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**October 2023 State Rehabilitation Council
 ATP Report**

Marketing-Nancy Noha

Request for Proposal-Bid Opening September 25, 2023

The State of Nebraska, Department of Education, Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) today for the purpose of selecting a qualified bidder to develop a series of interactive, web-based learning modules.

Module content is intended to educate individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI) and their family members and informal caregivers on the impact of ABI, the recovery journey, and the concept of peer support for the purpose of reducing social isolation, building, and rebuilding satisfying social connections and increasing engagement with their community. [Visit this link](#) for all the information you need.

ATP continues to need contractors to quote on home modification projects across the state.

A contractor recruitment post card will be mailed to potential contractors and used at events to attract contractors to bid on home modification projects across the state.



A T P N E E D S C O N T R A C T O R S !



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Resource Coordination/Financial Programs – Angie Ransom

To date, ATP has received approximately 190 new funding Service and Device (S&D) applications. It continues that most applications come from the metro areas- Omaha and Lincoln. S&D's and inquiries from managed care companies have increased for items like shower chairs, computers, scooters, and other items not covered by insurance. This has allowed for collaboration with reuse networks to try and locate items. ATP staff has been in communication with agencies across the state to start planning for reuse events in Scottsbluff/Gering, Kearney, and Lincoln. The funding would be from a recently submitted grant from the Environmental Trust Foundation. This grant application was submitted by the Nebraska Recycling Council.

Enrichment Foundation Grant

ATP submitted the application for the 2024 fiscal year. The application process was streamlined by submitting online and we anticipate a response from the foundation this fall.

DHHS Program – May Faith [7/1/23 through 9/7/23]

During the third quarter of 2023, 105 projects were authorized, utilizing \$824,312.43 in AD Waiver funding, and 4 DD projects were authorized, utilizing \$29,917.00. These projects assisted 91 consumers with greater independence and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers continued to remain high throughout the second quarter. The ATP HHS/DD program has hired one new Technology Specialist, Delia Michalski, who will be positioned in the Lincoln office. The addition of an additional Technology Specialist will hopefully reduce the wait times for consumer assessments. A note remains on the Service Coordinator referral webpage advising that the HHS/DD team continues to be 50 days out before being able to reach out to schedule assessments on new referrals.

Education – Brian Wojcik

The ATP Education Program continues technical assistance to members of IEP and IFSP teams across the state. These include a series of webinars, book studies, and online learning cohorts through the ATP Education Academy.

The ATP Education program is looking to hire a new Equipment manager to oversee the ATP Education Loan Pool. The position posted 9/13/2023 and will be open until 9/27/2023.



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 telecommunication equipment and training to low-income individuals with significant hearing and vision loss. There are currently 5 active Nebraska iCC cases, with 1 person who is completing the iCC application process.

The iCC Program started the new fiscal year on July 1 and has had new incoming referrals related to the recent outreach efforts. New outreach materials have been obtained including giveaways as well as information on iCC and ATP programs and services in braille. The iCC Program Supervisor continues to meet with an interdisciplinary team quarterly, including members from other agencies serving individuals who are deaf blind in the state such as NCBVI, NCDHH, Outlook NE, NE Deaf Blind Project, Helen Keller National Center, and DD Services.

Nebraska VR Title 1 Program Update- Brooke Harrie

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 52 service requests from 7/12/2023 to 9/06/2023. Of those 52 service requests, 17 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, 1 was for Pre-ETS, 33 were for adult VR clients and 1 was for a CPAP client. The 52 service requests received were for the following equipment: cognitive aids (13), ergonomics (16), vehicle modifications and repairs (4), hearing devices (1), mobility devices and repairs (3), communication devices (2), worksite AT (8), entrance modifications (2), bathroom modifications (1), and other home modifications (2).

The ATP Program Supervisor started meeting with teams throughout the state for the annual ATP team tours. These meetings will continue throughout the month of September and include the ATP Program Supervisor sharing program updates with each individual VR team, discussing technology, and answering any questions or concerns they may have with the ATP/VR partnership. The ATP Program Supervisor and Technology Specialists also have been meeting with ESU's throughout the state to begin planning for Job Expos and events happening this year and early next year to support the VR Pre-ETS programs. The ATP Technology Specialist in Omaha will be presenting at the next regional meeting with the ESU 3 staff and partnering agencies on September 19th.

