



**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)

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## October 2025 State Rehabilitation Council ATP Report

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

The ATP Advisory Council meeting will be held Friday, September 19, 2025. The council continues to look for new members. ATP will have a booth at Project Connect at Pinnacle Bank on October 8, 2025.

### **Enrichment Foundation Grant**

The Enrichment Foundation (EFG) application was submitted for FY 2026 in August. We are waiting for decision on grant award. There were no major changes to our application requests.

### **DHHS Program – May Faith [7/1/25 through 9/12/25]**

120 projects were authorized, utilizing \$982,952.31 in AD Waiver, Family Supports Waiver, and DD Waiver projects were authorized. No TBI Waiver referrals were made during this quarter. These projects assisted 109 consumers with greater independence, and accessibility in their homes and communities.

Referral numbers continued to increase during the quarter resulting in continued longer wait times for assessment services. Home and Community-Based Services central office staff requested Service Coordinators be notified when a project has been completed.

### **Education – Brian Wojcik**

The ATP Education team is off to a great start this year.

Here's some data from the previous State Fiscal Year (7/1/2024-6/30/2025)

ATP Education:

Loans = 1054 items (compared to 847 in 2023-2024)

Demonstrations/trainings = 1605 items showcased/demonstrated/or provided training on.

Education Requests = 186 (compared to 138 in 2023-2024)

ATIA Learning Center = 145 individuals accessed the ATIA Learning Center with a potential impact on over 7200 children and students.



### **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 2 active iCC cases in Nebraska.

The new ATP staff, Blaine Sexton, in our Scottsbluff office will be working with iCanConnect cases and already started training to learn more about the program. An example of equipment provided to a recent iCC client would include a MacBook Pro laptop and a BrailleSense 6. The client was needing a new laptop due to a decline in their vision for telecommunication. They also had a Braille display that broke recently, the BrailleSense 6 was one that had been purchased for another iCC client, but was returned, so we were able to provide this through reuse. The iCC client is also working with the NCBVI, so they will be providing training to our mutual client on the equipment provided.

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

ATP Technology Specialists for the VR Title 1 Program received 62 service requests from 6/28/2025 to 9/8/2025. Of those 62 service requests, 8 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, 8 were for Pre-ETS and 46 were for adult VR clients. The 62 service requests received were for the following equipment: ADL (3), bathroom modifications (2), cognitive aids (17), communication (2), ergonomics (9), vehicle modifications and repairs (6), computer/software (2), hearing devices (5), worksite AT (9), home modifications (2) and mobility devices (5).

We are happy to announce that our new staff member, Blaine Sexton, started on August 25<sup>th</sup>. He will be in the Scottsbluff VR office and has already started training on the VR process and shadowing on cases. The ATP Program Supervisor has started the annual ATP Team Tours and is presenting to all VR teams using the interactive presentation tool called Mentimeter to share partnership updates. Vendors who have been invited to present at our monthly team meetings the past couple of months included Inspiration, a mind mapping tool for generating and organizing ideas, and Driving Ambitions, a vendor who completed driver's evaluations for individuals needing both low- and high-tech equipment. The ATP Program Supervisor also presented to the Supported Employment Community of Practice group on ATP services and also provided examples of supported employment cases we have been referred into the past to give everyone an idea of all the different AT devices we can assist with. Our Technology Specialist in Norfolk returned from maternity leave and so we are now fully staffed!



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

As part of Nebraska VR's state plan goal of collaborating more with ATP, we are moving forward with upgrading our database to accept VR referrals automatically. We have just began this process and working with IT and our programmer to add this feature. The hope is to have it rolled out before the winter is over.

On the East side of the state, ATP is excited to be hiring a new technology specialist. This position will mainly focus on our DHHS projects with the intention of lowering the time it takes to provide home/vehicle modifications to our consumers. By the time you read this report we will have concluded our interviews and will hopefully have a new ATP team member.

# Nebraska Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Director's Report to the State Rehabilitation Council

October 7, 2025

## 1. Outreach + Interagency Coordination

- CAP continues to collaborate with Nebraska VR to improve outreach to unserved and underserved communities, with emphasis on behavioral health providers and clients.
- A new outreach letter with a QR code was developed to make requesting information and presentations easier.
- Ongoing participation in interagency and committee meetings includes:
  - Directors Implementation Group (DIG) (monthly, led by Lindy with Program Directors and Office Directors).
  - NCBVI supervisor meetings (monthly, in-person in Lincoln).
  - Respect & Dignity Committee (September 15; working draft to move the committee under the Leadership Committee to advance State Plan Goal #3).
  - Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC) (September 19).
- Attended the NDRN Critical CAP Tips webinar on September 13, which provided clarification on CAP staff roles, notice of awards, authorized activities, and appropriate use of CAP funds. These updates will inform ongoing outreach and sustainability planning.
- Scheduled to attend the NESILC meeting on October 9, 2025 to continue interagency coordination.

## 2. Federal Advocacy + Budget Monitoring

- CAP continues to track federal developments, including the proposed elimination of CAP funding in the FY26 federal budget, and has stayed closely connected with NDRN and peer programs.
- In September 2025, CAP participated in sustainability planning with VR leadership. Key points included:
  - Funding Context: CAP has been flat funded, with VR bridging support to sustain 1.0 FTE Director + 0.75 FTE. Nebraska CAP remains funded without deficit through FY26 under the continuing resolution.
  - 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).

