

June 28, 2024



# The Ninety-Three

## 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.

**Governance and Policy** track agenda and details coming soon.

Register at the link below before September 9th.

[Registration and Information](#)

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## **Upcoming JPH Postcard and Hearing Prep Webinar**

NACO will be hosting a webinar to review the process of preparing for postcards and joint public hearings.

Assessors will receive 1-hour of PAD-Approved continuing education for attending.

When: July 18, 2024 - 10:00 AM Central Time

[Register for the Webinar Here](#)

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## **June Cybersecurity Key Point**

# CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS

June

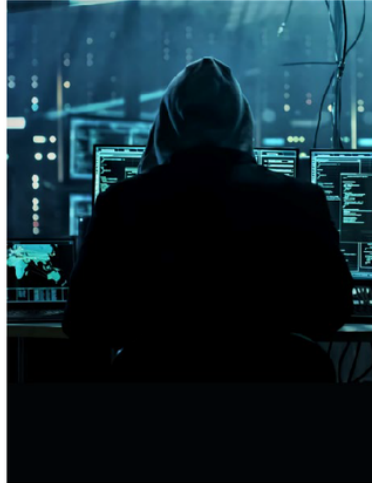
From the County  
Network Security  
Cooperative



## Strong and Unique Passwords:

- Complexity Matters:**
  - Use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
  - Avoid common words or easily guessable patterns.
- Unique for Each Account:**
  - Never reuse passwords across different platforms.
  - If one account is compromised, others remain secure.
- Consider Passphrases:**
  - Combine random words or phrases to create longer, memorable passwords.
  - For example: "BlueSky\$Coffee@2023!"

Strong passwords are your first line of defense against cyber threats!



## Tips for Remote Workers to Stay Cyber Secure:

When working remotely, prioritize cybersecurity. Install software updates promptly, and use a VPN for secure connections, especially when using public Wi-Fi. Create strong, unique passwords and secure your home network. Stay informed about common threats and best practices to keep your data safe.



## A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is crucial for remote workers. Here's why:

- Securely Transmit Data:**
  - A VPN encrypts your internet traffic.
  - It ensures that sensitive information (like login credentials or company data) remains confidential.
- Access Company Resources Safely:**
  - When connected to a VPN, you can securely access your company's network, servers, and files.
  - This is especially important when working from public Wi-Fi or other untrusted networks.

Work with your IT department to set up a VPN service for whenever you work remotely!



## Knowledge is Power

To stay informed about cybersecurity while working remotely, subscribe to reputable newsletters for updates on threats and trends. Regularly search for yourself online to monitor data exposure. Educate yourself on basic security practices to make informed decisions.

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](#)

# Grant Management Training in Omaha

Omaha Police Department and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant management workshop in Omaha on July 29-30, 2024. This in-person training is for grant recipient organizations across all disciplines. Attend this class and you'll learn how to administer government grants and stay in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

**For event details visit: <https://grantstraining.com/om0724>**

Beginning and experienced grant managers, grant writers and administrators from city, county and state agencies, healthcare organizations, nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Discounted tuition is \$565 and includes Grant Writing USA's 500-page grant management workbook and reference guide. Please use the code "**ASSN**" at the time of registration to receive this \$30 discount.

Groups of 5 or more receive a \$50 discount per person. Discounts for Grant Writing USA alumni and nonprofits are also available. Please call for details. One discount code per registration.

All health and safety guidelines will be followed. Online reservations are necessary. Payment is not required at the time of registration. **City, county, and state agencies have 30 days after the training to pay.**

Complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration are [available here](#).

## Contacts:

Tammy Pitts  
Grant Writing USA  
888.435.7281 toll free  
[tammy@grantwritingusa.com](mailto:tammy@grantwritingusa.com)

Miranda Vaughn  
402.444.4116  
[miranda.vaughan@cityofomaha.org](mailto:miranda.vaughan@cityofomaha.org)

*More than 40,000 agencies across North America have turned to Grant Writing USA for grant writing and grant management training.*

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## Is Your County Broadband Ready?

NACO is developing a **toolkit** aimed at preparing counties to be "**Broadband Ready**". Over the past month, we've collaborated with stakeholders from across Nebraska to explore strategies for leveraging the county's authority to safeguard our infrastructure and right of ways and building collaborative partnerships with internet providers while

ensuring reliable and sustainable broadband services for our citizens. In partnership with Universal Broadband Consulting, NACO is in the process of developing a toolkit to aid counties in achieving Broadband Ready status.

If your county is interested in piloting the Broadband Ready program, please reach out to Candace Meredith.

