

April 17, 2026



The Ninety-Three

County Budget Prep Refresher Webinar — May 28, 2026

You are invited to register for a Zoom webinar!

When: May 28, 2026, 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: County Budget Prep Refresher

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gw6L3cvnQ4WS8eFRIZ-5EA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Happy National County Government Month!

NACO is proud to join the National Association of Counties and other associations across the country in celebrating National County Government Month in April by championing the county workforce and encouraging civic engagement. This year's emphasis on storytelling will help residents better understand how county services impact their day-to-day lives.

We encourage all county officials to participate in National County Government Month by helping [tell the county story](#) as part of NACO's "We are Nebraska Counties" initiative.

Additionally, if your county is hosting a county government day or any other county government month activities, send photos to lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org so that we can help you celebrate!



COOL Network Registration Closes TODAY

In collaboration with the University of Nebraska Extension, the [County Official Online Learning \(COOL\) Network](#) is a hybrid educational course that includes a three-week online unit in May 2026, followed by one in-person session in Kearney, NE, on June 3, 2026. **[Please register by Friday, April 17th.](#)**

During the online portion, participants will use a learning management system to access videos and reading materials provided by professors, as well as insights from county and state officials. Participants can engage with the content at their own pace throughout the week, with opportunities for online discussion forums with fellow learners and a one-hour live webinar with the professor at the end of each week. The expected time commitment for learners is three to five hours per week.

The final session will take place in person at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE, on June 3, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Topics covered include:

- The purpose, structure, and funding of county government
- Government finance, expenditures, and mandates
- Courthouse infrastructure, Information Technology risk management
- Visioning and strategic planning

New county officials and emerging leaders are especially encouraged to participate! [Click here to register.](#)

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY EXTENSION

COOL NETWORK

County Official Online Learning Network

This course offers participants a chance to connect with fellow county officials, university professors, and local government experts through online content, discussion forum, weekly live webinars, and final in-person session.

Registration Fee: \$100

Session Starts: May 4, 2026

Enrollment Deadline: April 17, 2026

Register Now
nebraskacounties.org

Week 1
May 4-8
Structure

Week 2
May 11-15
Taxation

Week 3
May 18-22
Management

Week 4
June 3
In-Person Session, Kearney
Vision

Register for the COOL Network

Lincoln County Commissioner Reflects on Historic Nebraska Wildfires, Hot Meals USA & Community

Volunteer Efforts

As historic wildfires swept across western Nebraska, Lincoln County Commissioner Micaela Wuehler saw firsthand how counties and communities can come together in the face of even the biggest tragedies.

[Head to our blog to read our newest story.](#)





2026 NACO Outstanding County Board Member Award Nominations Close Next Week

Nominations for the 2026 Outstanding County Board Member Award are open to county board members who have been in office for at least two (2) terms. Criteria used to select the 2026 recipient include: the member will have been active on regional boards, served as chairman of their county board, participated in the legislative process, or been appointed to a statewide committee. Regular attendance at NACO educational opportunities, events, and meetings is also required.

Announcement of the recipient of this award will be made after the Wednesday evening meal at the County Board Workshop in Kearney on June 3, 2026. **Submit the [nomination form](#) to candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org by April 24, 2026.**

[Outstanding County Board Member Nomination Form](#)

Registrations for County Board Workshop & Land Use Permit Forum Now Open

[Land Use Permit Forum](#)

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

Registration Fee: \$0

Deadline: 5/27/2026 at 11:59 pm

[County Board Workshop](#)

Dates: Wednesday, June 3 – Thursday, June 4, 2026

Location: Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

Registration Fee: \$125 in Advance, \$150 at the door

(Registration includes dinner on 6/3, breakfast and lunch on 6/4)

Guest dinner ticket for 6/3: \$35

Registration Deadline: 5/27/26 at 11:59 pm CST

Cancellation Policy: Registrants who submit a written cancellation prior to the 5/27/2026 deadline are eligible for a full refund. Registrants who do not submit a written cancellation prior to the 5/27/2026 deadline, do not attend, and did not pay are subject to a \$50.00 administrative fee, including No Shows. Registrations are non-transferable.

Submit cancellation notices to peggy.brass@nebraskacounties.org.

