**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF NEBRASKA**

**SUPPORTING AGENCY 81, NEBRASKA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SFY 2020 FUNDING REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER BLIND NEBRASKANS**

**Vital Statistics:**

\*\* In Nebraska, approximately 48,960 individuals over 65 years old experience

blindness or significant vision impairment.

\*\* The state of Nebraska spent $12,631,000 caring for blind and visually impaired

seniors living outside nursing homes in 2017.

\*\* Nebraska Medicaid paid nursing facilities in Nebraska $55.5 million for

persons over age 65, older, and visually impaired.

\*\* This amounts to $68,131,000 in state costs to care for our older

residents who experience vision loss as they age.

\*\* The Nebraska Commission for the Blind is requesting

$540,000 for SFY 2020, to serve this population.

\*\* This figure represents a $412,000 increase from 2018.

\*\* For each year a Medicaid recipient avoids assisted-living or nursing home care, the

state of Nebraska saves between $48,000 and $90,000.