Broadband Terminology Information



## Nebraska Broadband Office Newsletter

Click Here to Read

## 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.

## ARPA SLFRF Obligation Guidance Resource

The NACo ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Obligation Updates and Guidance resource provides an in-depth overview of the flexibilities provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury's obligation guidance for the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

NACo tirelessly advocated for the additional flexibilities and protected them from repeal last month via a Senate Congressional Review Act (CRA) vote. The overview provides additional clarification on some key topics including obligations around personnel expenses, reclassifying funds and subrecipients.

[ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Obligation Updates & Guidance | National Association of Counties \(naco.org\)](#)

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# National Center for Public Lands Counties Resource

Open to all county leaders, the hub serves as a clearinghouse for resources that advance the policy and practice study for public lands counties. Engage with resources, connect with county leaders from across the country and share updates on the most pressing issues emerging related public lands management, use and access.

[National Center for Public Lands Counties | National Association of Counties \(naco.org\)](https://www.naco.org/public-lands-counties)

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## NACo Public Lands Policy Steering Committee

Interested in being a member on the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee?

Please contact Candace Meredith for more information.

<https://www.naco.org/committee/public-lands-policy-steering-committee>

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## NACo High Performance Leadership Academy



The **NACo High Performance Leadership Academy**: An **online, 12-week** program to empower  online county government professionals with fundamental, results-oriented **leadership skills**.

Join more than 200 county leaders across Nebraska who have utilized the NACo High

Performance Leadership Academy. The 12-week virtual program is not only an opportunity to build and refine leadership capabilities, but it's also a chance to collaborate with local government peers in the region for the sharing of ideas and best practices.

The next program kicks off August 5th -- request more information for your county at [www.naco.org/skills](http://www.naco.org/skills) today!

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## Assessor Workshop / NCRAAO Conference Registration

Monday, August 19, 2024 - Thursday, August 22, 2024

Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

Assessor Workshop / NCRAAO Conference

Agenda

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## NACO West Update

Interior work continues!







# NACO BENEFIT SERVICES



## YOUR PARTNER IN COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

As stewards of taxpayer dollars, ensuring the well-being and satisfaction of your dedicated officials and staff is key. That's where NACO Benefit Services steps in, offering tailored solutions designed to meet the unique needs of counties across the state. NACO Benefit Services mission is to align with counties to assist in delivering efficient, cost-effective benefit services that alleviate administrative burdens and optimize resources. We understand the significant role benefits play in attracting and retaining employees, that in turn provides the continued success and growth of your county. NACO Benefit Services is available to assist counties with the ever-growing complexities of benefit management. Together, we are committed to providing quality benefits to all Nebraska counties.

## BENEFITS FOR ALL NACO POOL MEMBERS AT NO COST TO THE GROUP

- \$15,000 life insurance with Double Indemnity for Law Enforcement
- Long-Term Disability up to \$1,500 a month with Buy-Up options
- COBRA administration
- Employee Assistance plan
- Identity Theft Protection plan
- Student Loan Forgiveness program
- Benefits enrollment platform
- Assistance with federal filing requirements
- Medicare Assistance

## CARRIERS WE WORK WITH

- UnitedHealthcare
- Aetna
- Medica
- Blue Cross Direct

## PRODUCTS



- Health Reimbursement Arrangements
- Health Savings Accounts
- Cash In Lieu Options
- Section 125 Flexible Spending Accounts
- Supplemental Life Insurance Plans
- Medical Transportation Coverage



- Vision Insurance
- Senior Insurance Options
- Benefits Enrollment Platform
- Wellness Programs

## NEED TO EXPLORE OTHER OPTIONS

In addition to the Pool health and dental plans, NACO provides access to insurance plans outside of the Pool as well. If the Pool plan is not the right fit, we can shop for health plans from UnitedHealthcare, Aetna, Medica and Blue Cross direct. We can also bring you a variety of funding options for your health plan – fully insured, level-funded and self-funded.

## YOUR NACO BENEFIT SERVICES TEAM

**Mike Boden - Benefits Service Manager**

mike.boden@nebraskacounties.org  
402-434-5660 x1224

**Judd Allen - Benefits Service Representative**

judd.allen@nebraskacounties.org  
402-434-5660 x1231

**Gregg Mooney - Benefits Service Representative**

gregg.mooney@nebraskacounties.org  
308-280-2599



 [www.nebraskacounties.org](http://www.nebraskacounties.org)

**LEARN MORE**

NACO Benefit Services

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 NACO BUSINESS MEMBERS

## ELITE



## PREMIUM



# RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2024 Election Calendar](#)



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