NACO Hotel Block at Crowne Plaza, \$149.95, 308-238-7000

From NACo: Advocacy Alert: Floor Consideration of H.R. 2289 Next Week

I am reaching out to share an important policy update on one of our key priorities - *protecting local permitting authorities in the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure*. We just learned from Congressional staff that the U.S. House of Representatives will be moving H.R. 2289, [The American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025](#), to floor consideration next week. **[Counties are opposed to H.R. 2289 and its preemption of local broadband permitting authorities.](#)**

The legislation would do the following:

Impose Onerous Shot Clocks: The bill would establish shot clocks for wireless and wireline deployments in as little as 60 days, while establishing terms that limit a locality's ability to deny or toll a permit application for reasonable requests.

Enacts Dangerous "Automatic Approvals": The bill's "deemed granted" provision means if a county is one day late on a permit, a project is automatically approved—even if it's incomplete or poses a threat to existing water, gas, or electric lines.

Reduce Local Oversight on Safety in the Rights-of-Way : H.R. 2289's shot clock and fee recovery limitations cause increased concern for safety oversight and the increased risk of damage to existing infrastructure (including roads or other utilities) in the rights-of-way.

Reduce Cable Franchise Agreement Authorities: The legislation would limit the ability to renew or seek new provisions in existing cable franchise agreements, the majority of which

provide valuable local content to communities.

We are urging NACo members to contact their Congressional delegation to vote no on this legislation. You can find your Members of Congress by utilizing [the Congressional Directory here](#).

Nebraska Crime Commission: County-Eligible Grants

Program: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

Source: Federal (DOJ) – State Pass-Through

County Eligibility: Counties

Primary Eligible Uses: Law enforcement, courts, prosecution, corrections, behavioral health, technology

Submission Deadline: (Most Recent RFA): Varies annually; FFY 2026 public comment deadline April 17, 2026

Program: 2027 Juvenile Services Commission Grant Program (JS)

Source: State

County Eligibility: Non-profit community-based agency or organization, political subdivision, school district, federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribe, or any combination of the entities listed

Primary Eligible Uses: May be used for developing programs under the Juvenile Services Act

Submission Deadline: April 22, 2026 (5:00 PM CDT)

Program: STOP Violence Against Women Act (STOP VAWA)

Source: Federal (DOJ)

County Eligibility: Counties & partnerships

Primary Eligible Uses: Domestic violence and sexual assault response

Submission Deadline: May 5, 2026 (5:00 PM CDT)

Program: OJJDP Title II – Juvenile Justice & Prevention

Source: Federal (DOJ)

County Eligibility: Counties

Primary Eligible Uses: Delinquency prevention, diversion, youth services

Submission Deadline: April 28, 2026 (5:00 PM CDT)

Important: This document provides general informational summaries of grants that counties are eligible to apply for, and it does not modify, supplement, or supersede the official Request for Applications (RFA). Submission deadlines, eligibility requirements, and application procedures are governed exclusively by the official RFA. Applicants should not rely on summaries or secondary materials and are responsible for verifying all deadlines in the RFA. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of grants that are or will be available.

Nebraska Crime Commission Grant Announcements

State Hazard Mitigation Program - Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

FEMA has announced the 2024/2025 nationally competitive BRIC grant program. BRIC offers a funding opportunity for large-scale, high-impact mitigation projects and state non-competitive allocation funding for capability and capacity-building activities and mitigation projects. The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) requests that potential applicants submit Notices of Interest (NOIs) for consideration and selection before May 1st, 2026.

[FY 2024-2025 BRIC NOFO](#)

BRIC Briefings

April 23, 2026 @ 11:30 Central Standard Time

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m1aa415ddfd95165d7d3b079b59c959a0>

AFAN Offering Livestock Facility Tours for County Officials

LET'S EXPLORE LIVESTOCK!



The livestock landscape in Nebraska is ever changing, and we would love to show you what modern-day livestock facilities look, smell, and sound like firsthand! Reach out to Rylee at ryleew@a-fan.org if your county is interested in a personalized tour to discuss livestock, zoning, and rural economic development.



2026 NACO Business Members

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO expand our educational programming for Nebraska county officials. Business members enjoy a number of benefits, including features on our website and social media pages. We also offer our business members discounts on sponsorships and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

2026 business memberships are still open. Click the button below to learn more.

[2026 Business Memberships](#)

20 BUSINESS 26 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2026 Election Calendar](#)

[Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar](#)



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