite AT (12), other home modifications (1), mobility devices (3), vision devices (1) and information (1).

The ATP Program Supervisor completed Team Tours with all VR teams throughout the state. Throughout the month of October, the ATP Program Supervisor was busy completing the VR annual report for 2024-2025. There were a total of 290 referrals, with 238 referrals being for clients and being reported on throughout the report, while the remaining referrals were for VR and CPAP staff. The VR Technology Specialists completed over 250 assessments and of the almost \$600,000 spent on assistive technology for VR clients, over \$125,000 of the total was covered by other comparable benefits identified, such as Enrichment Foundation Grant (EFG), Aged & Disabled Medicaid Waiver, United Cerebral Palsy Foundation, ATP Reuse Program and client contribution. Multiple presentations have been completed this past quarter to share information about ATP services. Presentations included ESU 13 and 16 teachers and staff, a Job



Expo for students at ESU 3 as well as a booth for parents of students in ESU 3 at an agency fair, Sterling Ridge Project SEARCH interns, Children's Hospital Project SEARCH interns as well as the North and South Transition sites in Omaha. A presentation on AI was also completed for Lincoln VR Pre-ETS staff at their team meeting in December.

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

Nancy Noha has officially retired from the agency and her position (Marketing) will be posted soon (hopefully by the time you are reading this). Nancy was with the department for 35 years and will be missed.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 ATP will have held it's first Contractor Recruiting event up in the Omaha area. The hope is to recruit new contractors and educate them on ATP and our process and help them sign up to be approved vendors for the agency. If this event is successful, we will be looking at hosting more across the state.

Since our last meeting ATP has hired Blaine Sexton out in the Scottsbluff office who will work with DHHS and VR consumers, as well as Brandon Fokken in our Omaha office with a focus on home/vehicle modifications and our DHHS parternship.

Lastly, ATP is moving forward with automating our referral process starting with our VR referrals. The teams have met and are currently working on setting it up so that ATTIE can accept referrals directly from QE2.

# Nebraska Client Assistance Program (CAP)

State Rehabilitation Council Report

February 3, 2026

## 1. Outreach + Interagency Coordination

CAP continues to expand outreach and coordination efforts to improve access for unserved and underserved populations, with particular emphasis on individuals served by behavioral health providers, NCBVI, Independent Living Centers, and Tribal VR programs.

Since the last SRC report, CAP has focused on building and piloting sustainable outreach tools, including:

- Developed, piloted, and implemented a revised CAP outreach letter with QR code, allowing VR staff, partner agencies, and clients to digitally request CAP information, consultations, and presentations.
- Worked with VR marketing staff to revise and update the CAP brochure.
- Updated and streamlined CAP website content to provide clearer, more concise information for clients and partners.

CAP also maintained strong interagency engagement through participation in:

- Directors Implementation Group (DIG)
- NCBVI Supervisor Meetings
- Respect & Dignity Committee
- Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC)
- Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council (NESILC)
- CAP Community of Practice (CAP COP) through National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

In addition, CAP conducted in-person outreach with Winnebago Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation staff to strengthen partnerships and referral pathways.

## 2. Federal Advocacy + Budget Monitoring

CAP continues to operate under the federal continuing resolution, which has maintained baseline CAP funding while longer-term federal budget decisions remain unresolved.

While Nebraska CAP remains solvent for FY26, this stability is dependent on a combination of grant funding, prior-year carryover, and program income, rather than grant funding alone. Ongoing sustainability planning with Nebraska VR continues to focus on ensuring CAP can maintain its current staffing and service capacity under evolving federal and fiscal conditions.

CAP continues to monitor national developments through NDRN and peer programs as part of this planning.

- Planning Priorities: Expanding CAP's internal database to capture more stakeholder-focused reporting, exploring redesignation options (examples pending from RSA), and strengthening outreach and training partnerships with VR, NCBVI, ILCs, and Tribal VR.
- National T/TA Update: NDRN's CAP Training & Technical Assistance grant will not continue in FY26 (appeal filed; support remains until September 30, 2025).

### **3. Data & Documentation Systems**

During FY25 and into early FY26, CAP focused on improving how program data and records are maintained so that case tracking, reporting, and oversight are accurate and reliable. This included updates to CAP's internal database, review of case and I&R records, improvements to referral tracking, and updates to public-facing website content.

### **4. FY25 Activity & Reporting Summary**

During FY25 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025), CAP recorded 658 Information & Referral (I&R) contacts, compared to 651 the prior year, indicating that overall demand for CAP services remained steady.

While call volume was similar, the nature of contacts changed. A greater share of FY25 calls involved complex system navigation, rights education, and problem-solving related to VR processes, funding uncertainty, and service delays.

