

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1016

Introduced by Conrad, 46.

Read first time January 17, 2012

Committee:

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to require the
- 2 Department of Health and Human Services to contract with
- 3 certain agencies as prescribed.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. (1) The Department of Health and Human
2 Services shall enter into contracts with thirty community-based
3 organizations which require the department to keep department staff
4 present at the community-based organizations at the times specified
5 in the contracts. A contract under this section shall specify
6 sufficient times to allow department staff to:

7 (a) Screen and conduct interviews for benefit eligibility
8 and benefit renewal;

9 (b) Assist individuals with benefit applications and
10 renewals;

11 (c) Receive benefit applications and renewals;

12 (d) Answer questions in person; and

13 (e) Train and provide technical assistance to staff of
14 the community-based organization.

15 (2) In addition to the requirements specified in
16 subsection (1) of this section, each such contract shall require the
17 community-based organization to:

18 (a) Provide quality, accurate information relating to
19 public benefit programs that are targeted at populations known to
20 have low participation rates in or difficulty accessing public
21 benefits;

22 (b) Provide quality outreach to individuals in the target
23 populations who utilize public benefits;

24 (c) Assist individuals in scheduling appointments with
25 department staff;

1 (d) Assist with organization of information required for
2 benefit application or renewal.

3 (3) For purposes of this section, community-based
4 organization means:

5 (a) An area agency on aging established pursuant to the
6 Nebraska Community Aging Services Act;

7 (b) A Nebraska-based community action agency designated
8 under the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2790 et
9 seq.;

10 (c) A Nebraska-based center for independent living
11 established under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C.
12 701 et seq., as such section existed on January 1, 2012;

13 (d) A Nebraska-based rural health clinic established
14 under the federal Rural Health Clinics Act of 1983, 42 U.S.C. 201 et
15 seq., as such section existed on January 1, 2012;

16 (e) A Nebraska-based federally qualified health center
17 and rural health clinic as such terms are defined in the federal
18 Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa), as such section existed on
19 January 1, 2012; and

20 (f) Any other organization that demonstrates to the
21 department that it can comply with the requirements of subsection (2)
22 of this section.