

January 5, 2024



The Ninety-Three

NACO Update on Governor's Tax Reform Working Group

This past summer, the Governor identified valuation and property tax reform as a top priority for this legislative session, and brought together a group of stakeholders invested in property tax reform. NACO was identified as one of these stakeholders, and asked to bring four county assessors in order to describe how valuations work and how they are part of the property tax. The assessors are Terry Keebler from Johnson County, Jackie Russell from Adams County, Regina Andrijeski from Frontier County, and Jeff Hackerott from Madison County. Jon Cannon, NACO Executive Director, and Candace Meredith, NACO Deputy Director, have also been part of the Governor's working group. The group has met 8 times, most recently this past Tuesday, January 2, with at least one more meeting scheduled for next Thursday, January 11.

Through these meetings, the Governor determined that the reliance on property taxes to provide essential services to citizens must be corrected. NACO, along with our partners at the League of Nebraska Municipalities, discussed the historical depletion of state aid to fund the essential services that are mandated by the state. With limited statutory authority to generate revenue, counties are forced to rely primarily on property taxes to fund vital mandated services. The Governor and his team have been receptive to input from NACO.

With the philosophy that the trajectory of property tax growth must be made sustainable, the Governor and his team are proposing a 2% increase in the sales tax rate that would go toward continuing direct property tax relief. With such revenue, the property tax request for every local political subdivision would be reduced. Moving forward, the Governor has proposed a 2% cap on property tax requests from year to year with exceptions for bonded indebtedness, allowable growth and declared natural disasters. In addition, political subdivisions would be allowed to carry forward unused property tax authority up to a maximum of 5%.

NACO supports the philosophical concepts behind property tax reform – direct aid from the State to correct the overreliance on the property tax, with such aid “front-loaded” into local budgets in order to reduce property tax levies and restrain the growth of

property tax requests into the future. Some of the details, such as what level property tax growth is capped at, and what exceptions can be made to that cap, are still subject to discussion. NACO will continue to work with the Governor and his team to ensure that county governments have adequate funding for officials and staff to provide the services our citizens expect.

SLCG Cybersecurity Grant Webinar



JANUARY 16TH, 2024

2:00 PM

SLCG

CYBERSECURITY GRANT WEBINAR

Do you need help with your SLCG project submission or have questions about the process? Please join us!

Subjects to be covered will be

- ✓ Project Submission Questions
- ✓ Project types for this round of funding
- ✓ Grant Program Basics



To join the webinar browse to <https://SLCG.Nebraska.gov/> and click the Join Webinar button!



The submission window for the second round of State and Local Cybersecurity Grants is 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/>

Upcoming Events

2024

County Board Chair Workshop
February 16, Kearney

Southeast District Meeting
March 14, Lincoln

Northeast District Meeting
March 15, Norfolk

Central District Meeting
March 21, York

Panhandle District Meeting
March 27, Bridgeport

West Central District Meeting
March 28, Ogallala

County Budget Workshop
June 12, Kearney

County Board Workshop
June 12-14, Kearney

NACO Legislative Conference
October 11, TBD

NACO Annual Conference
December 18-20, Kearney

www.nebraskacounties.org

County Board Chair Workshop - Register Now!

This workshop is for County Board Chairs and Vice Chairs. Agenda coming soon.

Friday, February 16, 2024 | 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

Deadline to pre-register: 2/5/24

Registration fee: \$0



NACO West Update

The crew continues to work on the steel stud framing.



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](#).

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

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.

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](#).

RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar

2024 Election Calendar



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