General Update -Tobias Orr

The VR Field office and ATP Lincoln are now officially located at their new location 500 S. 84th, Lincoln, NE 68510. Other than a few pieces of furniture still on order, everything is complete. Staff are enjoying the windows and sunlight the new space provides.



State Rehabilitation Council
Client Assistance Program (CAP) Report
October 2023

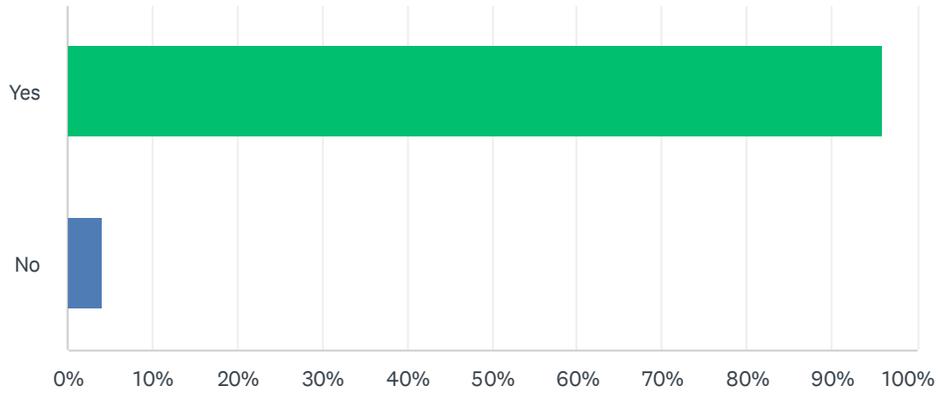
-
- Two new CAP cases this quarter, one closed:
 - o Client was denied request for VR to purchase equipment that would support his current employment. Job posting/ description did not include equipment being requested. Referred to ATP. Case is ongoing.
 - o Guardian called with concerns regarding timeliness and quality of services being provided by Nebraska VR. Sent releases on 9/12 for signatures.

Last quarter

- o Case regarding TWE quality of service. Family concerned about communication with VR and job coach to make changes in approaches timely to bolster TWE. Case is ongoing. A new TWE is being pursued. Meeting to be held prior to discuss tasks, supports needed and avoid previous issues.
- Completed 3 in person office visits to VR teams. One team participated virtually.

Q1 Are you currently employed?

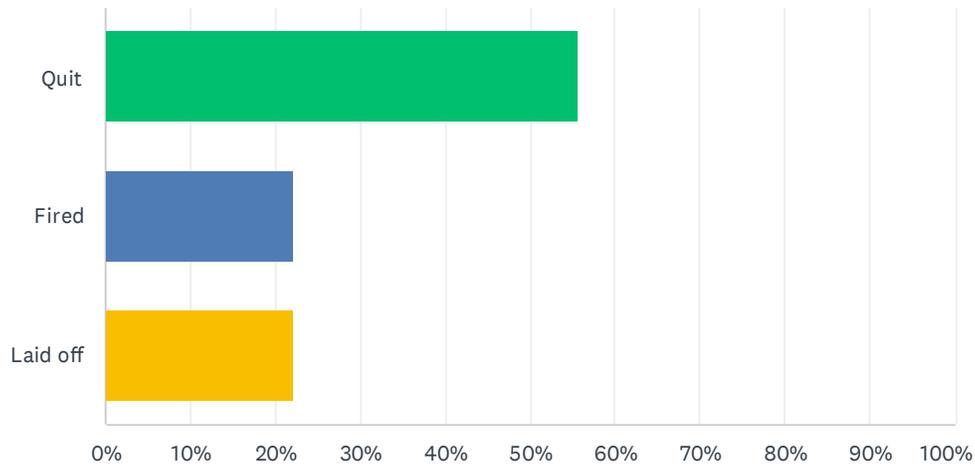
Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.87%	209
No	4.13%	9
TOTAL		218

Q2 If not, did you quit, were you fired or laid off?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 209



