



The Ninety-Three

BEAD Update - Public Input Requested

After sweeping federal rule changes upended the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program last summer, Nebraska was left with over \$320 million in unawarded funds. Recent clarifying statements from the Department of Commerce and NTIA representatives affirmed that Nebraska can utilize these funds to support the efficient deployment of funded broadband projects, ensure widespread adoption and utilization, and advance robust and secure communications infrastructure. As integral parts of Nebraska's broadband expansion process, counties are well-positioned to implement key non-deployment programs and may benefit from this funding.

The Administration is now seeking public input on eligible projects and program guidelines for BEAD non-deployment funds. Examples of recommended uses include the following:

- Public safety projects, including next-generation 911, interoperability, and emergency communications equipment upgrades.
- Initiatives to streamline utility permitting processes.
- Digital skills training and broadband adoption promotion.
- Workforce development, training, and apprenticeship programs.
- Specific broadband applications, such as precision agriculture and telehealth.

NTIA is holding a second stakeholder listening session on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (1-3 PM Central). Register here: [https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TxQ1qELeS2yiZfcCvTZ8-A#/registration](https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TxQ1qELeS2yiZfcCvTZ8-A#/)

Email written comments to broadbandgrants@ntia.gov by **5:00 PM Eastern on February 18, 2026**. Make your input count:

- Share one concrete need in your state/region (gap, cost, timeline risk, program capacity constraint).
- Recommend one or more eligible uses and describe possible implementation.
- Tie it to improving BEAD outcomes (speed to award, fewer defaults, faster installs, sustainable adoption).

Register for NACO Spring District Meetings

Southeast District Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Southeast Community College Career Academy, 8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE

Northeast District Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College (601 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701)

Central District Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Younes Center North, 707 Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845

Panhandle District Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:00 am MDT - 12:00 pm MDT

Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N Main St, Bridgeport, NE

West Central District Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026

9:00 am MDT - 12:00 pm MDT

NACO West Training Center, 102 Diamond Springs Trail, Ogallala, NE 69153

County Legislative Day at the Capitol - April 1st in Lincoln

County Legislative Day - April 1, 2026

Join us in Lincoln on April 1, 2026, as we kick off County Government Month with a fun-filled County Legislative Day. Participants will connect with state senators, hear from state leaders, and explore the Capitol while learning more about the legislative process and the NACO platform.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to register in advance.

If lodging is needed, the closest hotel to the Capitol is the Cornhusker Hotel. Please note that there is no NACO room block available. [Click here to view a draft of the agenda.](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

County Government Accounting Basics Workshop - April 2nd in Lincoln

County Government Accounting Basics Workshop – April 2, 2026

NACO will host a full-day County Government Accounting Basics Workshop for County Clerks' and Treasurers' Offices on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at the Cornhusker Marriott.

This free workshop will feature sessions led by the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, focusing on best practices in county financial management. Lunch will be provided and is generously sponsored by NPAIT/PTMA.

A NACO hotel block is available at the Cornhusker Hotel for attendees who require lodging.

You can register and view the draft agenda [here](#). Hotel block information can be found [here](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2026 NACO Scholarship Application Available Now

The NACO scholarship application is available now. The scholarship program is open to graduating seniors whose parent, step-parent, or grandparent is a current county official or employee. To be considered, students must complete the required application form, submit a seven-semester transcript from an accredited Nebraska high school, and prepare a written essay on the importance of county government.

Scholarship recipients must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution within the state of Nebraska and may use the scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

Application deadline: March 16, 2026

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Understanding Medicare Webinar Thursday, February 19th

Get the information you need to manage your health care costs and navigate the Medicare transition with confidence. [Attend a free webinar](#) on Thursday, February 19th at either 12:00 PM or 6:00 PM CST.

[Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

The SAVE Plan Is Ending, And Millions Are In Limbo

The SAVE repayment plan, known for the lowest payments and strong interest protections, is officially on its way out, pending court approval of a proposed settlement. While many student loan borrowers have been in forbearance during the legal pause, interest has been accruing again, and forgiveness progress has largely been on hold. Once SAVE is formally closed, borrowers will need to transition to a new repayment plan within a limited time frame.

With so much uncertainty ahead, now is the time to get personalized guidance. Using Savi, borrowers can connect with student loan experts to review their options, identify the best new savings or forgiveness plan, and make a confident transition. Enroll today at nacobenefits.bysavi.com to get expert support and stay on track as repayment changes take effect.

\$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

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



PTMA
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS



RESOURCES

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar

2026 Election Calendar

Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar



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