

February 2, 2024



The Ninety-Three

District Meeting Registration

Southeast - Thursday, March 14th - Southeast Community College Career Academy, Lincoln

Northeast - Friday, March 15th - Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

Central - Thursday, March 21st - Holthus Convention Center, York

Panhandle - Wednesday, March 27th - Prairie Winds Community Center, Bridgeport

West Central - Thursday, March 28th - Quality Inn & Conference Center - Ogallala

General Agenda for District Meetings

- Registration - 8:00 - 9:00 am
- Business Meeting - 9:00 - 10:15 am
- Affiliate Breakout Sessions - 10:15 am - 12:00 pm
- Lunch - 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Registration Open Now

Full agendas coming later this month.

[Registration](#)

County Board Chair Workshop Registration

This workshop is for County Board Chairs and Vice Chairs, and it will cover topics such as open meetings, elections, employment issues, the county purchasing act, and more.

Friday, February 16, 2024 | 8:00 am - 3:15 pm

Younes Conference Center South, 16 W Talmadge Rd , Kearney, NE 68845

Deadline to pre-register: 2/8/24

Registration fee: \$0

Hotel block at the Comfort Inn - Government Rate: \$134.95

Call 402-236-3400 to book your room.

[Register Here](#)

[View the Agenda Here](#)

NACO Scholarship Application

To be considered, students must complete the required application form, submit a seven-semester transcript from an accredited Nebraska high school and prepare a written essay on the importance of county government.

Scholarship recipients must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution within the state of Nebraska and may use the NACO scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

Applications are due March 15, 2024.

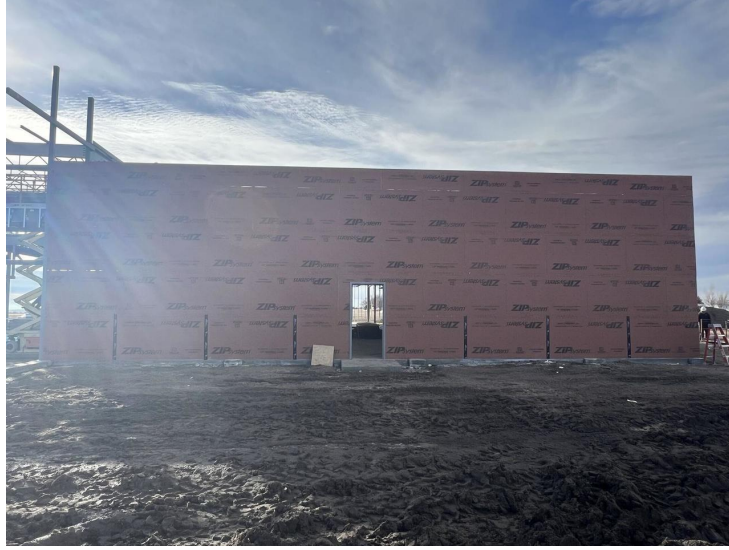
[Click Here for the Application and More Information](#)



NACO West Update

The foam insulation on the beams is complete, and sheathing is going up!





Cyber Security Key Points

PHISHING

**CYBER SECURITY
KEYPOINTS**
January

*From the County
Network Security
Cooperative*

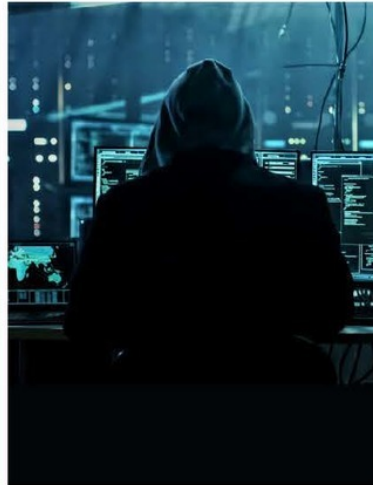


PHISHING

Phishing is a cyberattack in which an attacker attempts to trick individuals into revealing sensitive information, such as passwords, credit card numbers, or personal identification. This is typically done through deceptive emails, messages, or websites that impersonate trusted entities.


How to Spot a Phishing Email

- Check the sender. Verify the sender's email address and name.
- Beware of urgency. If the email creates a sense of urgency, especially regarding sensitive information or immediate action, it may be fake.
- Look for spelling and grammar errors. Typos, awkward phrasing, and grammatical mistakes are red flags.