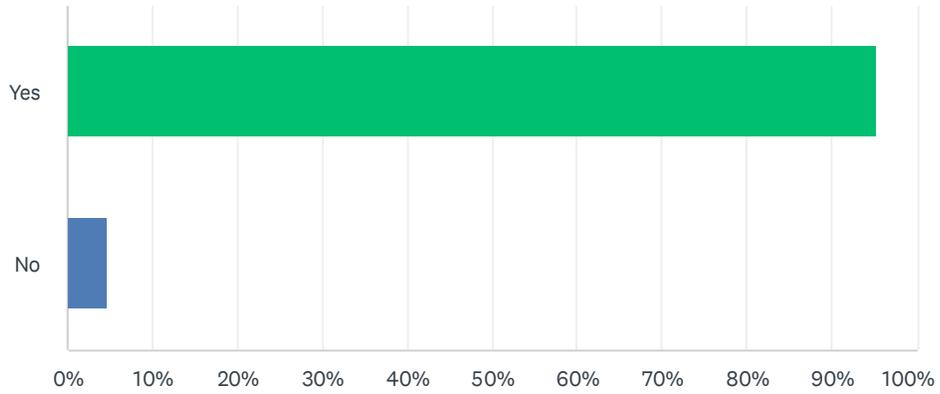
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Quit	55.56% 5
Fired	22.22% 2
Laid off	22.22% 2
TOTAL	9

Q3 What is the name of your employer?

Answered: 209 Skipped: 9

Q4 Does your job meet your current needs?

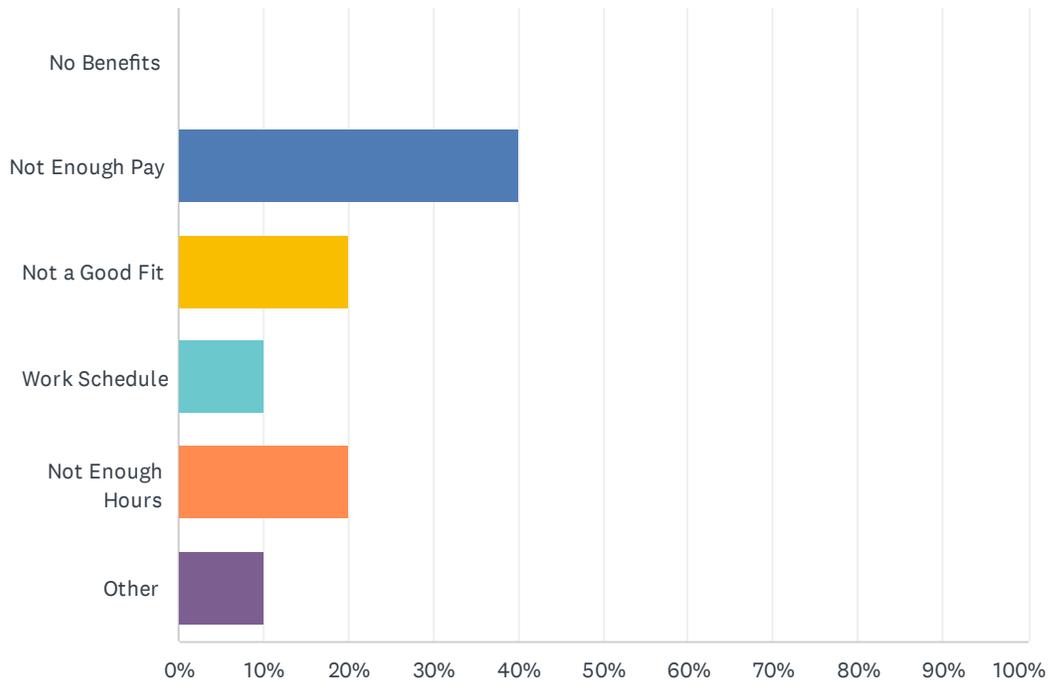
Answered: 209 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.22%	199
No	4.78%	10
TOTAL		209

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

Answered: 10 Skipped: 208



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No Benefits	0.00% 0
Not Enough Pay	40.00% 4
Not a Good Fit	20.00% 2
Work Schedule	10.00% 1
Not Enough Hours	20.00% 2
Other	10.00% 1
TOTAL	10

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

Answered: 1 Skipped: 217

Q7 Can you tell me why you (quit)?