# Nebraska Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Director's Report to the State Rehabilitation Council

## 3. Data & Documentation Systems

- CAP is strengthening its documentation and data systems to better support budget planning, accountability, and sustainability.
- Improvements include enhancing CAP's internal database, capturing referral sources, and generating stakeholder-specific data not currently addressed in the RSA-227. Key stakeholders include Nebraska VR, NCBVI, the League of Human Dignity, Independence Rising, and Tribal VR programs.
- In response to questions from NCBVI leadership, CAP is clarifying referral flow — e.g., whether a client was referred to CAP by NCBVI, self-referred, or referred back by CAP — to ensure more accurate reporting across all stakeholders.
- CAP is also exploring how service denials are captured and tracked. This work is still in early stages, but improved documentation would provide stronger context for understanding client access and outcomes, and help ensure that system "success" can be attributed with confidence.

## 4. CAP Case Closure Summary

**Service:** Mediation and Other Methods of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

**Policy(ies):**

- Nebraska VR Program Policies and Procedures
- Client's Rights and Responsibilities

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

A VR client contacted CAP expressing dissatisfaction with their assigned counselor and requested a transfer. The client wanted the option to work with a different counselor either within the same service office or at another nearby office. They reported challenges in communication and rapport that were interfering with progress on their Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

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

CAP reviewed the case, confirmed the client's preferences, and engaged with VR leadership to explore options. Leadership confirmed the request was feasible and discussed potential next steps. CAP and VR leadership also identified scheduling considerations and communication strategies to better support the client's engagement moving forward.

### **Outcome / Resolution – Actions Taken and Collaborative Results**

With CAP involvement, the client was reassigned to a different counselor. CAP, VR leadership, and the client planned a follow-up meeting to review the IPE, define clear employment goals, and establish consistent supports such as weekly check-ins and structured task planning. The client expressed appreciation for the collaborative process and re-engaged with VR services.

# Nebraska Client Assistance Program (CAP)

Director's Report to the State Rehabilitation Council

## Recommendations – Next Steps and Considerations for Ongoing Support

- Maintain regular check-ins between the client and VR staff to reinforce progress.
- Provide clear expectations for communication to support rapport and accountability.
- Continue to foster client understanding of VR service processes and roles to build trust and engagement.

## 5. Upcoming Commitments & Engagements

- **September 24** – NDRN Virtual CAP Training (non-P&A CAP focus; topics include case handling best practices, legal supervision, unauthorized practice of law, and RSA-227 compliance).
- **September 25** – CAP Virtual Regional Training (open to all CAP staff).
- **October 8** – Presentation with the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- **October 9** – Participation in the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council (NESILC) meeting.
- **Planned Follow-Up** – Continued coordination with Winnebago Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR), including scheduling an in-person visit to strengthen partnerships and collaboration.
- **Ongoing Engagements** – Continued participation in:
  - CAP Community of Practice (CAP COP).
  - Respect & Dignity Committee.
  - **Directors Implementation Group (DIG)**.
  - Brain Injury Advisory Council (BIAC).
  - NCBVI supervisor meetings.
  - Interagency outreach and planning with Nebraska VR, NCBVI, ILCs, and Tribal VR programs.



## Community Stakeholders Quarterly Report

Reporting Period: Q1 - Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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### Quarterly Overview

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) continues to strengthen communication access, community engagement, and equity across the state. This quarter highlighted new initiatives, important partnerships, and impactful outreach activities that reflect our mission to serve Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.

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### Building a Stronger Interpreter Workforce

- Tracking interpreter shortages and preparing for the Interpreter Stakeholder Forum (Oct. 15).
- **Why it matters:** Nebraska depends heavily on out-of-state interpreters. Creating stronger in-state training and career pathways will build a more sustainable, reliable workforce and ensure consistent access to interpreting services.

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### Supporting Families and Schools

- Nearly finalized the Family Resource Guide with local and national resources.
- Partnered with Disability Rights Nebraska on a library ADA case to secure appropriate interpreter access.
- Worked with state partners to clarify how Medicaid funding can support Deaf/HH students in schools.
- **Why it matters:** These efforts give families clear resources, help schools unlock funding for student needs, and push public institutions toward full ADA compliance.

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## Expanding Behavioral Health Access

- Applied for grant funding to host workshops with national and local trainers.
- Partnered with Omaha Integrative Care on a model pairing licensed therapists with trained community facilitators.
- **Why it matters:** Expands mental health services and ensures care is culturally and linguistically accessible for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Nebraskans.

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## Engaging Communities Across Nebraska

- Reached 200+ organizations, delivered 12 presentations, and directly supported 250+ individuals.
- Hosted the Saltdogs Deaf Awareness Night with 70 attendees, ASL performances, and recognition of community leaders.
- **Why it matters:** Builds visibility for Deaf culture, strengthens relationships statewide, and connects more people to services that improve daily life.

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## Strengthening Accessible Communication

- Joined the state's ADA-compliant website program to launch a modern, fully accessible website. Estimated timeline is 5-7 months.
- Updated the agency logo with input from the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to improve accessibility for low-vision users.
- **Why it matters:** Every communication—online or in print—reinforces NCDHH as a trusted source of information and ensures that access is at the center of our work.

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## Looking Ahead

As we move into Q2 and beyond, NCDHH's focus will be on turning planning into action. With the 2025–2030 Work Plan nearly finalized, the next phase is about implementation: putting strategies into practice that expand communication access, strengthen partnerships, and advance equity across the state.

