

August 9, 2024



The Ninety-Three

District Meeting Registration Open Now

Upcoming Fall District Meetings

September 12 - Southeast District Meeting
Graduate Lincoln Hotel, Lincoln

September 13 - Northeast District Meeting
Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

September 19 - Central District Meeting
The Leadership Center, Aurora

September 25 - Panhandle District Meeting
Prairie Winds Community Center, Bridgeport

September 26 - West Central District Meeting
Quality Inn & Suites, Ogallala

www.nebraskacounties.com

Mark your calendars! Fall district meetings are coming up!

- Southeast District Meeting - September 12 - Graduate Lincoln Hotel, Lincoln
 - Northeast District Meeting - September 13 - Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk
 - Central District Meeting - September 19 - The Leadership Center, Aurora
 - Panhandle District Meeting - September 25 - Bridgeport Community Center, Bridgeport
 - West Central District Meeting - September 26 - Quality Inn & Suites, Ogallala
-

8:00-9:00 AM - Registration

9:00-10:15 AM - Business Meeting

10:15 AM-12:00 PM - Affiliate Breakout Meetings

12:00-1:00 PM - Lunch

Affiliate breakout session agendas coming soon.

[Register Here](#)

Western Interstate Region (WIR) Ex Officio Director Nominations

NACO Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the newly added position of the WIR Ex Officio Director.

This position is the Nebraska Representative of the WIR (Western Interstate Region) Board of Directors and would be responsible for attending WIR Board of Directors meetings, participate in occasional fly ins to Washington D.C to testify on a variety of issues facing counties as well as providing the NACO Board of Directors quarterly reports.

If you are interested in learning more about the WIR please reach out to Candace Meredith at candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org.

Nebraska Legislature Special Session

Special session is in full swing. Follow along with the session using the links below.

[View the list of introduced legislation here](#)

[View the Legislative Calendar here](#)

[Watch on Nebraska Public Media here](#)

Contact your state senator to share your county story.

[Not sure of your district? Click here to find your State Senator](#)



Subscribe to the NACO Legislative Newsletter

Subscribe Here

From the Nebraska Examiner - What is the cost of government and what should it be?

- What does government need to pay for?
- How much is needed?
- Who do we want to pay for it?
- How do you want them to pay?

Commentary from John Spatz, NASB; Lynn Rex, LNM; Jon Cannon, NACO.

Read here: [Nebraska Examiner | What is the cost of government and what should it be?](#)

NACO Benefit Services to Roll Out Student Debt Solution



Coming soon: NACO Benefit Services is partnering with Savi, a tool that will help take the stress out of student loans. As an NACO Benefit Services member, you'll get access to Savi for free to check your eligibility for loan forgiveness program, see if you can lower your monthly student loan payment, and more. This benefit will be available starting August 19th.

In the meantime, register for one of Savi's Student Loan Webinars and be on the lookout for additional communications from NACO Benefit Services on how you can get started with Savi on August 19th.

Savi Student Loan Webinar Registration

[Wednesday, September 4th @ 3 PM CST](#)

[Wednesday, October 2nd @ 3 PM CST](#)

Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES)

The Department of Transportation has curated resources specifically for rural counties, including information and tutorials to help them make their case for funding. Toolkits and online information sources are available to help applicants access grant fund on the U.S. Department of Transportation's website linked below.

Read more about ROUTES here: [DOT helps rural counties find funding, with deadlines approaching | National Association of Counties \(naco.org\)](#).

Browse the toolkit and more information here: [Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success \(ROUTES\) | US Department of Transportation](#)

Cyber Security Key Point Public Wifi

CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS

July

From the County
Network Security
Cooperative



THE RISKS OF PUBLIC WiFi

*A common threat on the wild web is a sneaky thing called adversary-in-the-middle (AiTM) attack, a fancy term for eavesdropping on your data. Picture this: bad guys intercepting and reading everything between your device and a service - a total privacy invasion! And if that's not enough, scammers kick it up a notch with phishing emails, pretending to be your pals, and getting you to spill your private info. Stay sharp, let's outsmart these villains together!

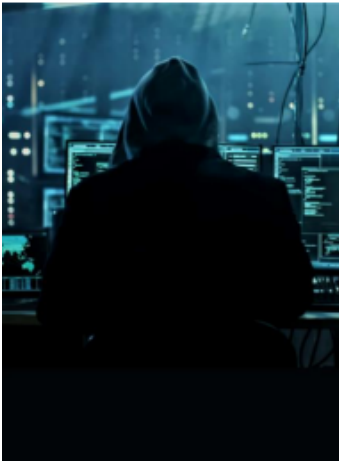
*Let's talk encryption. Encrypted networks send information between the device and the router in a "secret code" requiring a key to see information. Most WiFi routers have encryption turned off by default. Connecting to an unencrypted network is like rolling out the red carpet for scammers to snoop on your web traffic. Public WiFi may be encrypted, but we are not throwing a superhero guarantee on that. Stay cautious as uncertainty can be a playground for potential risks.