The Fake Financial Alert

Irregular Activities On Your Account

 Chase Fraud Alert <chase@fraudprevention.com>
To: You Wed 10/4/2023 11:10 AM

CHASE

Dear Customer,

We are letting you know that we've detected some unusual activity on your card on 10/01/2023. For your security, please verify the following transaction(s) so that you can continue to use your card.

Do you recognize these following purchases?

Approved transaction at BESTBUY for \$214.63
Approved transaction at AMAZON.COM for \$175.31

If these transactions look suspicious to you: [Click here](#)

The County Network Security Cooperative is a collaboration of partners including:



- AND -



Knowledge is Power

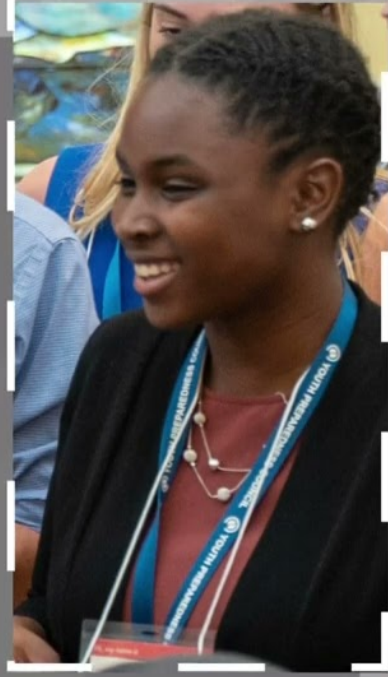
Although phishing is a common attack method, threat actors' tricks and tactics always improve, so users won't always recognize the common red flags; that's where security awareness training comes in.

In a world where phishing emails will continue to be a favored weapon of threat actors, your best defense is knowledge. Make it a habit to educate yourself, share this knowledge with those around you, and become an invaluable line of defense against today's clever hackers.

Disclaimer: This document reflects current guidance and is subject to change due to the evolving cyber security environment.

[Download and Share the Flyer Here](#)

FEMA Youth Preparedness Council



In past years, members have been able to

The Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) was created in 2012 to bring together youth leaders interested in supporting disaster preparedness and making a difference in their communities by completing disaster preparedness projects nationally and locally.

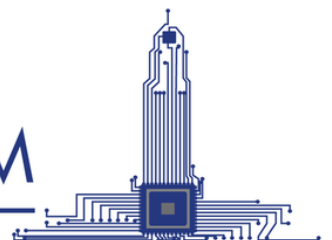
The council supports FEMA's commitment to involve America's youth in preparedness-related activities. It also provides young people an opportunity to present their perspectives, feedback, and opinions to FEMA staff. Members regularly meet with staff and attend the annual Youth Preparedness Council virtual summit.

The Youth Preparedness Council application period opened on January 22, 2024. Students in grades eight through 11 can apply.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Webinar Recording Available Now

STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM



On demand access of the SLCG Grant Information Webinar is now available. See the links below.

[Webinar Recording](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

USDOT announces Bridge Investment Program

On December 20, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced \$9.7 billion in funding for the [Bridge Investment Program \(BIP\)](#) through Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The BIP is a competitive grant program focused on rehabilitating existing bridges to reduce the number of bridges in poor condition and bridges in fair condition at risk of falling into poor condition.

Are counties eligible?

Yes. The BIP has expanded eligibility so that local government entities, including counties, are eligible to apply directly to USDOT. Counties can apply for the regular bridge and planning funding [here](#), and the large bridge funding [here](#).

What can counties use the Bridge Investment Program funding for?

There are three project categories within the BIP: large bridge, regular bridge, and planning.

Large Bridge

Projects that cost more than \$100 million

Maximum award amount is 50% of total costs

Minimum award amount is \$50 million

2022 recipients listed [here](#)

Regular Bridge

Projects that cost less than \$100 million

Maximum award amount is 80% of total project costs

90% if the bridge is an off-system bridge

Minimum award amount is \$2.5 million

2022 recipients listed [here](#)

Planning

\$20 million is set aside for planning projects

Maximum award is 80% of total project costs

2022 recipients listed [here](#)

When is the application due?

The application deadlines for FY2023-FY2026 are listed below.