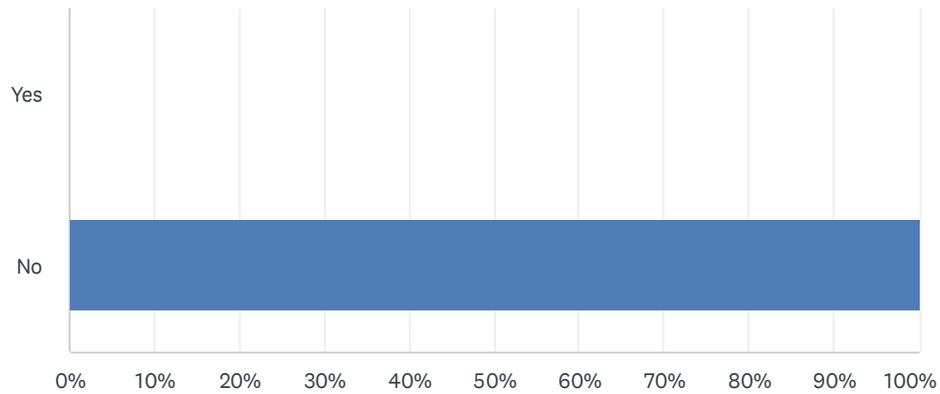
Answered: 5 Skipped: 213



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Benefits	0.00%	0
Better Job	0.00%	0
Day Care	0.00%	0
Disability Interfered	0.00%	0
Hospitalized or Illness (Not disability related)	0.00%	0
Housing	0.00%	0
Not Enough Pay	0.00%	0
Not a Good Fit	0.00%	0
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)	100.00%	5
TOTAL		5

Q8 Were you laid off due to COVID19

Answered: 7 Skipped: 211



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	0.00%	0
No	100.00%	7
TOTAL		7

