

September 26, 2025



The Ninety-Three

Fall NACO District Meetings Wrap Up

Thank you to all of our hardworking county officials who came to our fall district meetings! We're excited to see you all again at our spring meetings in March!



County Official Registration & Hotel Reservation for Annual Conference Open

County official registration for the 2025 annual conference is now open. The hotel reservation form deadline is October 10th, and county official pre-registration for the conference ends November 21st.

Please consult the 2025 annual conference [web page](#) for all information relevant to attendees, including the registration policy, agenda overview, hotel reservation details, and other helpful links. Bookmark the web page to ensure you always have access to the most up-to-date information.

[Register Here](#)

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.

Help us amplify and celebrate the dedication and innovation that define county government. Leading up to the conference, we want to know what you're "all in" on.

NACO Communications Specialist Lauren Franken will be collecting county officials' "all in" stories from now until the conference to be shared on our website and social media. To share your **"all in"** story, fill out [this questionnaire](#).



NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

**2025 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

All In

DECEMBER 17-19, 2025

BEAD Update: Public Comment Submitted By NACO

The Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) serves as the voice of county officials across Nebraska, with a mission to continuously improve county government operations, promote efficiency, and raise the standard of public service for the ultimate benefit and well-being of Nebraska's county residents.

From the early stages of working alongside many stakeholders on the proposal of the NBEAD program, NACO and its members have been enthusiastic contributors to the feedback process, advocating for solutions that would bring high-speed broadband to Nebraska's rural communities that are currently underserved or unserved. We recognize that reliable

broadband is essential for accessing telehealth services, working remotely, advancing precision agriculture, emergency responsiveness, and staying connected with loved ones.

However, following the June 6th policy decision by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to restructure the BEAD program, we have been deeply concerned to witness a degradation in what was once seen as a transformative, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This decision diminished the potential of this investment to bring affordable, reliable broadband to thousands of citizens in our rural communities. Although we appreciate the work of the NBO team and understand the constraints that NBO had under the NTIA policy decision, the rushed pivot left Nebraska with an unfortunate result that does not line up to other state proposals.

While we acknowledge the awarding of funds, we respectfully request that the State of Nebraska advocate for the redirection of the remaining funds to stay in Nebraska to support non-deployment projects. These projects may include workforce development to support digital skills training, and precision agriculture initiatives, which will equip our farming community with the tools to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving market.

We also urge that all unserved and underserved Community Anchor Institutions, including schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and other community-serving entities, be prioritized for fiber broadband connectivity. Ensuring these institutions are connected is a step in creating meaningful access to resources for Nebraska citizens.

NACO appreciates that the draft final proposal will connect many Nebraskans, and we remain committed to expanding affordable broadband access to all. We look forward to working alongside the State of Nebraska to ensure that every resident is served.

To Learn more about the Draft Final Proposal for the NBEAD Program, you can find it <https://broadband.nebraska.gov/>

NACO Salary Study Overview & GIS Database Walk-Thru Webinar October 22nd

NACO will host a webinar on October 22nd at 2 p.m. CST to discuss the salary study findings and walk through the GIS database.

[Register here.](#)

Legislative Interim Studies Scheduled

Unfunded mandates on counties ([LR195](#)), publication of meeting notices ([LR192](#)), and valuation of ethanol plants ([LR118](#)) will be the subject of legislative interim study hearings on October 3.

Other hearings in October will focus on county initiatives and referendums ([LR253](#)), riparian weed control funding ([LR168](#)), and affordable housing ([LR86](#)). A full list of hearing dates and

locations can be found [here](#).

Interim study resolutions are introduced during the regular legislative session to study issues following the adjournment. They provide an opportunity for a deeper dive into bills that were introduced during prior sessions, and some focus on ideas for bills to be introduced in 2026. Some hearings are limited to invited testimony, but public comments are accepted through the online comment button for each resolution. Some hearings will be livestreamed through [Nebraska Public Media](#).

2025 NACO Legislative Conference - Register Before October 2nd!

A poster for the 2025 NACO Legislative Conference. The background is a faded image of a classical building with columns. The text is centered and reads: "NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE". The "O" in NACO contains a small icon of a legislative building. Below the title, the date and time are listed: "THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025" and "9AM-3PM". At the bottom, the location is given: "VINTAGE VENUE, 620 COURT STREET" and "BEATRICE, NE".

NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

9AM-3PM

**VINTAGE VENUE, 620 COURT STREET
BEATRICE, NE**

Mark your calendar for the 2025 NACO Legislative Conference!

If you have a suggestion for a legislative change that impacts your county, please reach out to Beth Ferrell or your NACO [Board of Directors representative](#) prior to the Legislative Conference.

[Register here](#). View the tentative agenda [here](#).

Register for the Legislative Conference

County Official Award Nominations Now Open!

We are now accepting nominations for the County Official of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Next Generation awards. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, October 17, and the award recipients will be announced at the NACO Annual Conference in December.

Click the links below to access the nomination forms:

[County Official of the Year](#)

[Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[Next Generation Award](#)

Live Healthy Prescription, Health, and Dental Discount Program

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Live Healthy prescription discount applies to everyday prescription costs. By following a few simple steps to sign your county up, counties can support community health and provide real savings to our residents. The program helps county residents save on prescription medications, with **no cost** to the county. This easy-to-implement program is designed for residents who are uninsured, underinsured, or simply looking to reduce costs.

NACO is working to increase county participation in the [Live Healthy Program](#) by ordering the necessary materials and aiding in distribution efforts. Keep an eye out for further information about next steps.



Build healthier counties with NACo

NACo's **Live Healthy Discount program**

delivers health savings to county residents at NO COST to the county.

Live Healthy has saved residents **more than \$720 million** on their prescriptions.



Enroll online at NACorx.org



Appoint staff to lead the program



Order NO-COST print and digital materials



Display materials for residents to save



Enroll into Live Healthy now

*The Live Healthy program is not insurance. Prescription savings may vary by drug and pharmacy; discounts are only available at participating pharmacies. MinuteClinic discounts are available in 33 states and the District of Columbia

Create a Savi Account for Free Student Loan Repayment Guidance

What Borrowers Need to Know:

- As of August 1, 2025, student loan interest began accruing again for the nearly 8 million borrowers enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan.
- The future of the SAVE Plan remains uncertain. In the meantime, interest is now being added to loan balances, though forbearances that pause payments remain in effect.
- While no immediate action is required, borrowers looking to avoid accumulating interest may want to switch to an active repayment plan. You can explore your options and [enroll directly through your Savi account](#).

The recent changes to student loan repayment plans may be confusing borrowers. **Please encourage county employees and their dependents to start an account using the link above.** If you would like an email template for sending this information to employees in your county, email Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org.

\$187

AVG. SAVINGS
PER MONTH

\$50K

AVG.
PROJECTED
FORGIVENESS



Founded by longtime student loan experts and advocates, Savi helps borrowers enroll in federal repayment and forgiveness programs that could lower their monthly payments and potentially forgive their loans.

CONQUER YOUR STUDENT LOANS



Savi detects your **eligibility for repayment options** and generates application forms digitally that are signed and submitted directly through Savi.

With Savi, **student loan expertise** is at your fingertips. Savi delivers tailored recommendations based on your unique loan profile with 1:1 support



Savi offers **free monthly educational webinars** to share student loan policy updates, explore the Savi tool, and answer your questions.



You can access a **free, instant estimate of savings** and broad student loan resources for financial health.



SCAN ME

Get started by scanning
the QR code or going to:
nacobenefits.bysavi.com

What is a NACO Business Member?

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.

NACO Business Memberships

20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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