Large Bridge

FY2025: August 1, 2024

FY2026: August 1, 2025

Regular Bridge

FY2023/FY2024: March 19, 2024

FY2025: November 1, 2024

FY2026: November 1, 2025

Planning

FY2023/FY2024: February 19, 2024

FY2025: October 1, 2024

FY2026: October 1, 2025

Additional Resources

A fact sheet about the BIP can be found [here](#). Answers to frequently asked questions can be found [here](#). For information about other funding opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL/P.L. 117-58), see [NACo's funding matrix for counties](#).

Source: National Association of Counties (NACo)

<https://www.naco.org/news/usdot-announces-bridge-investment-program>

Child Care and Development Fund Grant Opportunities

LINCOLN, NE – The Nebraska Department of Health and Human (DHHS) services is inviting licensed childcare programs across the state that are open and operating to consider two new grant opportunities worth up to \$15 million.

The Restoration and Enhancement Program (REP) and Technology Access Program (TAP) are need based funding programs being administered by DHHS's Office of Economic Assistance (OEA) and funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

DHHS will be offering 5 (five) informational webinars with live demonstrations to guide child care providers through the application process of each grant. Three webinars will be conducted in English and 2 (two) will be facilitated in Spanish.

Restoration and Enhancement Program

Through the Restoration and Enhancement Program grant opportunity, DHHS seeks to assist licensed child care providers with improving facilities, investing in new equipment, and enhancing the quality of childcare homes and centers throughout the state of Nebraska. Awards will support programs by providing funding for allowable indoor and outdoor equipment, facility and maintenance repairs, installation of required fire alarm systems, and upgrading child care supplies and equipment.

Technology Access Program

Through the Technology Access Program, DHHS seeks to promote adequate and updated technology to enhance the child care quality and capacity throughout the state. This funding will facilitate the ease of service delivery, encourage higher personal security and protection of Nebraska's children, and further the educational programs of child care providers.

Applications for both programs will be accepted beginning at **8:00 a.m. CST on Monday, December 18, 2023 through 11:59 p.m. CST February 9, 2024**. Awards to qualifying REP applicants will be made following the close of the application period. Awards to qualifying TAP applicants will be made on a rolling basis until funds are fully disbursed, which may occur prior to February 9, 2024.

Licensed child care providers who wish to apply for the Restoration and Enhancement Program and/or Technology Access Program must submit a completed application describing how requested grant funds would be used. The application will be available at www.dhhs.ne.gov/CCDF during the application period.

To learn more about these funding opportunities, please visit www.dhhs.ne.gov/CCDF for more details and to register for one of the informational Webinars.

FEMA Seeks Volunteers for Virtual BRIC National Review Panels

FEMA is seeking volunteers from state, local, tribal and territorial governments and other federal agencies to participate on the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) virtual national review panels.

The agency is accepting [Expression of Interest](#) forms from **Jan. 8, 2024–Feb. 15, 2024**. These volunteers will leverage their mitigation experience and expertise to determine how subapplications meet [BRIC qualitative evaluation criteria](#).

The virtual panels will run April 8 – May 3, 2024 on Zoom. Panelists will serve 30 hours on one weekly panel from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ET plus a three-hour training.

FEMA anticipates that participants on the panels will commit eight hours a day over the course of five business days. All reviews will be conducted virtually and there is no compensation for participating on the panels.

The agency anticipates participation in these panels will strengthen the BRIC review process by ensuring it is transparent, equitable and inclusive. It will also offer insight into new and creative ways communities are addressing different hazards, an expanded network of individuals and a fresh look at ways to contribute to community disaster resilience.

For more information, visit the BRIC [webpage](#) on [FEMA.gov](#).

ICS Training for Senior and Elected Officials

Free, virtual training opportunity:

ICS 402 – NIMS Overview for Senior Officials

TIME:

March 15, 2024 (Friday) 0900 – 1300 CST

Description

The purpose of this course is an overview to familiarize Executives/Senior Officials (elected officials, city/county managers, agency administrators, etc.) with incident Command System (ICS) principles and their role in supporting incident management. Designed for executives, administrators and policy makers, ICS for Executives introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) concepts and provides an orientation for executive understanding and participation in ICS. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System, including relationships between the Incident Commanders and Agency Executives. Additional courses are available to learn more about ICS. Further ICS courses and experience are required to qualify for serving in any of the ICS Command and General Staff positions.