# Client Satisfaction Survey

## Quarter 4 2024/2025 YTD Comparison

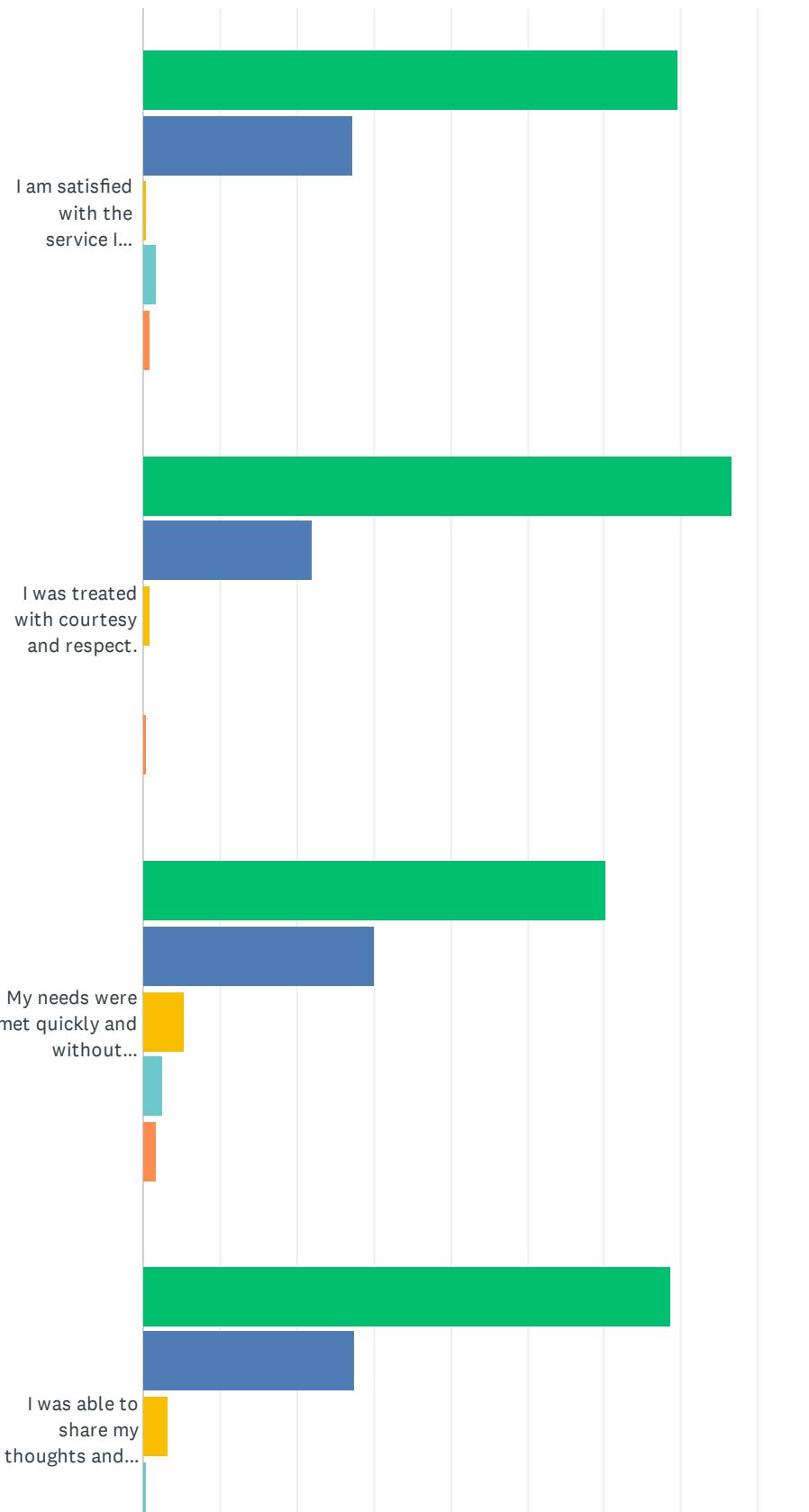
	FY23-24 Quarter 4 YTD	FY24-25 Quarter 4 YTD
<b>Surveys Completed</b>	279	227
<b>% Still Employed</b>	92.11%	92.51%
<b>Why Not Employed</b>	Quit- 45.45% (10) Fired- 27.27% (6) Laid Off- 27.27% (6)	Quit- 61.11% (11) Laid Off- 22.22% (4) Fired- 16.67% (3)
<b>Job Meets Current Needs</b>	93.77%	90.00%
<b>Most Helpful Service</b>	Encouragement/Support 47.99% Employment Services 32.97% Supported Employment 29.67%	Encouragement/Support 53.74% Employment Services 36.56% Career Exploration and Job Fit 30.40%
<b>Very Likely and Somewhat Likely to Recommend VR to a Friend or Family Member</b>	94.99%	95.15%

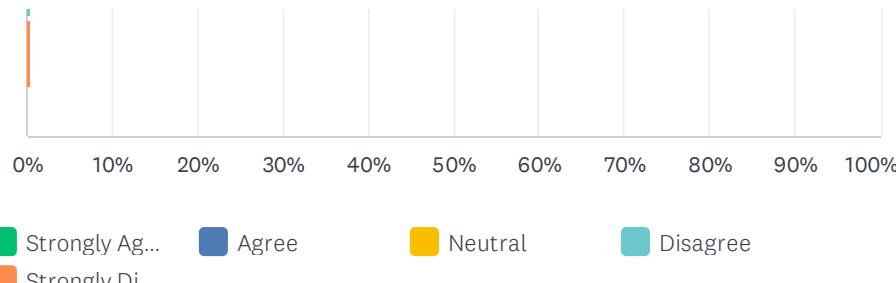
Questions added in 2024-2025 Survey (those answering Strongly Agree, Agree and Neutral)

