

December 5, 2025



The Ninety-Three

Press Release - Gov. Pillen Announces Federal Approval of Nebraska's BEAD Final Proposal

LINCOLN, NE -- Governor Jim Pillen is announcing a major milestone in Nebraska's efforts to ensure all areas of the state have robust and reliable internet service. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has formally approved the state's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) final proposal. This authorizes Nebraska to transition from planning to implementation of its statewide broadband expansion strategy.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)

2025 NACO Annual Conference - What You Need to Know

Pre-registration for the 2025 NACO Annual Conference closed last week, but walk-ins are still welcome. Here's what attendees have to look forward to:

On Wednesday, you'll have the opportunity to connect with your fellow county officials from across the state in your individual affiliate sessions. Your affiliate's agenda can be found [here](#).

On Thursday, attendees can look forward to hearing from Governor Jim Pillen and NACo President JD Clark, as well as a lineup of dynamic breakout sessions, lunch with senators, and great door prizes. We also encourage attendees to wear their "holiday best" sweaters or other festive apparel!

We're thrilled to have 100 exhibitors this year, and encourage you to visit all of them in the exhibit hall! Also, the Two Rivers Public Health Department will provide influenza and COVID vaccines on Wednesday & Thursday.

The conference wraps up on Friday morning with the NACO Legislative Forum. Don't miss the important discussions about the things that shape policy and impact counties. Stay until the

end for another chance to win exciting door prizes!

All of the details relevant to the Annual Conference can be found [here](#) or on our [mobile app](#). We're looking forward to seeing all of you in December!



What Are You "All In" On?

At the 2025 NACO Annual Conference, we're celebrating being "all in" as a 100% NACo membership state.

Whether it's public safety, infrastructure, economic development, or health and human services, counties are **all in** on delivering solutions and building stronger communities across Nebraska.

2025 NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

What are you "All In" on?

I'm **all in** on helping people. When it comes to being a dedicated public defender, you must have a passion for helping people - individually, and as a community. Our goal is to provide Constitutionally and statutorily mandated rights through the effective assistance of counsel to everyone our Office represents, to treat people fairly and humanely, and to try to help them make the connections they need to have a better life in the future. We fight for our clients daily, whether it's through pretrial motions to challenge violations of rights, having trials, or working out the best resolutions to cases for them. I also believe it is vitally important to educate our community about their rights and share that whenever and wherever I can.

I've been a public defender for 36 years, and I've seen people hurt and also helped through the criminal justice system. In order to benefit our community, and our society, as a whole, we have to work together with a common goal to help people learn to be better so that they can do better. I've seen many clients who have benefitted from treatment and classes and go on to have a better life for themselves and their families. Creating more and more felony offenses and imprisoning people isn't working. Diversion and problem solving programs and problem solving courts help. Not criminalizing mental health and substance use issues would go even farther. Diverting people from the criminal justice system from the beginning should be the goal, not the exception.

I strongly support and aid whenever I can the following: Justice in Action, Community Corrections, the Center for People, Matt Talbot, problem-solving programs and problem-solving courts, food banks, and all community agencies who support education and fairness, to enhance rights for all people so that we can be a more kind, inclusive, diverse and equitable society where the amount of money you have, your gender, the color of your skin or any other perceived differences are not barriers to justice. We are all in this together.

- KRISTI EGGER
LANCASTER COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

FY 2024 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant – *Applications Due December 7, 2025*

We would like to invite counties interested in applying for the now-open FY 2024 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCG) opportunity. **Applications are open through December 7, 2025.**

This year's funding focuses on the Recovery Phase of the NIST SP 800-184 Cybersecurity Program, which emphasizes restoring systems and strengthening resilience following cyber incidents.

Program Goal and Objectives

Recover Systems

Objective 1.1: Ensure the ability to reconstitute systems in the event of a cyber incident.

Action: Develop organizational projects that increase backup and restoration capabilities.

Objective 1.2: Develop and assess logging practices and enhance logging.

Action: Implement projects focused on procuring SIEM tools or improving existing logging systems.

Objective 1.3: Map networks and data flows.

Action: Conduct mapping of organizational networks and data flows to identify vulnerabilities and dependencies.

Increase Response Activities

Objective 2.1: Develop and test cyber incident response plans.

Action: Conduct tabletop exercises to evaluate and improve response plans.