Q9 Please describe Not a Good Fit

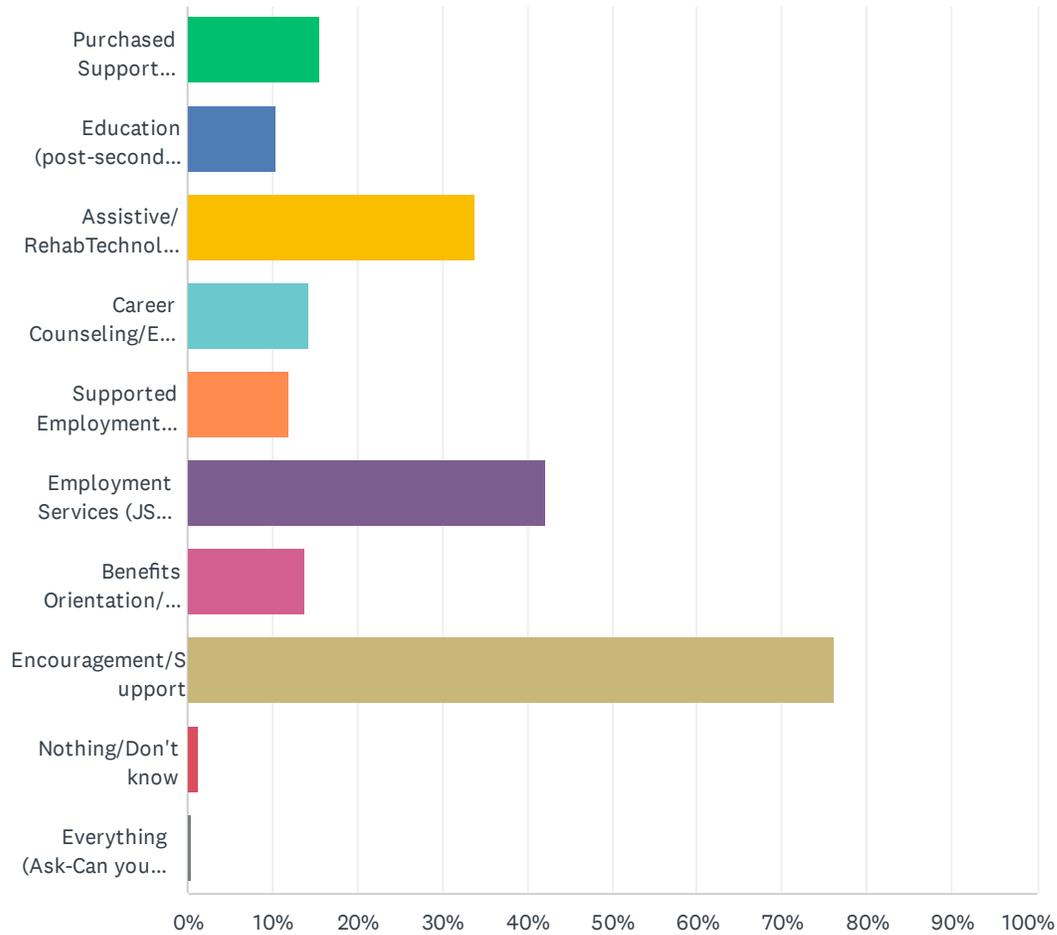
Answered: 2 Skipped: 216

Q10 Please state hourly wage and how many hours you are/were working per week?

Answered: 207 Skipped: 11

Q11 What did Nebraska VR provide that was most helpful to you? Mark the categories the client indicated were the most helpful.

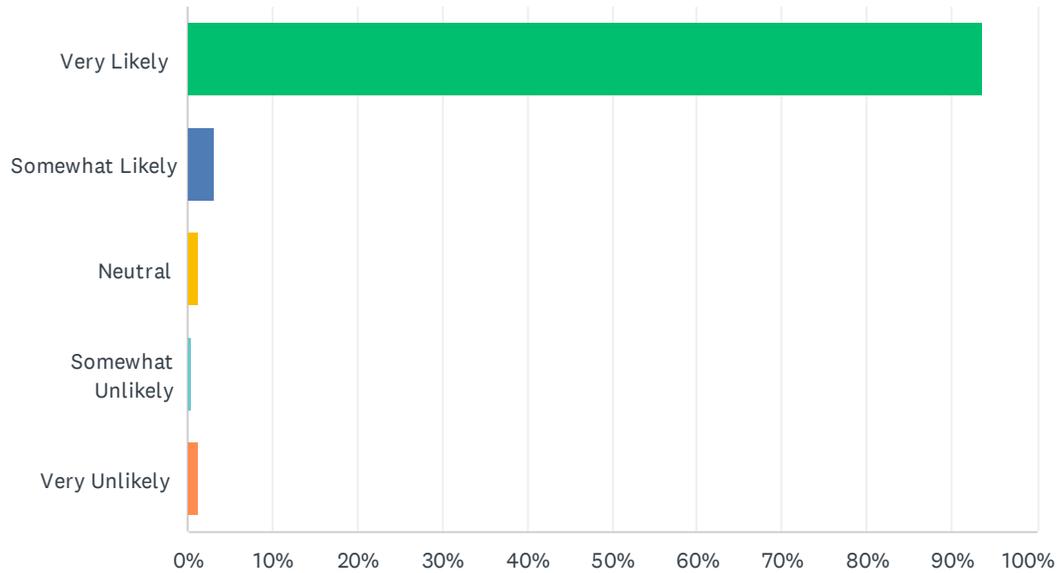
Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)	15.60%	34
Education (post-secondary training)	10.55%	23
Assistive/ RehabTechnology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods)	33.94%	74
Career Counseling/Evaluation (Career planning, vocational evaluation, etc.)	14.22%	31
Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc.)	11.93%	26
Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)	42.20%	92
Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis	13.76%	30
Encouragement/Support	76.15%	166
Nothing/Don't know	1.38%	3
Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)	0.46%	1
Total Respondents: 218		

Q12 How likely are you to recommend Vocational Rehabilitation to a friend or family member who experiences a disability?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Likely	93.58%	204
Somewhat Likely	3.21%	7
Neutral	1.38%	3
Somewhat Unlikely	0.46%	1
Very Unlikely	1.38%	3
TOTAL		218