	24-25 Quarter 3	24-25- Quarter 4
<b>I am satisfied with the service I received</b>	97.17%	<b>97.35%</b>
<b>I was treated with courtesy and respect.</b>	99.43%	<b>99.56%</b>
<b>My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.</b>	96.02%	<b>95.58%</b>
<b>I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received</b>	98.87%	<b>99.11%</b>

## Q1 Please rate the following.

Answered: 227 Skipped: 0

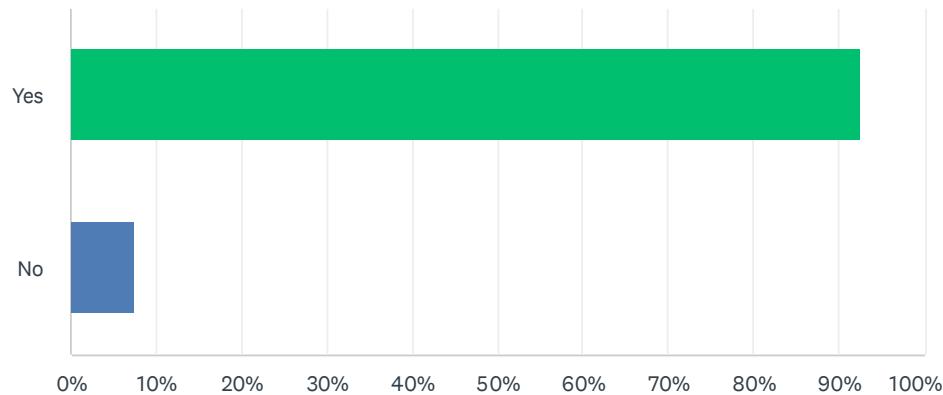




	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
I am satisfied with the service I received.	69.60% 158	27.31% 62	0.44% 1	1.76% 4	0.88% 2	227
I was treated with courtesy and respect.	76.65% 174	22.03% 50	0.88% 2	0.00% 0	0.44% 1	227
My needs were met quickly and without interruptions.	60.18% 136	30.09% 68	5.31% 12	2.65% 6	1.77% 4	226
I was able to share my thoughts and help make decisions about the services I received.	68.58% 155	27.43% 62	3.10% 7	0.44% 1	0.44% 1	226

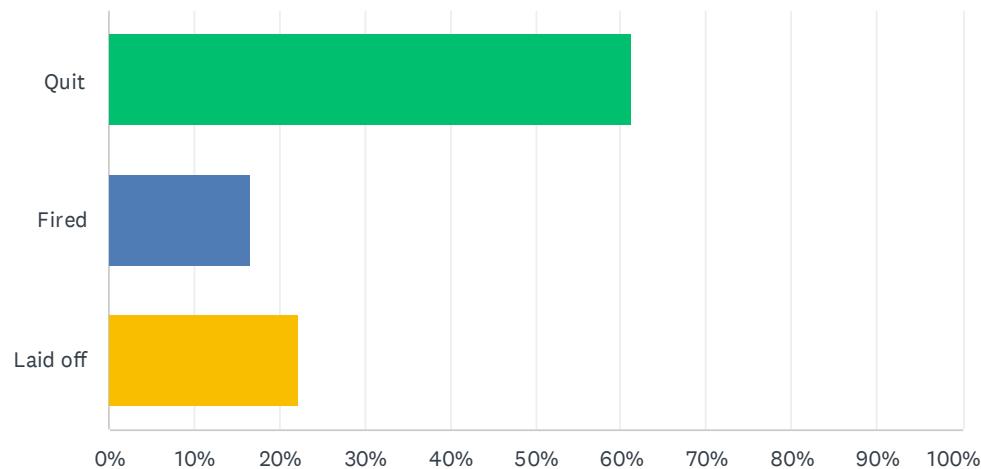
## Q2 Are you currently employed?

Answered: 227 Skipped: 0



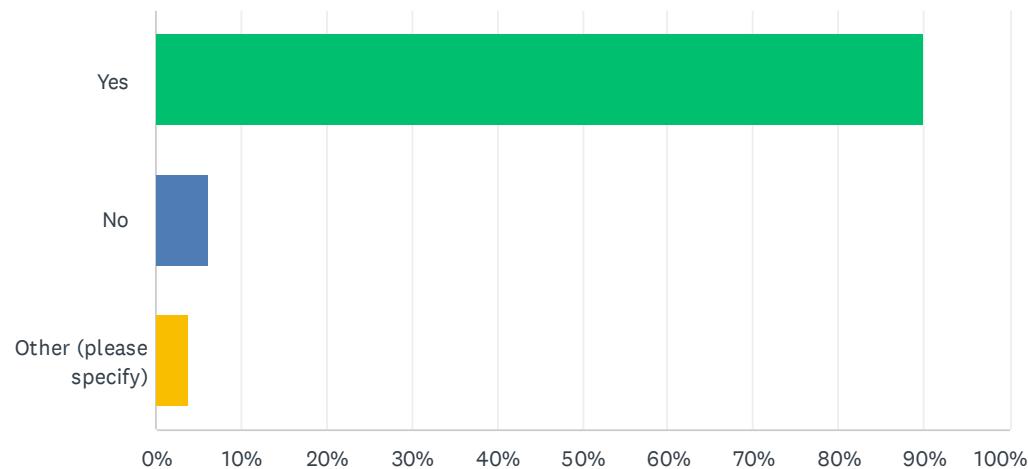
### Q3 If not, did you quit, were you fired or laid off?