During FY25, CAP served 10 individuals through formal CAP cases, compared to approximately 21 cases in the prior year. This shift reflects both changes in the system environment and ongoing refinement of how CAP distinguishes between Information & Referral (I&R) and formal CAP case services.

Many FY25 contacts involved Short-Term Technical Assistance and other forms of advocacy that required meaningful CAP involvement but did not always rise to the level of a formal complaint or dispute. CAP continued to refine how I&R contacts transition into CAP cases, particularly in this gray area, to ensure that case tracking and reporting remain accurate and consistent.

CAP case services during FY25 most often involved:

- Mediation and other methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Short-Term Technical Assistance
- Investigation and Monitoring (such as reviewing VR records, releases of information, and service decisions to support client advocacy)

This FY25 data is being used to guide outreach, case identification, and reporting improvements in FY26.



# Community Stakeholders Quarterly Report

Reporting Period: September - October 2025

---

## Quarterly Overview

During this quarter, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) navigated a leadership transition while continuing to advance its mission of strengthening communication access, community engagement, and equity across Nebraska. Despite this transition, agency programs, outreach, and partnerships moved forward without interruption, reflecting the strong foundation established through the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

---

## Leadership Update

- Executive Director Kyle Miers concluded his service with NCDHH on December 5, 2025.
- Kim Davis has been named Interim Executive Director while the Board of Commissioners oversees next steps in the leadership transition.
- All programs, outreach commitments, and strategic priorities are continuing as planned under senior staff leadership.

### Why it matters:

Clear and steady leadership ensures continuity of services, maintains momentum on strategic priorities, and reinforces trust with community partners and stakeholders.

---

## Strengthening Community Outreach and Emergency Preparedness

- Engaged thousands of community members through presentations, outreach visits, events, and one-on-one support.
- Outreach staff presented at regional and national conferences, elevating conversations around communication access.
- Partnered with the American Red Cross and local health departments to plan emergency preparedness workshops designed specifically for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities.
- Continued participation in statewide emergency planning groups to strengthen inclusive preparedness efforts across Nebraska.

### Why it matters:

Community outreach connects people to resources, strengthens emergency readiness, and ensures communication access is built into public safety planning statewide.

---

## Supporting Youth and Families

- Delivered trainings and presentations for educators, school counselors, and service providers.
- Provided direct support to families navigating IEPs, school placement decisions, and special education processes.
- Completed recording for a new Omaha Police Department training module focused on communication access and Deaf awareness, which will become mandatory for officers.
- Increased presence at family- and youth-focused community events, expanding early access to guidance and support.

### Why it matters:

Early education and clear guidance empower families, improve school outcomes, and help professionals better serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth.

---

## Expanding Behavioral Health and Public Safety Access

- Delivered trainings for healthcare providers, emergency responders, and law enforcement on Deaf culture and accessible communication.
- Built new partnerships with behavioral health organizations, domestic and sexual violence service providers, and emergency response agencies.
- Continued statewide planning to expand accessible law enforcement and emergency response training.

### Why it matters:

Accessible behavioral health and emergency services reduce barriers to care, improve outcomes, and ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

---

## Building Connection Through Community Events

- Hosted a Connection Hour focused on sharing the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan and fostering dialogue with community partners.
- Celebrated International Day of Sign Languages through coffee gatherings across Nebraska with strong in-person and virtual participation.
- Launched planning for **3Cs: Coffee, Conversation, and Culture**, a new recurring initiative beginning January 2026.

### Why it matters:

Community events create space for learning, cultural connection, and collaboration while strengthening relationships across the state.

---

## Strengthening Accessible Communication and Storytelling

- Advanced the agency website redesign into the development phase through the state's ADA-compliant pilot program.
- Launched the Community Spotlight Series in partnership with Nebraska Hands & Voices to highlight Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans and their lived experiences.

- Improved internal communication workflows to support clearer coordination and more efficient information sharing.

Why it matters:

Accessible, consistent communication builds trust, expands public understanding, and ensures information reaches people in ways that work for them.

---

## Looking Ahead

In the months ahead, NCDHH will continue strengthening communication access, deepening partnerships, and supporting Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans across the state. Our focus remains on listening to community needs, building sustainable systems, and advancing equity through collaboration, education, and accessible communication. As work continues, NCDHH remains committed to transparency, responsiveness, and steady progress in service of the community.

## Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council Report

This year has seen a lot of changes in the NSILC. Over the last few months our Chairperson Jody Faltys has worked hard to begin the repair work on our program and our council. Due to my illness I was, unfortunately, unable to assist Jody in many of her dealings but we have had other individuals step up to assist her with the mountains of work that has been put in her lap.