Objective 2.2: Strengthen stakeholder coordination.

Action: As part of incident response planning or exercises, coordinate interaction with both internal and external stakeholders.

Objective 2.3: Establish enterprise resiliency.

Action: Create out-of-band communications channels, off-site storage solutions, and infrastructure recovery plans; develop proactive, not reactive, cybersecurity strategies.

These objectives align with the Nebraska Cybersecurity Plan and are designed to enhance counties' readiness and recovery capabilities in the face of evolving cyber threats.

<https://slcg.nebraska.gov/docs/cybersecurity-plan.pdf>

<https://slcg.nebraska.gov/docs/fy2024-slcgp-nofo.pdf>

Please share this information with your designated cybersecurity department or service provider to determine whether this grant opportunity is a good fit for your county.

To apply, go to: <https://slcg.nebraska.gov/>



Download the NACO Connect Mobile App

Are you registered for the 2025 NACO Annual Conference in December? Download the NACO Connect app for easy access to everything you need to know!

View the Conference Schedule on your Phone

Search 'NACO Connect'
in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store



NACO Connect



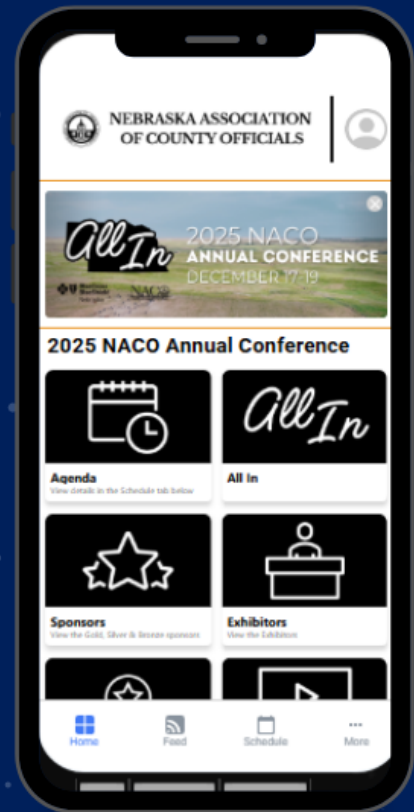
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NAEM Conference- Call for Speakers

The Nebraska Association of Emergency Management is soliciting speakers for its 2026 conference in Kearney, NE. The conference will take place from April 7th to 10th, 2026, at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney. [Click here to apply](#). Submissions are due December 12th.



**2026 NAEM
CONFERENCE**



APRIL 7 – 10, 2026

**YOUNES SOUTH CONFERENCE CENTER
Kearney, NE**

JOIN US IN KEARNEY, NE -WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

Nebraska Association of Emergency Management Annual Awards Nominations

The Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) annual awards nomination process has begun. Click the links below to view the nomination forms and criteria.

- [- Emergency Manager of the Year](#)
- [- New Emergency Manager of the Year](#)
- [- Deputy Director or Administrative Assistant of the Year](#)
- [- Emergency Management Support Nomination](#)
- [- Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination](#)

Nominations close January 7, 2026.

County Officials Invited to Take AI Survey

From the University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Public Administration:

County officials are invited to take part in a brief survey exploring how local governments in Nebraska and across the United States are approaching artificial intelligence (AI)—its current uses, governance, opportunities, and challenges.

Your perspective is valuable, whether or not your local government has begun using AI or you consider yourself familiar with the topic. The survey takes about 10–15 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain strictly confidential. You can access the survey directly through the Qualtrics link below—your participation will make an important contribution to this statewide effort.

As a small thank-you, you may request a summary of the findings at the end of the survey that you can use as a resource for your work and for Nebraska’s broader local government community. Findings will also be shared with partner organizations, including the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Nebraska City/County Management Association, and the Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association.

We sincerely appreciate your time and thoughtful participation. Your insights will help advance understanding of how local governments are engaging with the opportunities and challenges presented by AI.

[Take the Survey.](#)

Elite Business Member Spotlight - Enbridge

2025 NACO ELITE BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



2026 NACO Business Memberships Now Available!

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO continue to 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 a complimentary exhibit booth at the County Board Workshop, discounts on sponsorships, and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

Click the button below to learn more about NACO business memberships.

[2026 Business Memberships](#)

20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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