



The Ninety-Three

November 22, 2023

The background is a solid red color. It is decorated with several white line-art illustrations of oak leaves, scattered around the edges. The leaves are detailed with vein patterns.

happy
thanksgiving



2023 NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 13-15, YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER NORTH, KEARNEY, NE

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE TODAY

Register at www.nebraskacounties.org

Registration Deadline: November 22, 2023 at 11:59 PM CST

JOIN US IN DECEMBER

The cost is \$150.00 per attendee and \$100.00 per guest. A spouse is considered a guest.

The registration deadline is today, November 22, 2023 at 11:59 P.M. CT.

The walk-in registration fee after November 22, 2023 is \$175.

All cancellations after November 22, 2023 are subject to a \$50.00 administrative fee.

[Click Here for Registration and More](#)

Annual Conference Agenda

[Click Here to Download the Full Agenda](#)

Please note items in the agenda are subject to change. Print copies of the finalized agenda will be available at the conference.

Mobile App Link Coming Soon



CONFERENCE KEYNOTE EVENTS



Richard Hight

Keynote Speaker

Thursday, December 14th



Lunch with State Senators*

Younes Center Gold Ballrooms

Thursday, December 14th

**Pending Availability*



Bryan Tuma

Nebraska Crime Commission

Friday, December 15th



NACO West Update

The crew continues to work on the concrete foundation.



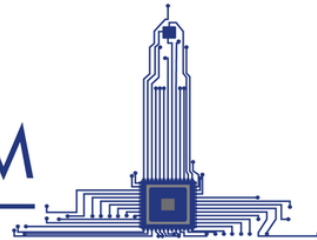
NACO Benefits Specialist

NACO is accepting applications for a NACO Benefit Specialist at the NACO West location.

[View the Job Listing](#)

Submission Window Open

STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM



The submission window for the second round of State and Local Cybersecurity Grants is now open from November 13, 2023 to February 4, 2024.

An upcoming webinar on project submission will be hosted on January 16, 2024 at 2:00 PM CST.

For more information, visit: <https://slcg.nebraska.gov/index.html>

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Toolkit

NACo's new [BEAD toolkit](#) will guide counties through broadband funding and deployment strategies.

About the BEAD Program: The [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) earmarks over \$42 billion for the expansion of high-speed internet to locations without adequate service.

Toolkit for counties: NACo's toolkit offers [resources and information](#) for county leaders, including guidance in navigating the state challenge process to prioritize areas for broadband investment.

August NACo High Performance County Leadership Academy Graduates

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the August NACo Leadership Academy graduates from Nebraska. They join over 10,000 graduates and current participants from across the country benefitting from the 12-week online program enabling existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potential.

Aaron Keller, Court Clerk III, Douglas County
Adam Vandelloo, 911 Specialist, Douglas County
Damon Hobbs, Veterans Services, Douglas County
KaDeidra Smith, Supervisor, Douglas County
Nick Killough, Assistant Facilities Director, Buffalo County
Sara Baker, CMHC, Douglas County
Susan Bass, Supervisor, Douglas County

Invest in your team with Leadership Training!

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the High Performance Leadership Academy with us - each County can enroll 10 leaders for \$15,000 in 2024. Our next cohort starts January 8th.

10 YEARS

**MAKING LEADERS BETTER SINCE 2014
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**

You are invited to celebrate with us in 2024. It is our High Performance Leadership Academy's 10th anniversary. We can think of no better way to celebrate than investing in your workforce. Significant celebration scholarships will be available for existing leaders looking to get better and emerging leaders looking to get ready to navigate change and overcome the challenges of work today.

Email Luke (lukea@pdaleadership.com) to secure your scholarship, enroll your team, and celebrate with us. Let's make leaders better, together, in 2024 and beyond.



the High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that helps your workforce develop fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

Learn more about the program here:

<https://www.naco.org/page/high-performance-leadership-academy>

<https://www.pdaleadership.com>

Contact Luke Afeman, lukea@pdaleadership.com.

Senators Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Level Playing Field for Rural Communities (NACo)

National Association of Counties Officials - On Wednesday, November 15, Senator Bob Casey (D-Penn.) and Senator Deb Fischer (R-Nebr.) introduced [S.3309 – The Rural Partnership and Prosperity Act of 2023](#), bipartisan legislation intended to advance economic development in rural counties and overcome barriers to obtaining federal funding and resources.

Why the bill is important to counties:

Over 70 percent of the nation's 3,069 counties are rural. Many rural counties face obstacles competing for federal investment opportunities because of a lack of adequate funding, capacity, and staffing. This legislation would address those shortfalls with targeted assistance and a whole-of-government effort to better support rural counties and the communities we serve.

What the bill does:

Creates Rural Partnership Program grants to provide multiyear, flexible funding awards to partnerships of two or more rural stakeholders, including county governments, to address urgent needs in a particular rural community.

Creates Rural Prosperity Technical Assistance grants to fund technical assistance providers operating in rural areas. Technical assistance providers can help rural counties pursue funding and carry out community development initiatives.

Expands the Rural Partners Network (RPN), a USDA-led effort that puts federal staff on the ground in rural communities to facilitate easier access to federal resources.

How counties could use this funding:

As a result of NACo's advocacy efforts, the Rural Partnership and Prosperity Act ensures that funding authorized by the bill is as flexible as possible. Potential eligible uses for counties and their community partners include, but are not limited to:

Hiring critical county staff, such as grant writers, planners or economic development professionals

Developing strategic community investment plans

Funding affordable childcare services

Addressing economic recovery from emergencies and disasters

Investing in job training programs

Creating public-private partnerships and attracting private investment

“Over 70 percent of America’s counties are rural and face unique challenges and opportunities every day,” said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. “A strong intergovernmental partnership is critical to creating opportunities for counties and our residents to thrive. The bipartisan Rural Partnership and Prosperity Act would equip rural counties and our partners with tools to optimize historic federal resources and investments in our communities. Counties applaud Senators Casey and Fischer for their leadership on this important issue.”

Link to the article here: <https://www.naco.org/news/senators-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-level-playing-field-rural-communities>

NACO Sponsor Spotlight



[First Concord Benefits Group](#)

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First Concord Benefits Group breaks down the complexities of consumer-directed benefits and simplifies the administration of pre-tax benefits by calling on decades of expertise and a reputation for outstanding client service.

We build employee benefit programs that are easy to create, implement and maintain so that our clients and their employees can reap the rewards of pre-tax benefits and improved health.

Contact: [Jim Daubert](#)

President

NACO RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

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