

April 24, 2026



# The Ninety-Three

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## 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gw6L3cvnQ4WS8eFRIZ-5EA)

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

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## Celebrating America's 250th at Big Bang Boom in Madison County

What started as a \$1,500 fireworks display in Norfolk in 1976 has now grown into one of the largest Independence Day celebrations in Northeast Nebraska. Big Bang Boom attracts crowds from Madison County and beyond for a two-day celebration. This year's event is especially historic, as attendees will celebrate both America's 250th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Big Bang Boom.

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



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## 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](mailto:lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org) so that we can help you celebrate!

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## 2026 NACO Outstanding County Board Member Award Nominations Close TODAY

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](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org) by April 24, 2026.**

**Outstanding County Board Member Nomination Form**

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## **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](mailto:peggy.brass@nebraskacounties.org).**

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

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# NACo AI Leadership Academy Enrollment is Open

## Lead Your County into the AI Future

The question isn't whether AI is coming to your county—it's how effectively you will lead the transition.

Join the next **NACo AI Leadership Academy** cohort starting **May 11th**. This program moves past the hype, giving you the practical tools to navigate risks and implement technology successfully.

### Master the Pillars of Modern Leadership:

**Innovation:** Empower your staff to explore new technological frontiers.

**Collaboration:** Build cross-functional teams for seamless implementation.

**Strategy:** Align tech investments with your organization's specific needs.

**Equity:** Ensure new initiatives benefit all employees and residents.

### Enrollment & Exclusive Discounts

Maximize your budget by enrolling your entire team.

**Individual Price:** \$1,000

**Team Discount:** **\$750 per person** (for groups of two or more)

[Click Here to Secure Your Spot for May 11th](#)

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## Nebraska Crime Commission: County-Eligible Grants

**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

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# 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](#)

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# 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](mailto: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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