Answered: 18    Skipped: 209



## Q4 Does your job meet your current needs?

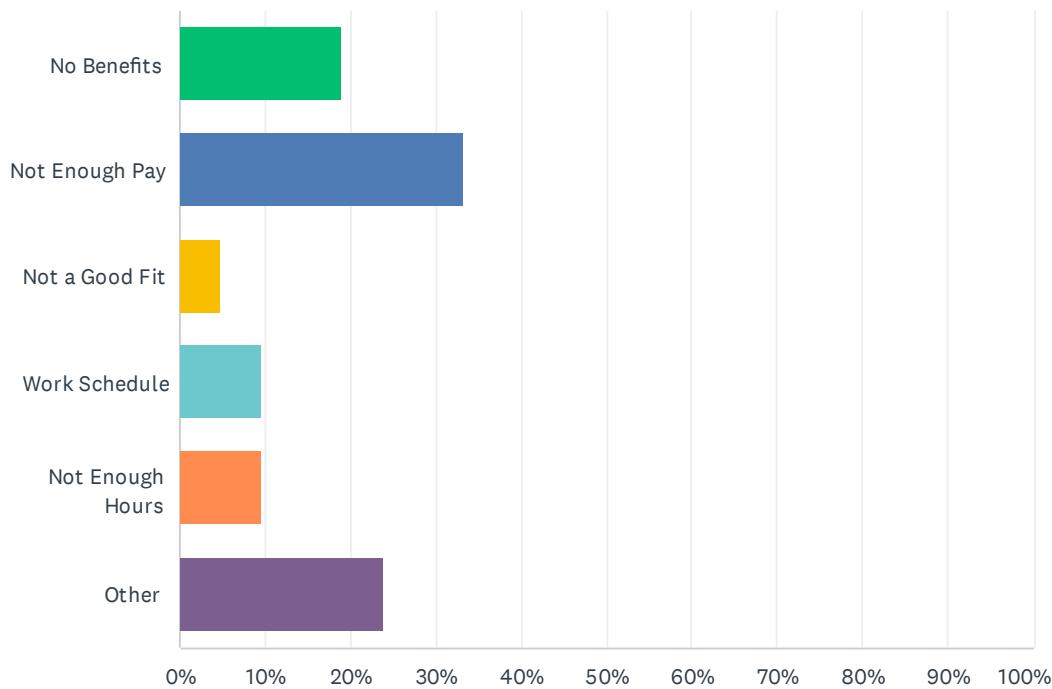
Answered: 210    Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	90.00%	189
No	6.19%	13
Other (please specify)	3.81%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>210</b>

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

Answered: 21 Skipped: 206



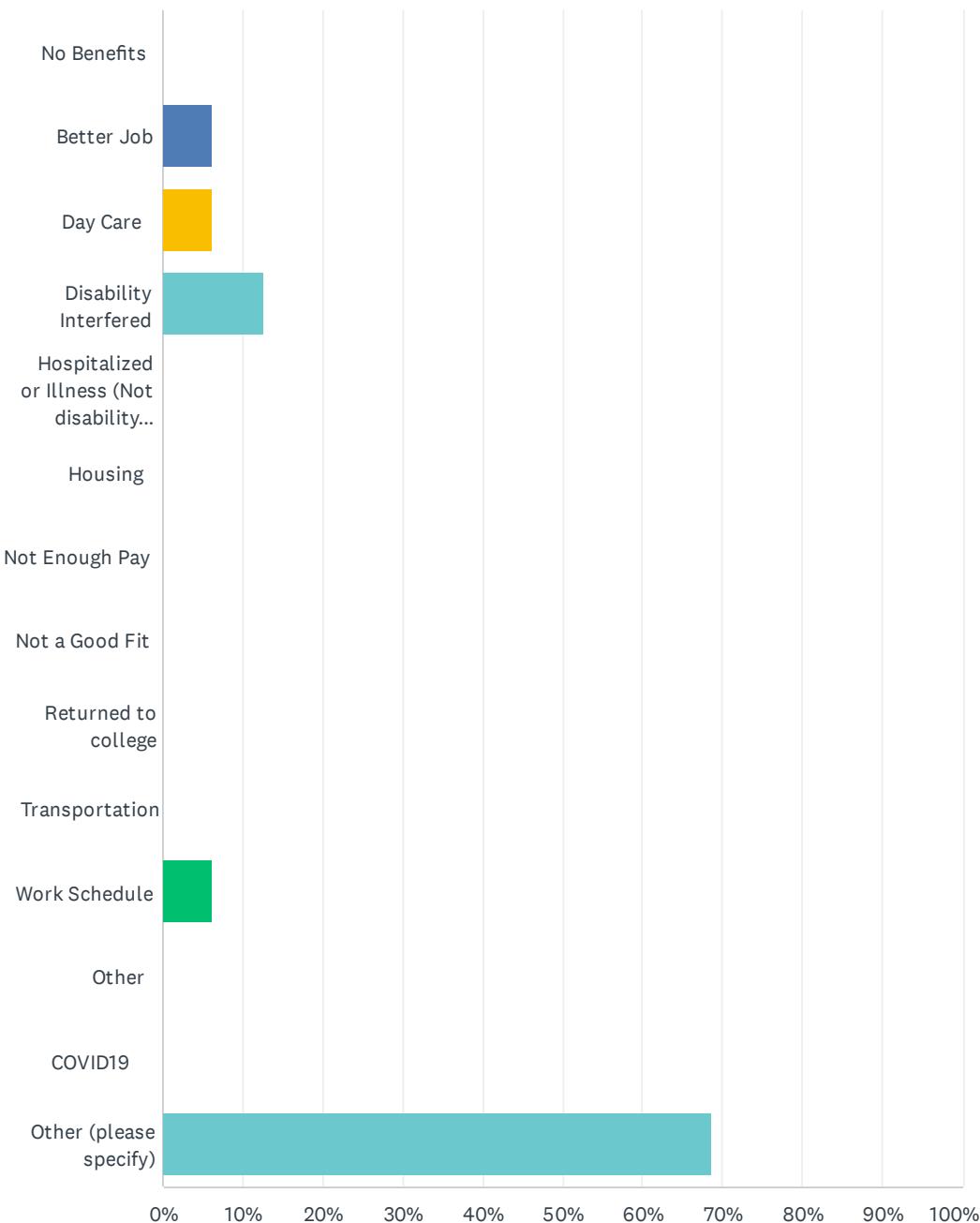
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Benefits	19.05%	4
Not Enough Pay	33.33%	7
Not a Good Fit	4.76%	1
Work Schedule	9.52%	2
Not Enough Hours	9.52%	2
Other	23.81%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>21</b>