Q13 Please share why you are very unlikely, somewhat unlikely and neutral

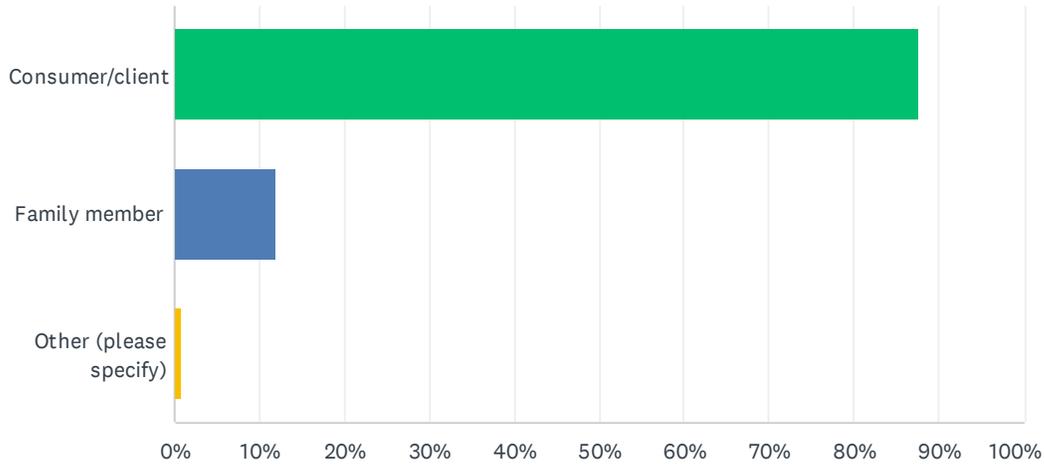
Answered: 7 Skipped: 211

Q14 Please share any other comments or suggestions you may have.

Answered: 176 Skipped: 42

Q15 Who did you talk with?

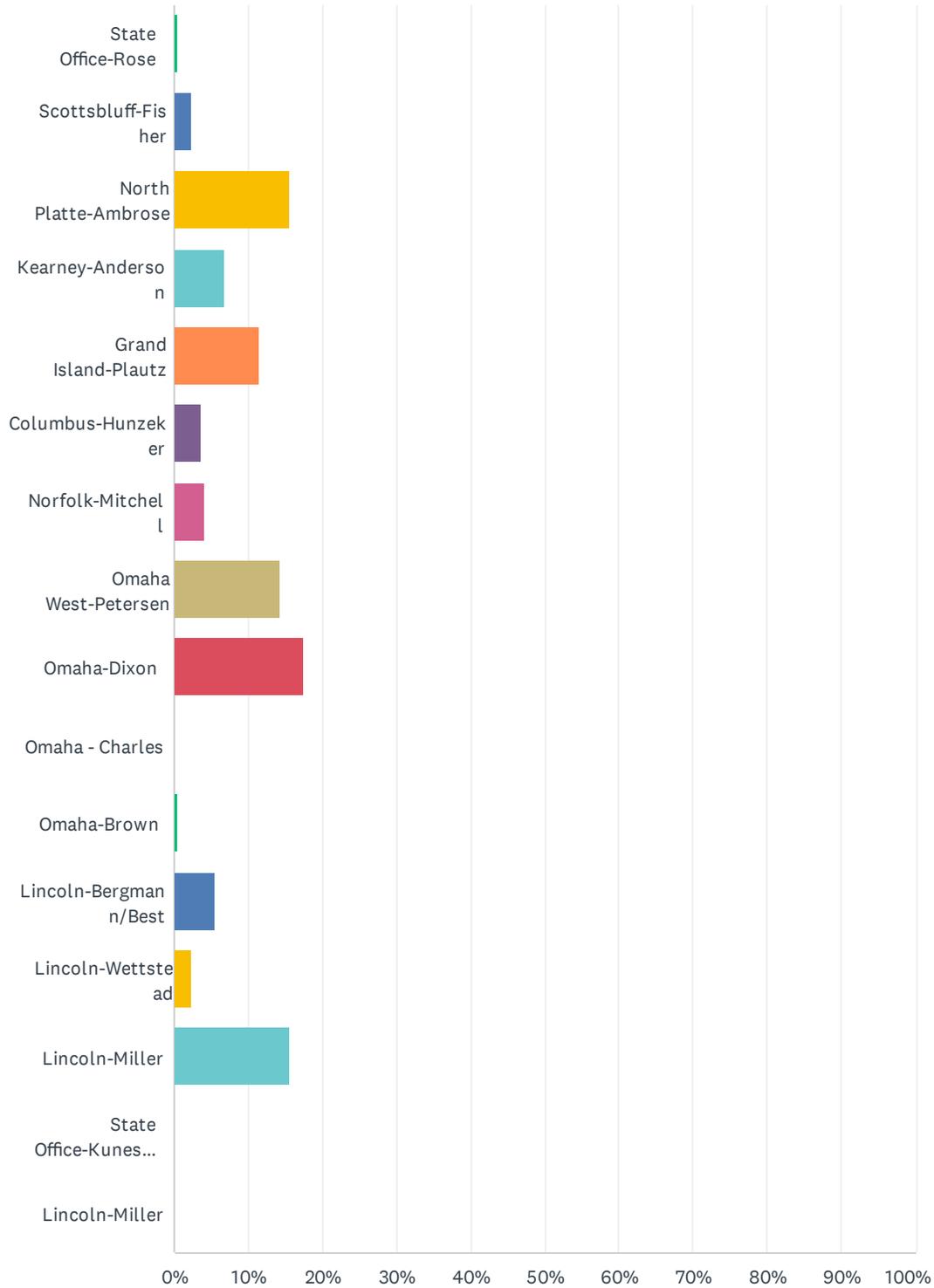
Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Consumer/client	87.61% 191
Family member	11.93% 26
Other (please specify)	0.92% 2
Total Respondents: 218	