PUBLIC WiFi

While the convenience of public WiFi is undeniable, offering free internet access at various locations such as restaurants, hotels, and airports, it is important to recognize the associated risks. These connections, though useful, can expose users to potential cyberattacks. Therefore, it is crucial to adopt safe online practices to protect both personal and business data.

Stay safe out there!



*Another sneaky trick involves attackers who slip malware to your computer through software vulnerabilities, which are security holes in operating systems or software programs. They craft code, exploit weaknesses, and inject malware undetected onto your device.

*WiFi snooping involves cybercriminals using fancy software to eavesdrop on WiFi signals, giving them the power to seize your entire online life. Peep at your web history, snatch login details, and even hijack your online hangouts.

*Malicious hotspots, or rogue access points, masquerade as legit networks with reputable sounding names. For instance, "Sleepyght Inn" vs the correct "SleepTight Inn." Connect to the wrong one, and your personal info becomes their VIP guest. Don't fall for WiFi illusions.

FOR SAFE USAGE

- *Protect that secret identity and avoid sensitive info on public WiFi.
- *Use a VPN: a virtual private network adds an extra security cape to the connection.
- *Stick to encrypted HTTPS websites for more security.
- *Utilize browser extensions such as "HTTPS Everywhere" - a digital superhero cloak for your browsing.
- *Turn off automatic connections on your devices.
- *Turn off file sharing before accessing public WiFi.
- *Use a trusty sidekick like two factor authentication to protect passwords.
- *Update like a hero! Up to date Operating Systems are security patches for your digital fortress.
- *Remember to log out all services used & make sure your device will "forget the network" - no digital breadcrumbs.
- *Use antivirus software - this is like a superhero suit for your device.

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



- AND -



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



[Download the Flyer Here](#)

National Association of Counties (NACo) Steering Committees

If you are interested in getting involved on one of NACo's ten policy steering committees, please contact Candace Meredith for more information.

Learn more about the steering committees here:

[NACo Steering Committees](#)

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program - Application Links Now Open

The 2024 [Reconnecting Communities Pilot](#) (RCP) Program Application portal has opened. The RCP Program focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration, and provide technical assistance to further these goals.

Applications are separated into two types – planning and construction. The application window closes September 30th.

Please use the follow the links to begin your application:

[Capital Construction](#)

[Community Planning](#)



Nebraska Broadband Office Horizons Newsletter

[Read the August Issue](#)

NDOT Launches Nebraska Infrastructure Hub

The Nebraska Department of Transportation launched the Nebraska Infrastructure Hub, the state's first-ever intergovernmental entity focused on empowering state and local

public agencies in competing for federal discretionary grants.

Through technical assistance from NDOT, the Hub will support communities from initial application through project administration, ensuring compliance with federal requirements and deadlines. The Nebraska Infrastructure Hub offers comprehensive resources and expert guidance to help communities navigate the competitive grant application process.

Key components of the Hub include:

- Grant Pairing Portal: Matches projects with suitable grants.
- Project Development Support Team: Two full-time members provide personalized assistance and feedback on draft proposals.
- Technical Support: On-call consultants available to enhance proposals.
- Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation: Ensures compliance and success of grant-funded projects.
- Partnerships and Networking Opportunities: Facilitates collaboration among stakeholders.

Learn more by visiting the Nebraska Infrastructure Hub:

[Nebraska Infrastructure Hub](#)

Hotel Reservation Process for Annual Conference

The hotel reservation process for our annual conference is about to begin! This year, the reservation form will go live on **Wednesday, September 11th** at **2:30 PM Central/1:30 PM Mountain time**.

You will be able to access the form via email sent to all county officials, our website, and our Facebook page at that time.

Please start discussing your hotel arrangements with your county now and determine who will be responsible for filling out the form for your group. You will need to know how many rooms your county will need and your hotel preferences. The names of those staying will be collected at a later date.

Stay tuned and prepare to secure your accommodations for a fantastic conference experience!

Mark Your Calendars

2024 NACO Annual Conference

December 18th - 20th

Pre-registration Opens September 11th

2024 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Tuesday, September 17

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM CT

Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

Registration Deadline: September 9

NACO will be hosting an education track regarding **Governance and Policy** at this year's Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference. The conference brings together hundreds of community leaders from across Nebraska to continue building momentum around quality early childhood education and its connection to economic development and community vitality.

Register at the link below before September 9th.

[Registration and Information](#)

[Governance and Policy Agenda](#)

Toolkit Now Available: Operation Green Light for Veterans

Operation Green Light for Veterans will take place November 4–11, 2024.

A [toolkit](#) is now available, with press release, resolution, and social media templates, among other resources to support county participation.



NACO West Update

Work on the main entrance siding continues.





THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 NACO BUSINESS MEMBERS

ELITE



PREMIUM



NACO Business Members

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2024 Election Calendar](#)



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