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

Answered: 5    Skipped: 222

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

Answered: 16    Skipped: 211



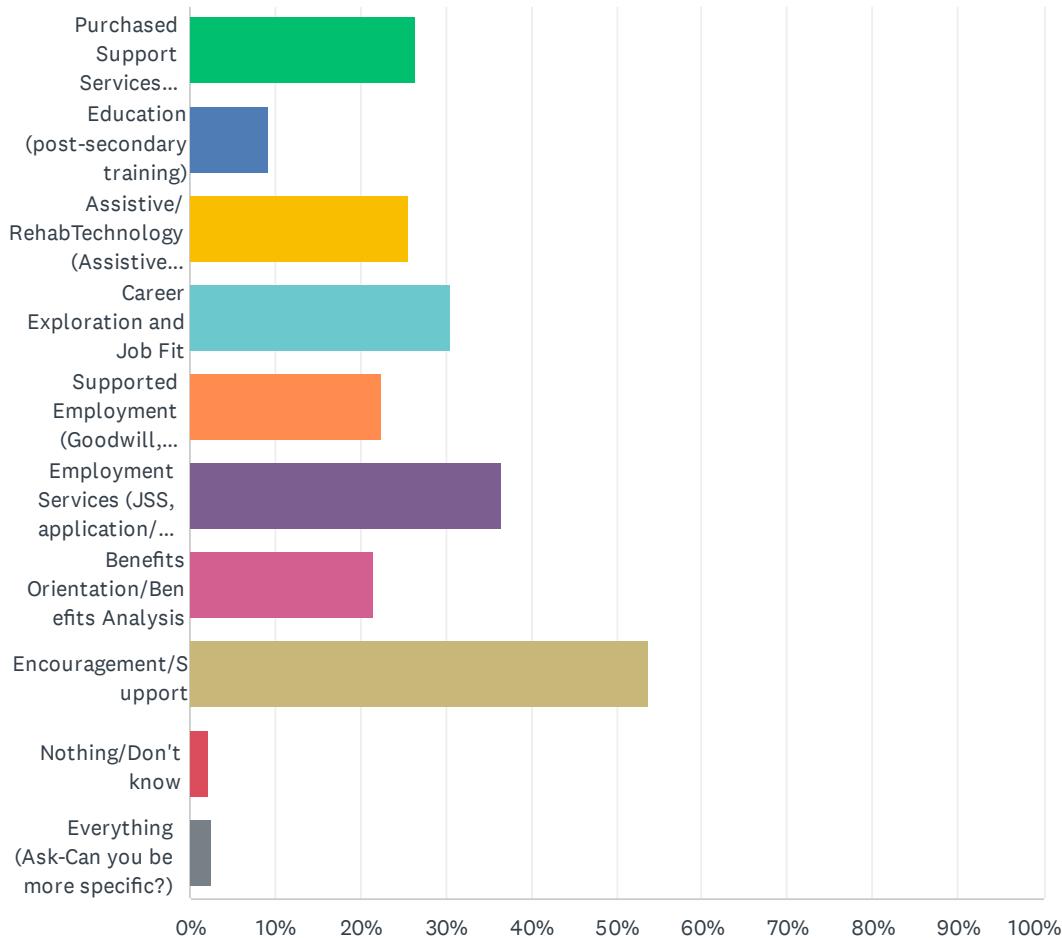
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No Benefits	0.00%	0
Better Job	6.25%	1
Day Care	6.25%	1
Disability Interfered	12.50%	2
Hospitalized or Illness (Not disability related)	0.00%	0
Housing	0.00%	0
Not Enough Pay	0.00%	0
Not a Good Fit	0.00%	0
Returned to college	0.00%	0
Transportation	0.00%	0
Work Schedule	6.25%	1
Other	0.00%	0
COVID19	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	68.75%	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>