Q16 Which VR Team served this client?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
State Office-Rose	0.46%	1
Scottsbluff-Fisher	2.29%	5
North Platte-Ambrose	15.60%	34
Kearney-Anderson	6.88%	15
Grand Island-Plautz	11.47%	25
Columbus-Hunzeker	3.67%	8
Norfolk-Mitchell	4.13%	9
Omaha West-Petersen	14.22%	31
Omaha-Dixon	17.43%	38
Omaha - Charles	0.00%	0
Omaha-Brown	0.46%	1
Lincoln-Bergmann/Best	5.50%	12
Lincoln-Wettstead	2.29%	5
Lincoln-Miller	15.60%	34
State Office-Kunes-Neary	0.00%	0
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%	0
TOTAL		218

Client Satisfaction Survey Quarter 4 2022/2023 YTD Comparison

	FY21-22 Quarter 4 YTD	FY22-23 Quarter 4 YTD
Surveys Completed	315	218
% Still Employed	93.97%	95.87%
Why Not Employed	Quit – 63.16% Laid off-21.05% Fired- 15.79%	Quit – 55.56% Fired- 22.22% Laid Off- 22.22%
Job Meets Current Needs	94.26%	95.22%
Most Helpful Service	Encouragement Support 62.86% Supported Employment 39.05% Employment Services 35.87%	Encouragement support 76.15% Employment Services 42.20% Assitive Technology 33.94%
Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member	95.24%	96.79%

Reports from Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offices:

From Kearney office, Aaron Rothenberger:

Kim Davis and I attended a listening session for the State Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

There we represented the Deaf and HOH community.

The workshop is trying to set the standards and rules for broadband access across the state and looking for holes in coverage.

From NCDHH's interpreter coordinator, Sharon Sinkler:

Nebraska License Information (as of 8-22-2023) Total #

Interpreters with National Certification (includes 5 Temporary Permits) 69

Interpreters with State Certification 32

Intermediary (Deaf) Interpreters (RID Certified CDI) 1

Intermediary (Deaf) Interpreters (State Licensed DI) 5

Apprentice License Interpreters 6

Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) businesses 16

Licensing information can be found on our website: <https://ncdhh.nebraska.gov/licensing>.

