



The Ninety-Three

7.15.2022

Upcoming Events

County Assessors Workshop - Aug 29-Sept 1, 2022

[Click Here to Register](#)

Save The Date!

128th Annual NACO Conference
December 14-16, 2022

Keynote Address: [Dr. Peter Cressy](#)

Registration for the Conference and Hotel Blocks will open 8/4/2022. More Information to Follow.

Your County, Through the Lens

Every issue of the Ninety-Three will feature a photograph submitted by one of our readers of their county.

[Submit a Photo of Your County](#)



Blaine County, submitted by Ann Marie Shinn

ARPA Stories



ARPA Stories is a chance for counties to share how they are using ARPA funds to improve their community.

Stories will be posted to the NACO website and social media platforms so that you may share them with your personal networks and your constituents.

[Start Sharing Your County's Story](#)

Launching Tomorrow!

Department of Health and Human Services

Fact Sheet

04/01/2022

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.



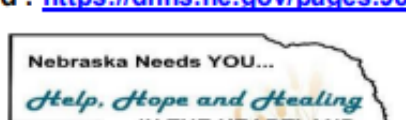
988 is COMING!

Launching July 2022

In July 2022, 988 will become the national three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, replacing the current phone number of 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

The switch to the easy-to-remember 3-digit calling code 988 (like '911') for suicide prevention and mental health crisis services will make it easier for Americans in crisis to access the help they need and decrease the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health issues.

Moving to 988 is an opportunity to strengthen and expand the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (the Lifeline) to assist individuals in a behavioral health crisis. Nebraska's 988 Implementation plan is located at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages.988.aspx>



Stakeholders and work groups have been meeting regularly to advance Nebraska's 988 implementation efforts in meeting a July launch date. A brief description of each group follows. Expanded meeting information for each group can be found at: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages.988.aspx>

- **Stakeholder Advisory Workgroup:** Advises 988 and crisis continuum implementation efforts to ensure equitable access to behavioral health crisis care for all Nebraskans
- **Technology:** Developing recommendations and solutions for Nebraska 988 to ensure compatibility with Nebraska 911.
- **Data and Performance:** Developing recommendations regarding quality metrics to ensure adherence to Lifeline Service Level Standards and Stakeholder expectations.
- **Referral Repository:** Makes recommendations for completion and maintenance of Nebraska referral repository for use by Nebraska's 988 call center.
- **Training and Education:** Developing standardized training and education for crisis continuum service providers. :
- **Marketing:** Developing a messaging strategy and updating/creating materials addressing health disparities and reaching diverse populations.

If you have questions or comments, please submit to: DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov

Until the launch.....If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, CALL 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741



USDA Rural Development Offers Aid for Emergency Equipment as Nebraska Faces Abnormally Dry Conditions

Communities facing dry weather and drought conditions may be facing additional needs this year. The Nebraska office of USDA Rural Development stands ready to offer aid for emergency equipment to communities in rural Nebraska.

"Our Community Facilities Programs have direct loans and grants to assist communities with populations of 20,000 or less with getting new or updated emergency equipment to meet their needs," explained Community Programs Director Kelley Messenger.

For example, USDA Rural Development recently worked with Gosper County Nebraska to help with the purchase a new grass fire truck through the Community Facility Disaster Grant Program.

According to Acting Fire Chief Dustin Clouse, his department has had more fire calls recently than in normal years, which he attributes to high winds and drought conditions. He said the increased capability of adding an additional truck is certainly welcome but added that the truck is special to the fire district for another reason.

"Fire Chief Darren Krull was the person finishing the build-out on the new truck, which was not complete on April 7, 2022, when he was killed in a vehicle crash while responding to a fire. We came together to finish the build-out the night before his funeral. So, this truck is very special to us for that reason. It reminds us of him."

USDA RD Community Programs Loan Specialist David Fulton assisted with the project. He said he is proud of the work he and his team did to get the Community Facility Grant application processed for Gosper County, with an area of 463 square miles, they now have a grass fire truck dedicated to their needs 24/7. He hopes other departments will reach out as well.

"USDA RD serves rural America, so we understand rural fire districts and rural issues. Come to us, we're here for you," said Fulton.

Interested communities are encouraged to reach out to a USDA RD representative in their region to discuss project needs and qualifications. The following professionals are available across the state to take questions and help applicants apply for USDA RD Community Facility funds, including grants available for public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment; and healthcare facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

- North Platte Office – Sara Pierce (308) 221-3689
 Kearney Office – Dave Fulton (308) 455-9844 or Kaleb Browning (308) 455-9838
 Norfolk Office – Anthony Guenther (402) 371-5350 ext. 120 or Marla Ourada (402) 437-5598
 Lincoln Office – Marshall Stephens (402) 437-5732 or Niki Dittmer (402) 437-5737

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas.

Center for Public Affairs Research Presents: A Data and Research Series for Community Impact.

Now in its 33rd year, this professional development data series is for anyone who uses — or wants to use data — to understand and affect change in our Nebraska communities.

August 24, 2022 | 9 A.M. – noon | Virtual

Part 1 of this year's data series focuses on the fundamentals. Sessions presented by experts at CPAR and the U.S. Census Bureau will show you where to find the latest data and how to use it.

September 28, 2022 | 9 A.M. – noon | Virtual

Part 2 of the series takes data use to the next level. You'll learn more from an all-star lineup of community experts and change makers on how to apply data and make an impact.

\$70 per live session or \$120 for both.

Recordings only are available for \$30 per session.

[Learn More and Register](#)



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