## Q8 Please describe Not a Good Fit

Answered: 12    Skipped: 215

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

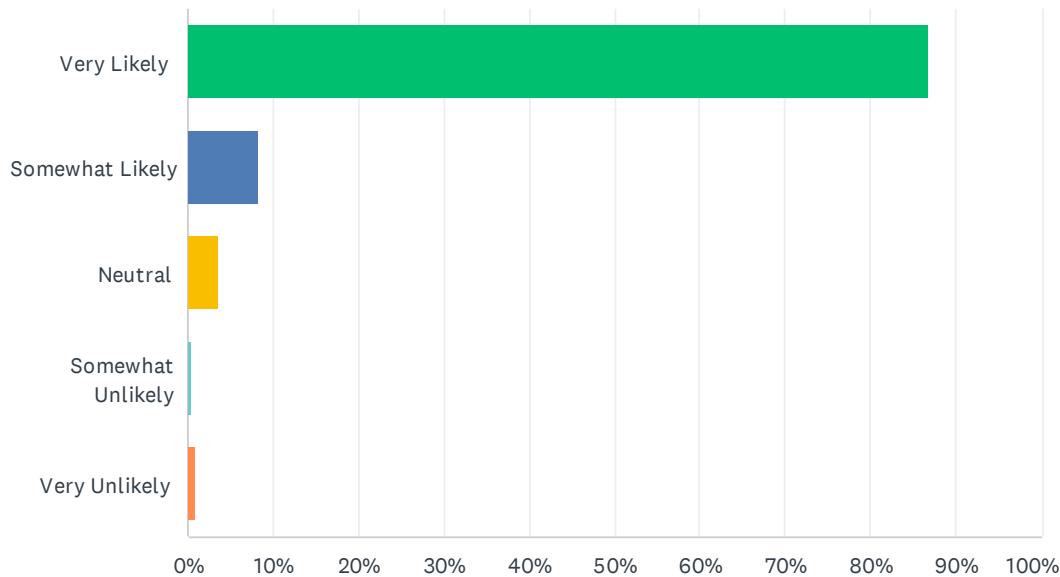
Answered: 227 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Purchased Support Services (clothing, gas, bus tickets, auto repair, interpreter, etc.)	26.43%	60
Education (post-secondary training)	9.25%	21
Assistive/ RehabTechnology (Assistive device, hearing aids, prosthesis, medical goods, home/vehicle mods)	25.55%	58
Career Exploration and Job Fit	30.40%	69
Supported Employment (Goodwill, Community Alliance, DD Provider, Autism Center of Nebraska, etc. )	22.47%	51
Employment Services (JSS, application/resume assistance, interview prep, advocating with employers, etc.)	36.56%	83
Benefits Orientation/Benefits Analysis	21.59%	49
Encouragement/Support	53.74%	122
Nothing/Don't know	2.20%	5
Everything (Ask-Can you be more specific?)	2.64%	6
Total Respondents: 227		

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

Answered: 227 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Likely	86.78%	197
Somewhat Likely	8.37%	19
Neutral	3.52%	8
Somewhat Unlikely	0.44%	1
Very Unlikely	0.88%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>227</b>

