

January 26, 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 for Southeast, Northeast, Panhandle Now Open

Central and West Central Opening Soon

Full Agendas in February

[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

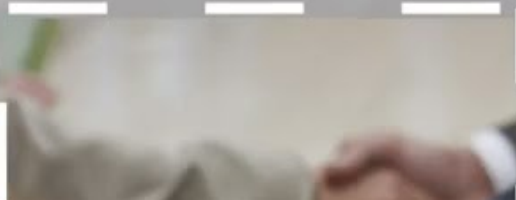
To be considered, students must complete the required application form, submit a seven-semester transcript from an accredited Nebraska high school and prepare a written essay on the importance of county government.

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](#)

FEMA Youth Preparedness Council





In past years, members have been a

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.

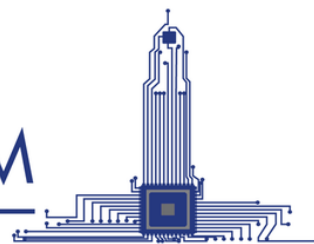
The council supports FEMA's commitment to involve America's youth in preparedness-related activities. It also provides young people an opportunity to present their perspectives, feedback, and opinions to FEMA staff. Members regularly meet with staff and attend the annual Youth Preparedness Council virtual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

Grant application window closes February 4th, 2024.

Nebraska Voters Can Now Submit Early Voting Applications

Nebraskans who would like to vote early for the May 14, 2024, statewide primary can now submit [early voting applications](#) to their county election office.

Voters can either download the early voting applications from the Nebraska Secretary of State's website [here](#), or they can request an application from their county election office. Voters can find their county election office's contact information [here](#).

The Secretary of State's office reminds voters to follow the new voter ID requirements that take effect for the statewide primary.

"There are important changes to how Nebraskans will vote in the statewide primary," Nebraska Secretary Bob Evnen said. "Every Nebraska voter should be thinking about how voter ID will impact their voting plan, whether that will be presenting an ID in the early voting process or showing up to the polls with an acceptable form of ID."

County election offices will begin mailing out early voting ballots on April 8. Early voting in-person at county election offices, which requires an ID but no application, begins April 15.

Important: Here is how voter ID will affect Nebraskans who vote early by mail.

When the voter fills out their [early voting application](#), they will need to do **one** of the following:

- The voter can write their driver's license or state ID number on the application
- **OR** The voter can attach a photocopy of their acceptable form of ID to the application.
 - The photocopy **must** be returned with the application, whether the voter returns the documents in person, by mail, by email, or by fax.
- **OR** If the voter does not have an ID and cannot get an ID because of a disability, illness or religious objection, the voter can attach their completed reasonable impediment certification to the application.

Once the early voter returns their application with their ID information, the voter ID requirement is fulfilled. The voter will not need to present their ID again for this primary election. The voter should make sure to **sign** and return the early voting application to their county election office.

Counties that only vote by mail

Voters in by-mail precincts and by-mail counties automatically receive their ballots; No request is required. Voters in the following counties will present their photo ID information to their [ballot return envelope](#):

- Boone, Cedar, Cherry, Clay, Dawes, Dixon, Garden, Knox, Merrick, Morrill, Stanton.

These voters will either write their driver's license or state ID number under the flap of their return envelope, enclose a copy of their photo ID in the return envelope or insert their reasonable impediment certification in the return envelope. They will not need to present their photo ID again for this primary election.

Acceptable forms of photo ID

The photo ID must have the voter's name and photo.

- Nebraska driver's license
- Nebraska state ID (from the DMV)
- United States Passport
- Military ID
- Tribal ID
- Hospital, assisted-living facility or nursing home record
- Nebraska political subdivision ID (state, county, city, school, etc.)
- Nebraska college or university ID (public or private)

Free state ID for voting purposes

Nebraskans can get a [free state ID](#) for voting purposes from the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). If the person was born in Nebraska and needs [a free certified copy of their Nebraska birth certificate](#) to get a free state ID, they can contact the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). A birth certificate is not a valid form of voter ID.

Learn more about Voter ID online

A brochure about voter ID is available in English and Spanish at voterID.nebraska.gov, along with more preliminary voter ID education material.

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

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](#).

If you have any questions, please direct them to: fema-r7-bric-dta-outreach@fema.dhs.gov

RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar

2024 Election Calendar



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