

AGING STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

State Profile for

NEBRASKA

Home- and Community-based Services for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Background

- Nebraska's 60+ population was 325,406 in 2008 (18.2% of the state's total population), with 8.2% below the federal poverty level.¹
- The 60+ population is projected to be 454,446 in 2025 (25.1% of the state's total population).²
- About 22.7% of all households in 2007 had one or more persons age 65 years and older, and 36.1% of persons age 65 years and older had a disability.³
- Of the 253,728 Medicaid beneficiaries in the state in 2003, 8.4% were aged, 11.5% were blind and disabled, 15.0% were Dual Eligible, and 1.7% were HCBS waiver beneficiaries.⁴
- Medicaid expenditures for institutional long-term care were 62.4% of total long-term-care expenditures, compared to 37.6% for HCBS in fiscal year 2007.⁵

Abbreviations

AAA	Area Agency on Aging
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
AoA	Administration on Aging
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
HCBS	Home- and Community-based Services
IADL	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
MRDD	Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
OAA	Older Americans Act
PACE	Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly
SUA	State Unit on Aging

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. (2009). *AGing Integrated Database (AGID): American Community Survey (ACS) demographic data 2004-2007 and state-level population estimates data 2000-2008* [Data files]. Available from <http://198.136.163.234/default.asp>

² Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. (2009). *AGing statistics: Projected future growth of the Older population; By state: 2005-2030; Aged 60 and above* [Data files]. Available from http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/future_growth/future_growth.aspx.

³ Reimbursement and Research Department, American Health Care Association. (2006, August 29). *The state long-term health care sector 2005: Characteristics, utilization, and government funding*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey, United States and States. *Percent of households with one or more people 65 years and over* (R1104) and *Percent of people 65 years and over with a disability* (R1803).

⁵ Burwell, B., Sredl, K., & Eiken, S. (2008, September 26). *Medicaid long term care expenditures FY 2007*. Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters.

Government Structure to Manage HCBS State Medicaid Plan

- **SUA:** Nebraska State Unit on Aging, www.hhs.state.ne.us/aging.htm
- **State Medicaid Agency:** Division of Medicaid, Department of Health and Human Services, www.hhs.state.ne.us/Medicaid/
- Nebraska has a consolidated agency for long-term-care programs: the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Nebraska's SUA is one of eight units in the Division of Medicaid, which is one of six divisions under the Department of Health and Human Services. The Division of Medicaid is organized into acute care and long-term-care units.
- The director of Nebraska's SUA reports to the administrator of the Long-Term Care Section, who reports to the director of the Medicaid and Long-Term Care Division, who reports to the Governor.
- Nebraska has eight Area Agencies on Aging.

Single Point of Entry (SPE)/Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- Nebraska does not have an ADRC.

Assessment Process

Medicaid

- For Medicaid applicants, in determining functional eligibility for nursing home pre-admission, Nebraska requires an in-person assessment by someone other than nursing home staff. The assessment is conducted by the AAAs.

Non-Medicaid

- For non-Medicaid applicants in Nebraska, nursing home pre-admission assessment is not performed by someone other than nursing home staff.

- Nebraska provides HCBS through the state Medicaid plan.
- Refer to Table 1 for specific services provided.
- **PACE:** Nebraska has no PACE sites. There is one site in the planning stage located in Omaha.

Medicaid Waivers

- Nebraska has one waiver that provides HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. This is the Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver.
- **Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver:** This program is for adults aged 65 and older and also serves adults with physical disabilities. The individual must qualify for Medicaid. To be eligible for the program, the income limits are 100% of federal poverty level (FPL) or \$903 per month for an individual or a couple. The asset limits are \$4,000 for an individual and \$6,000 for a couple. Consumer-directed options are available under this program. A participant can select, hire and fire providers.
- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered under each program.

CMS-funded Programs and Grants

- Nebraska has one CMS-funded grant that provides HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. This is Money Follows the Person.
- **Money Follows the Person:** Eligibility for this program is not based on age; participants in the program have indicated (on the Minimum Data Set; MDS) that they wish to return home and have someone who would support their transition out of the nursing home or intermediate care facility. In addition to serving older adults and adults with physical disabilities, this program serves those with MRDD and individuals with traumatic brain injury. Medicaid waiver programs provide support and services for qualified individuals upon leaving the skilled nursing facility. Case manage-

ment is supplied for the first year of transition to identify any personal or community barriers and to promote services use.

- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered.

State-funded HCBS Programs

- Nebraska has three state-funded programs that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are: Care Management, Disabled Person and Family Support Program, and Life Span Respite.
- **Care Management:** This program targets those age 60 and older in need of nursing home level of care. Participants are above financial Medicaid eligibility. The intent of the program is to provide needed assistance in the community, preserve vital communities and assist people to age well in place.
- **Disabled Person and Family Support Program:** This program targets individuals just above financial eligibility for Medicaid. The Department of Health and Human Services refers applicants to this program when they are deemed ineligible for Medicaid services.
- **Life Span Respite:** Eligibility for this program is not based on age; it serves those with special needs who require 24-hour supervision. There is not a functional eligibility assessment; a statement from the family indicating the special need of the individual is submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services, Respite Subsidy Program. To financially qualify for this program, a participant's income level must be at 312% of the federal poverty level (FPL) or \$2,816 for an individual or \$ 3,788 for a couple (for each additional family member the income limit is increased by \$972); there are no asset requirements. The program works closely with the AAAs to promote it as a service option for caregivers. Participants are given \$120/month as reimbursement for respite care.
- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered.