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

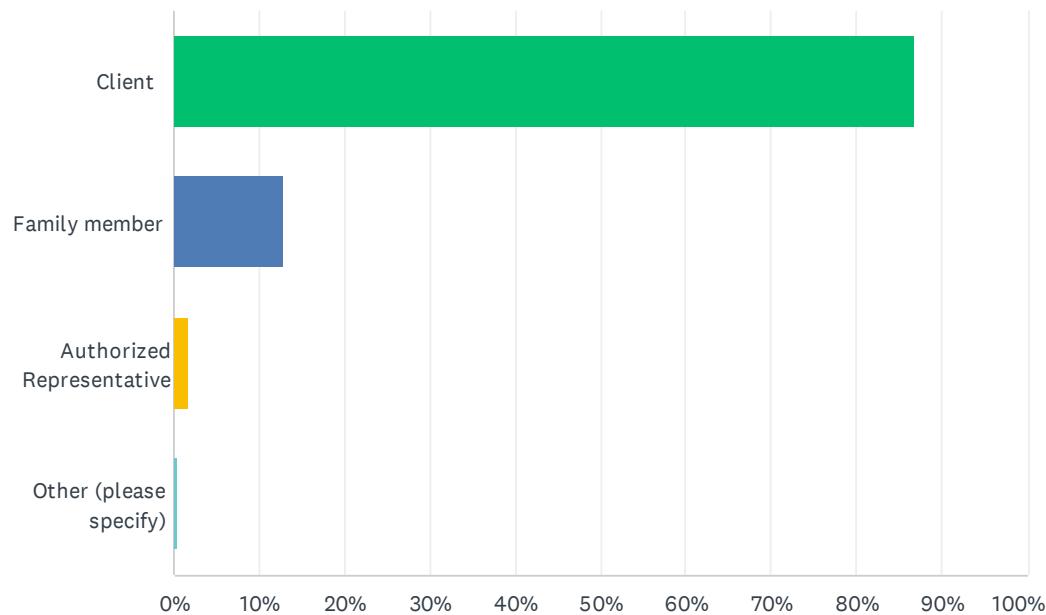
Answered: 11    Skipped: 216

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

Answered: 129    Skipped: 98

## Q13 Which of the following describes you?

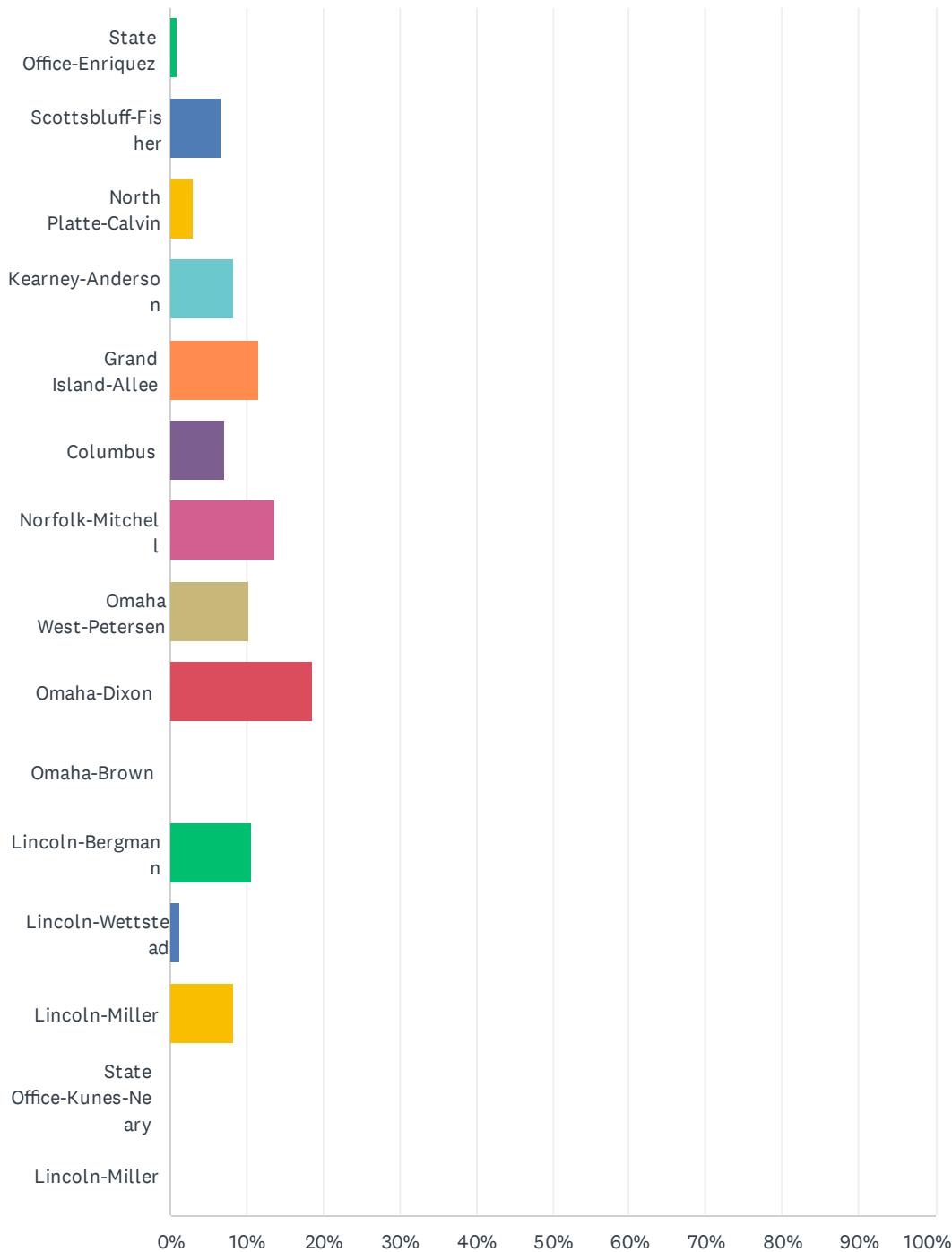
Answered: 227 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Client	86.78%	197
Family member	12.78%	29
Authorized Representative	1.76%	4
Other (please specify)	0.44%	1
Total Respondents: 227		

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

Answered: 227 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
State Office-Enriquez	0.88%
Scottsbluff-Fisher	6.61%
North Platte-Calvin	3.08%
Kearney-Anderson	8.37%
Grand Island-Allee	11.45%
Columbus	7.05%
Norfolk-Mitchell	13.66%
Omaha West-Petersen	10.13%
Omaha-Dixon	18.50%
Omaha-Brown	0.00%
Lincoln-Bergmann	10.57%
Lincoln-Wettstead	1.32%
Lincoln-Miller	8.37%
State Office-Kunes-Nearly	0.00%
Lincoln-Miller	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</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 Aug 1 – Sept. 30, 2025 Activities

**NYLC welcomed new members: Aiden Hezelteine of Papillion, NE and Jason Kava of Gretna, NE**

#### August through September NYLC events.

##### **Thursday Thread Virtual Meeting- dates/agenda items:**

Date	Members Attending	Activity
July 10	7	Planned Aug. 16 Honors Picnic
July 24	11	Lane Carr of NDE surveyed NYLC Members
August 14	9	We visited and played Family Feud

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

Date	Members Attending	What
July 15	5	Q & A Panel for Nebraska VR All Staff Conference
July 26	1	It was well over 100 degrees! Thank you, Bruce, for surviving the heat with me at the Disability Pride Day in Lincoln, NE! No photo's we were just too dang HOT!
August 16	10	Honors meeting and picnic in Fremont, NE.

##### **Photos from July-Aug. NYLC presentations & Outreach.**



Isaiah, Seth, Stephanie, Katelyn and Bruce presented at the Nebraska VR Conference on July 15 in Kearney



We had a wonderful turn out for the Honor's Picnic. We got a little wet too! Great food – Great Friends!