Specific Course Topics

- Basic concepts, organization, and terminology of Incident Command System (ICS)
- ICS applications
- Role of an Executive/Senior Official relative to the ICS
- Major responsibilities of an Executive/Senior Official as related to an incident
- Functional responsibilities of the Command and General Staffs
- Issues that influence incident complexity and the tools available to analyze complexity
- Differences between on-incident ICS organizations and activities and the activities accomplished by Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Area Commands, and Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACS)
- Types of agency(ies) policies and guidelines that influence management of incident or event activities

Target Audience

Executives and Senior Officials (including elected officials, city/county managers, agency administrators, etc.) who establish or implement policy, but who are normally not part of the on-scene ICS organization.

Prerequisites

None

The link for the course will be sent out 5 days prior to class. To get on the list, please send an email to Michael.gibson@nebraska.gov. In the subject line please put "402 ICS for Senior Officials"

The deadline to register is February 22, 2024.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

USDOT announced the FY24 RAISE Grant application which makes \$1.5B available to state, local and tribal governments for projects "for planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation".

The deadline is February 28, 2024.

The NOFO is [here](#) and additional information about RAISE is [here](#).

BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities non-financial Direct Technical Assistance (BRIC DTA) request form submission deadline is approaching on **February 29, 2024, 2 p.m. Central Time**.

FEMA established the BRIC DTA initiative to provide non-financial technical support to tribal nations and underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by natural hazard disasters and have fewer resources to address resilience needs. BRIC DTA services can include broad planning and capacity-building support, community engagement and communications, and partnership building, as well as hands-on technical assistance in mitigation alternatives development, project design (including engineering and cost estimation), application assistance, financing strategies, grants writing and grants management.

To apply, communities and tribal nations should send a request through the online submission [BRIC DTA Request Form](#) and email it to fema-bric-dta-submission@fema.dhs.gov. There is no requirement for a previous BRIC grant sub-application or award, or an approved hazard mitigation plan, to be considered for participation. To learn more about the BRIC DTA program and the application, please make sure to review the webpage [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) and the Program Support Material [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance](#).

FY 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application Period Open for \$324 Million

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell announced the opening of the latest application period for the Fiscal Year 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, which will award \$324 million to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters nationwide against fire-related deaths and hazards.

Applications Must be Submitted by March 8

During 2023, there were nearly 2,300 home fire fatalities in the United States, including 85 firefighters. To help keep communities and firefighters safer, FEMA is announcing new funding for critically needed resources to better equip and train emergency response personnel, enhance operational efficiencies, foster communications interoperability between emergency responders, and support community risk reduction and resilience. In addition, these grants will provide direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations, and state fire training academies. The application period will close on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET.

Over the years, AFG funds have had a big impact in communities around the nation including supporting firefighters from Gloucester City, New Jersey, that saved a 14-year-old boy from drowning after he fell off a train trestle into swift water, thanks to Swiftwater Rescue Training and equipment paid for by an AFG grant.

In Topeka, Kansas, a thermal imaging camera purchased with an AFG grant prevented two firefighters from falling through a compromised staircase while fighting a housefire. The Portland (Maine) Fire Department was able to send 50 of its members to the hospital for screening as part of an ongoing firefighter lung cancer study. A serious lung abnormality was found in one of the firefighters, fortunately, it was in an early stage and treatable. Without that early detection, it would have become untreatable and possibly fatal. These examples represent the impact these funds can have on communities and FEMA encourages more communities to apply.

Since fiscal year 2001, the AFG has awarded approximately \$8.4 billion in grants to provide critically needed resources help keep firefighters and the public safe from fires and fire-related hazards. Although the available funding for FY 2023 AFG is \$324 million, the total amount appropriated under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. No. 117 - 328 is \$360 million. However, to meet the statutory requirements of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, \$36 million (10%) of these “available grant funds” will be awarded later this year under the FY 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety program.

This year’s AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity was released on Jan. 22, 2024. The funding notice and technical assistance documents for this program are available at

www.grants.gov and on the [FEMA website](#). Additional information about upcoming webinars to assist applicants is also available on the [FEMA website](#).

RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2024 Election Calendar](#)



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