Locally Funded HCBS Programs

- Nebraska uses local funds for HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.
- Local funds are used for senior centers, county veterans' services, and interdenominational coalitions.

OAA-funded Programs and Grants

- Refer to Table 1 for services provided through Title III of the OAA.
- Nebraska uses cost-sharing mechanisms or sliding fee scales in the delivery of Title III services.
- Nebraska has two other OAA-funded grant that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are the Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant and SMP.
- The Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant is a consumer-based program that provides vouchers for caregiver services and client needs. The program has partnered with Alzheimer's Associations and an AAA to provide services. The program is focusing on those with early-onset dementia.
- The SMP program is a Medicaid/Medicare fraud prevention grant that educates consumers and trains volunteers to detect and report fraud.

Social Service Block Grants (SSBG) and Community Service Block Grants (CSBG) for HCBS

- Nebraska uses SSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.
- SSBG is used to provide direct services such as congregate meals, home-delivered meals, chore/house-keeping services, respite care, and transportation. These funds are administered through the Department of Health and Human Services and usually priority is given to those just above Medicaid eligibility.

- Nebraska does not have an ADRC. Nebraska uses CSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

CSBG is used to meet the needs of vulnerable individuals including those with low income and those with physical disabilities. Each community action agency provides services to older adults and adults with physical disabilities based on local needs and local resources. In 2008, the nine agencies served 12,326 older adults and 3,575 individuals with disabilities. CSBG dollars were used to support emergency activities such as food assistance, rent/mortgage payments, medical care, legal assistance, violence protection, temporary shelter, disaster relief, clothing and transportation. CSBG dollars also support activities related to housing, job training or employment, energy assistance and tax preparation assistance.

Consumer Direction

- Nebraska offers consumer-directed options. The HCBS programs in the state that offer consumer direction are: Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver, the Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant, Personal Assistance Services, Disabled Person and Family Support Program, and Life Span Respite.
- Those permitted to provide services under consumer direction are: provider agencies, adult children of the consumer, other family members, and friends.
- Nebraska does not use fiscal intermediary services in connection with consumer direction. Under the Life Span Respite Program and the Disabled Person and Family Support Program, a participant selects the provider and submits a claim to the state; the state then issues payment to the participant or to the service provider.

Managed Care

- Nebraska does not have HCBS programs run by managed health care plans.

Major Accomplishments and Initiatives

- One of Nebraska's initiatives is to improve the quality of waiver services through a quality assurance plan.
- Nebraska's concern in regards to nursing home transition is the difficulty of working with a largely rural state. Transportation is problematic and improving the transportation system and care coordination are essential for successful transitioning.

Types of Services	Program Type / Funding Source						
	Medicaid Waivers	CMS-funded Programs and Grants	State-funded Programs			State Medicaid Plan	OAA Title III
	Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver	Money Follows the Person	Care management	Disabled Person and Family Support Program	Life Span Respite		
Adult Day Care / Adult Day Health							X
Assisted Living	X						
Caregiver Services / Respite / Education	X		X		X		X
Case Management / Care Coordination	X	X	X				X
Chore / Homemaking	X			X		X	X
Companion Services / Socialization Activities							
Employment				X			
Equipment / Supplies / Modifications / Assistive Technology	X			X		X	
Health Promotion Activities							
Home Health / Personal Care	X			X		X	X
Information / Assistance / Referral			X	X	X		X
Legal Assistance / Financial Advice							X
Medical / Dental / Medication Care						X	
Mental and Behavioral Health Services							
Nursing						X	
Nutrition / Meals	X				X		X
Personal Supports for Community Living / Transitioning	X						
Rehabilitation / Therapy						X	
Residential Services							
Transportation	X			X	X		X
Other/Unspecified HCBS	X						

Table 2: Selected HCBS Programs for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities in Nebraska

Program Type / Funding Source	Program Name	Ages Served	Nursing Home Level of Care Required	Entity Responsible for Functional Assessment	Entity Responsible for Financial Assessment	Entity Responsible for Case Management	Waiting List (Number)	Consumer Direction Option
Medicaid Waivers	Aged and Disabled Medicaid Waiver	Disabled Adults and 65+	Yes	Area Agency on Aging	State agency: Department of Health and Human Services	Area Agency on Aging	No	Yes
CMS-funded Programs and Grants	Money Follows the Person	Not based on age	Yes	No functional assessment	No financial assessment	No case management	No	Yes
State-funded Programs	Care management	60+	Yes	Area Agency on Aging; Care Management Unit	Area Agency on Aging; Care Management Unit	Area Agency on Aging; Care Management Unit	No	Yes
	Disabled Person and Family Support Program	All age groups	No	State agency: Department of Health and Human Services	State agency: Department of Health and Human Services	State agency: Department of Health and Human Services	No	Yes
	Life Span Respite	Not based on age	No	No functional assessment	State agency: Department of Health and Human Services	State agency: Department of Health and Human Services	No	Yes