We will soon be looking for an executive director as that position has been vacant for quite a few months. Chairperson Faltys has also noted that we have improved our application process and that it is speeding up our ability to garner new council members.

Our upcoming meetings will be held quarterly.

## Client Satisfaction Survey Quarter 1 2025/2026 YTD Comparison

	FY 24-25 Quarter 1 YTD	FY 25-26 Quarter 1 YTD
<b>Surveys Completed</b>	23	70
<b>% Still Employed</b>	95.65%	87.14%
<b>Why Not Employed</b>	Quit (1)- 100%	Quit (5)- 55.56% Laid Off (3)- 33.33% Fired (1)- 11.11%
<b>Job Meets Current Needs</b>	86.36%	90.16%
<b>Most Helpful Service</b>	Employment Services (11) 47.83% Encouragement/Support (10)- 43.48% Career Exploration/Job Fit- (5)- 21.74%	Encouragement/Support (35)- 50% Career Exploration/Job Fit (24)- 34.29% Employment Services (22)- 31.43%
<b>Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member</b>	100%	98.57%

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

	24-25 Quarter 1	25-26- Quarter 1
<b>I am satisfied with the service I received</b>	100%	<b>98.57%</b>
<b>I was treated with courtesy and respect.</b>	100%	<b>100%</b>
<b>My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.</b>	100%	<b>98.57%</b>
<b>I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received</b>	100%	<b>100%</b>

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.	75.71% 53	21.43% 15	1.43% 1	1.43% 1	0.00% 0	70
I was treated with courtesy and respect.	87.14% 61	12.86% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	70
My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.	71.43% 50	27.14% 19	0.00% 0	1.43% 1	0.00% 0	70
I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received.	74.29% 52	21.43% 15	4.29% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	70
					Answered	70
					Skipped	0

Q2. Are you currently employed?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	87.14% 61
No	12.86% 9
If yes, where?	0
	Answered 70
	Skipped 0

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

Answer Choices	Responses
Quit	55.56% 5
Fired	11.11% 1
Laid off	33.33% 3
	Answered 9
	Skipped 61

Q4. Does your job meet your current needs?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	90.16% 55
No	3.28% 2
Other (please specify)	6.56% 4
	Answered 61
	Skipped 9

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

Answer Choices	Responses
No Benefits	0.00% 0
Not Enough Pay	33.33% 2
Not a Good Fit	0.00% 0
Work Schedule	16.67% 1
Not Enough Hours	16.67% 1
Other	33.33% 2
Specify Other Reason	0
	Answered 6
	Skipped 64

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

Answered	2
Skipped	68

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

Answer Choices	Responses	
No Benefits	0.00%	0
Better Job	14.29%	1
Day Care	0.00%	0
Disability Interfered	0.00%	0
Hospitalized or Illness (Not disability related)	14.29%	1
Housing	0.00%	0
Not Enough Pay	0.00%	0
Not a Good Fit	14.29%	1
Returned to college	0.00%	0
Transportation	0.00%	0
Work Schedule	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
COVID19	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	57.14%	4
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>63</b>

Q8. Please describe Not a Good Fit

Answered	5
Skipped	65

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.)	18.57%	13
Education (post-secondary training)	4.29%	3
Assistive/Rehab Technology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods)	17.14%	12
Career Exploration and Job Fit	34.29%	24
Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc.)	7.14%	5
Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)	31.43%	22
Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis	11.43%	8
Encouragement/Support	50.00%	35
Nothing/Don't know	2.86%	2
Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)	1.43%	1
Client mentioned the following which was not on the list.		12
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>70</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	88.57%	62
Somewhat Likely	10.00%	7
Neutral	1.43%	1
Somewhat Unlikely	0.00%	0
Very Unlikely	0.00%	0
Please state why?		0
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

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

Answered	1
Skipped	69

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

Answered	33
Skipped	37

Q13. Which of the following describes you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Client	94.29%	66
Family member	7.14%	5
Authorized Representative	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
	Answered	70
	Skipped	0

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

Answer Choices	Responses	
State Office-Enriquez	0.00%	0
Scottsbluff-Fisher	5.71%	4
North Platte-Calvin	15.71%	11
Kearney-Anderson	14.29%	10
Grand Island-Allee	8.57%	6
Columbus	0.00%	0
Norfolk-Mitchell	14.29%	10
Omaha West-Petersen	18.57%	13
Omaha-Dixon	10.00%	7
Omaha-Brown	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Bergmann	1.43%	1
Lincoln-Wetstoad	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	11.43%	8
State Office-Kunes-Neary	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%	0
	Answered	70
	Skipped	0