

March 27, 2026



The Ninety-Three

Nebraska County Officials Attend Spring District Meetings

Nebraska county officials were hard at work at the NACO Spring district meetings this month. It was great to see everyone come together during this difficult time. Thank you to the county officials who have remained steadfast leaders in the face of Nebraska's historic wildfires.





Fire Response Resources - Department of Agriculture

Below, you can find information on resources available to farmers and ranchers impacted by the Nebraska wildfires. Additional information will be added when available. If you'd like to suggest any additional resources, please email agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov.

[Disaster Relief Information Sheet](#)

[Emergency Oversize/Overweight Permit Executive Order](#)

[Available and Requested Donations and Services](#)

Mental Health Resources:

Rural Response Hotline: 800-464-0258, 8am to 5pm CT, Monday through Friday

988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline: Call, Text, or Chat for 24/7 Support

Disaster Distress Helpline: Call or text: 1-800-985-5990

Español: Llama o envía un mensaje de texto 1-800-985-5990 presiona "2."

Register for 2026 COOL Network

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.

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.](#)



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EXTENSION

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

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

Register for the COOL Network

2026 NACO Outstanding County Board Member Award Nominations Open

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.

Grant Announcement: Notice of Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Application for Public Comment

The Nebraska Crime Commission has prepared the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program application to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The federal application is currently available for public comment for 30 days. Comments must be submitted no later than Friday, April 17, 2026. Please submit your comments by email to ncc.grant@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-3413.

[FFY 2026 Federal JAG Application](#)

Urgent: Action required on Parent PLUS Student Loans by April 1

If you currently hold Parent PLUS student loans, there is a critical deadline this spring that could permanently impact your repayment plan and forgiveness eligibility. Through NACO, you have access to Savi to help you navigate the sweeping changes reshaping the federal student loan system.

What's happening?

New federal rules under the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) are changing how Parent PLUS loans are managed starting July 1, 2026. This is a "hard cutoff" that could permanently change your financial future. If you do not consolidate your Parent PLUS loans before the deadline, you risk permanently losing access to:

- Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans, which can keep your monthly payments affordable based on what you earn.

- Forgiveness pathways, including Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

The Deadline: April 1, 2026

While the legal cutoff is July 1, the consolidation process must be fully completed and disbursed by that date, not just started. Because federal processing typically takes 60-90 days, we strongly recommend you submit your consolidation application no later than April 1, 2026.

How Savi Helps

The rules for Parent PLUS borrowers are complex, but your path forward doesn't have to be. Savi is here to help you:

- Analyze your loans to see if consolidation is necessary.
- Provide step-by-step help to complete consolidation before the deadline.
- Lock in your lowest monthly payment plan after consolidating.

Get started by creating a free account at nacobenefits.bysavi.com. Once you've registered, you can [attend a free webinar](#) to learn more.

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_Gw6L3cvnQ4WS8eFR1Z-5EA

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

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 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.

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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