CHAPTER 6-000 EXTENDED ASSISTANCE FOR FORMER DEPARTMENT WARDS

6-001 General Background The Nebraska Legislature passed LB216 in 2013, which defunds the program described in this chapter (Former Ward program). Effective January 1, 2014, no new participants will be allowed to enter the Former Ward program or receive services described in this chapter. Any participants who are enrolled in the Former Ward program as of December 31, 2013, will be transitioned in the Bridge to Independence program (see 395 NAC 10), if eligible, when the program becomes operative. Any participants who are enrolled in the Former Ward program as of December 31, 2013, who are not eligible for the Bridge to Independence program may continue to receive services as described in this chapter until they lose eligibility under the regulations in this chapter.

6-001.01 Legal Basis: Assistance to former Department wards was established by the Nebraska Legislature in Neb. Rev. Stat., section 43-905.

6-001.02 Purpose: The program provides assistance, including maintenance payments and medical assistance to former wards of the Department who are age 18 through 20 and are regularly attending a school, college, or a course of vocational or technical training designed to prepare the youth for gainful employment.

For former wards age 19 and 20 who are not in school and have a medical need, see Title 467, Medically Handicapped Children's Program, and Title 477, Children's Medical Assistance Program.

6-001.03 Administration: The program is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with state laws and with rules, regulations, and procedures established by the Director.

6-001.04 Definition of Terms: For use within this program, the following definitions of terms will apply unless the context in which the term is used denotes otherwise.

Adequate Notice: Notice of case action which includes a statement of what action(s) the worker intends to take and the reason(s) for the intended action(s).

Application: The action by which the individual indicates in writing the desire to receive assistance.

Application Date: For new and reopened cases, the date a properly signed Application for Assistance is received.

Educational Institution: A school, college, university or vocational or technical training facility.

Prudent Person Principle: The practice of assessing all circumstances regarding case eligibility and using good judgment in requiring further verification or information before determining initial or continuing eligibility.