NCDHH Sponsored Interpreter Workshop(s):

- “Immersion Training for Deaf and Hearing Interpreter Teams” workshop was held over the weekend of June 23rd in LaVista. Presented and led by Dr. Regan Thibodeau and geared toward Deaf and Hearing interpreters who are currently licensed in Nebraska, as well as those interested in becoming a Deaf interpreter. Participants provided great feedback and wanted to receive more of this type of training. Huge thanks to neRID and LASLP (Lincoln Association of Sign Language Professionals-not an active group and now defunct) for their generous donation of both breakfast and lunch from Panera for Saturday and Sunday.
- A second training for Deaf and Hearing Interpreter Teams will be held the weekend of October 6th in LaVista. This will be again presented and led by Dr. Regan Thibodeau and is geared toward Deaf and Hearing interpreters who are currently licensed in Nebraska, as well as those interested in becoming a Deaf interpreter. Participants can earn up to 1.8 CEUs or 18 clock hours. Flyers and registration forms have been sent out. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Sinkler at Sharon.sinkler@nebraska.gov.

From Lincoln office, Kim Davis:

- NCDHH-Lincoln Office Advocacy Specialist and NCDHH-Lincoln/Omaha Behavioral Health Coordinator Job Opening / Hiring.
- NCDHH participates with Nebraska DeafBlind Interagency Team the past 6 years to work on establishing the DeafBlind Support Service Providers. One of the team members, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visual Impaired (NCBVI) has offered to set up the first pilot SSP project and contracted with Vancro. SSP service is underway for the Omaha and it's metropolitan region. If this is successful, future prospect is to find funding (especially legislative funding) to establish SSP statewide. If you know of any individuals who are DeafBlind, please refer them to NCBVI!

From Omaha office, Jeremy Daffern:

Just completed the Meet and Greet with our new executive director Arlene Garcia-Gunderson and the NCDHH board at Omaha Association of the Deaf. The turnout was moderate, I was hoping for more deaf and hard of hearing Nebraskans to attend.

Ashley Wulf has been working hard with her new focus, Deaf youth, and families. Her position is focused on education needs, necessary of American Sign Language, ASL at Home projects, etc.

From Scottsbluff office, Susan Whitaker:

On August 1 we participated in the National Night Out. There were close to 1,000 people in attendance. This is a great event for exposure to the community. We had a corn hole game set up for kids to play and receive candy. This helped bring people to our booth where we could share what NCDHH is all about.

On September 7 we had a Disability Disaster Preparedness Workshop. This workshop was designed to show people with disabilities how to prepare an emergency kit and things to consider based on their disability. We had representatives from Nebraska Emergency Management, Red Cross, Roosevelt Public Power, and a few others speak. They had booths with useful information set up as well. It was a great success!

On September 9 we had our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day at the Zoo. This was a good event to educate the public on hearing loss. We have booths from ESU13, Nebraska Association for the Deaf, Hand & Voices, NCDHH and a few others set up booths with great information for the public.



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 Sept. 2023

July 1 – Sept 1, 2023 NYLC events.

The hot days of mid-summer in Nebraska found NYLC busy as usual. NYLC virtually shared information about joining NYLC with PreETS Counselors and new VR employees on July 18th and 25th. Three East Region members enjoyed a sun filled day at Disability Pride Day on July 22nd. They also used that date to have an in-person Regional meeting to plan their turn at hosting Thursday Thread. Jessica Elsberry joined me on Aug. 5th to share at the Building Bridges Conference for people with cerebral palsy in the Omaha area. If you ever need a young person who loves to speak to groups, Jessica is your girl!

NYLC welcomed a new member in August. Kadee Luebbe of Hordville, NE.

Thursday Thread Virtual Meeting- dates/agenda items:

Date	Members Attending	Activity
July 13	7	Shared photos from the Leadership Conference and played Weird Things People Search For..
July 27	6	Played Family Feud Fast Money (Kathy’s Virtual Rules)
Aug.24	7	Advice to youth starting HS provided by NYLC Members and shared with VR PreETS Counselors.

NYLC Presentations/Out-reach

Date	Members Attending	What
July 18	1	Shared information about NYLC w/ PreETS Counselors, Virtual
July 22	3	Information Table at Disability Pride Day, Lincoln
July 22	3	East Region Meeting: Planned Thursday Thread
July 25	1	Shared information about NYLC w/ New VR Counselors, Virtual
Aug.5	1	Shared information about NYLC at Building Bridges Conference, Omaha



Disability Pride Day July 22, 2023