

Evaluation Report Summary

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) collaborated with Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE) to conduct an evaluation of the state's Olmstead Plan in 2024. By state statute, an evaluation must be done every three years to assess progress on the plan's goal. It also allows the state to gather input to inform revisions for the next iteration of the Olmstead Plan. This summarizes the key results of the evaluation. The full report is available on the DHHS website for the Olmstead Plan: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Olmstead.aspx>

Project

The evaluation explored five overarching questions. A variety of data was used to answer the questions.

- ➔ **Interviews with Key Partners**
Interviews were conducted with 18 individuals representing 9 agencies
- ➔ **Administrative Data**
Included reviewing meeting minutes, workgroup reports, and the Olmstead outcome monitoring system maintained by DHHS
- ➔ **Other State Olmstead Plans**
Olmstead Plans and/or related documents were compiled from 22 states and the District of Columbia to review content regarding priorities
- ➔ **Surveys**
Two surveys were developed and administered:

 - An online and paper survey for individuals with disabilities (which could be completed by the individual or a family member/caregiver), available in English and Spanish
 - An online survey for workgroup members, key partners, and advocates
- ➔ **Focus Groups**
Four virtual focus groups were held with specific audiences:

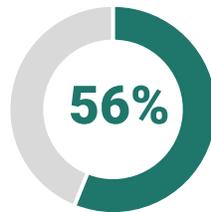
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Family members/caregivers
 - Workgroup members
 - DHHS Olmstead Plan staff

Progress Toward Outcomes

There are 41 outcomes included in the Olmstead Plan, with annual benchmarks set for each.



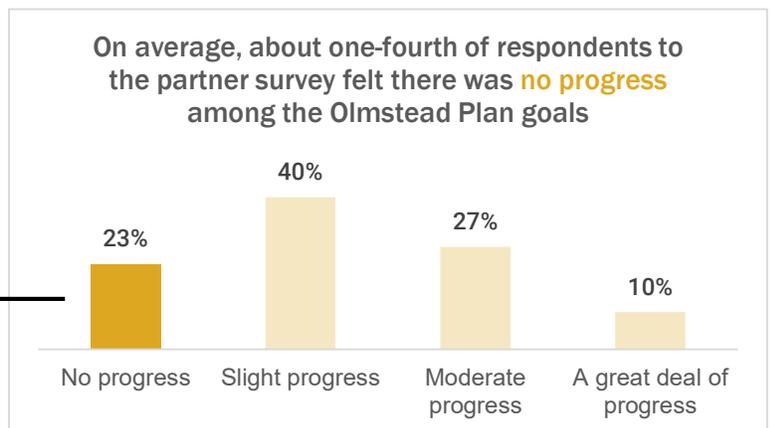
FY23
Benchmarks
Achieved



FY24
Benchmarks
Achieved

81%
of partners feel
outcomes and metrics
are at least “moderately
aligned” across the 7
goal areas

People
perceived the
lowest
progress in
transportation



Noted Successes

Beyond progress on the annual benchmarks or outcomes, those who participated in focus groups and interviews noted additional accomplishments or successes:

- Having a written plan that is publicly available¹
- Increased disability advocacy
- Elimination of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Registry waitlist
- NE Affordable Housing Trust Fund scoring considered accessibility or modification-friendly designs
- Increased access to transportation

“

We may not have solved housing or transportation, but there's momentum and progress being made. Every time we expand a service, or every time we secure a new grant, we're working towards that ultimate goal of everybody should be able to have a safe and affordable and accessible home.

”

Facilitators & Barriers

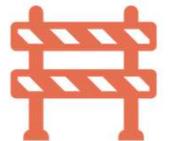
Factors that aid the workgroup and partners with making progress on the Olmstead Plan as well as the challenges were identified through focus groups, surveys, and interviews.

Facilitators to Progress

- ✓ Diversity and strength in partnerships
- ✓ Advocacy from organizations and stakeholders
- ✓ Report developed on supported employment with Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

Barriers to Progress

- ✗ Limited funding to address each goal area
- ✗ Limited engagement from state government leaders or senators
- ✗ Lack of public awareness
- ✗ Workforce shortages
- ✗ Lack of comprehensive data
- ✗ Inconsistent leadership for workgroups
- ✗ No longer having an entity providing technical assistance on Olmstead efforts
- ✗ Slow pace of change



Key Recommendations



Goal Refinement

- Combine Appropriate Settings (Goal 3) with Community Services (Goal 1)
- Integrate Data-Driven Decision Making (Goal 6) efforts across all priority areas
- Add Health & Medical Care as well as Collaboration & Service Coordination as new priority areas



Outcome Refinement

- Reduce the number of outcomes with a shift towards a broader, big-picture approach
- Utilize workgroups to set high-level priorities for their topic area, followed by collaboration with agencies implementing the work to determine specific goals, action items and benchmarks



Timeline Extension

Extend plan duration to 6 years (rather than 3) with mid-point updates that align with the evaluation requirements



Focused Implementation

Prioritize specific communities, populations, or areas for targeted interventions

A comprehensive list of recommendations are outlined in the full evaluation report.

¹ Not all states have an Olmstead Plan. Although documents were compiled from 22 states and the District of Columbia, not all were Olmstead Plans or publicly available.