

December 13, 2024



The Ninety-Three

2024 NACO Annual Conference

Join us next week, December 18-20, 2024, for the 130th Annual Conference. Experience three full days of engaging sessions, valuable networking opportunities, and discussion on key topics impacting county officials. We are excited to welcome attendees from all 93 counties! See conference details below.

130th NACO Annual Conference

December 18-20, 2024

Younes Conference Center North, Kearney, NE

Registration Information

Check-In: Stop by the registration desk upon arrival to pick up your name badge.

Tuesday, December 17: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18: 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Thursday, December 19: 7:00 AM-12:00 PM

Tip: If you arrive Tuesday before 6:00 p.m., we encourage early registration to avoid Wednesday morning lines.

Name Badge Policy: Please wear your name badge to attend sessions.

Agenda: Linked below. You can also access it via the conference app, which includes sponsorship details and other essential information. Limited printed copies of the agenda will be available at the Eakes booth located in the conference center foyer.

Mobile App: Please download the conference app for real-time updates, event details, and shuttle routes. Search “NACO Connect” in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, or [visit our website here for more information](#). If you need assistance, visit the Kearney Visitors Bureau table near the registration desk.

Continuing Education Credits: If you are earning credit hours through NACO, pick up your CE sheet near the exhibit hall doors. Return the completed form at the same location by the

conference's end.

Shuttle Service: Runs 8:00 AM – Midnight on Wednesday and Thursday. Route details are in the mobile app.

Parking: Available at Younes Center North for those not staying on the campus.

Hospitality Rooms & Sponsored Meals: Hosted at Younes Center South and Holiday Inn.

Free wireless internet is available throughout the Younes Center North.

Exhibit Hall: Visit our 111 exhibit booths and meet our generous sponsors in the Silver Ballroom. Visit all 12 Passport to Prizes booths and collect stamps to be entered in for various prize drawings on Thursday before the business meeting.

Festive Attire Contest: Show your holiday spirit! Wear your most festive holiday outfit on Thursday and follow our Facebook page at facebook.com/nebraskacounties.

Post a photo of yourself in your festive attire using the hashtag #NACOSpiritofService by 2:45 PM on Thursday to be entered for a cash prize!

Winners will be announced at the business meeting.

Agenda Overview

Wednesday, December 18:

Full day of affiliate sessions. Lunch times are listed in the agenda.

Thursday, December 19:

7:30 AM: Buffet breakfast

8:30 AM: Keynote Speakers: Ryan Campbell and Mariah Levison

11:00 and 1:30 Breakout Sessions

Luncheon: Senators have been invited to attend.

Author Spotlight: Dean Settle will share stories from his new book, Inside the Courthouse.

Copies will be available for \$39.95 plus tax (cash or check).

Business Meeting: Includes an awards ceremony and NACO elections. Ensure your county has designated a voting representative.

Friday, December 20:

7:00 AM: Legislative Breakfast Forum: Discuss the platform and priorities set by the NACO Board of Directors.

Door Prizes: Generously provided by Oden Enterprises.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ryan Campbell

Keynote Speaker on Mental
Health and Resilience
Thursday, December 19th



**December 2024
Leadership Book Club**

Born to Fly by Ryan Campbell



Get into the Spirit!



Wear your favorite holiday-themed sweater on Thursday, December 19.

Spirit of Service Fundraiser



Spirit of Service Fundraiser

This holiday season, NACO is hosting a fundraiser to support Children's Nebraska. Join us in the spirit of service to make this season brighter for children and families in Nebraska!

DECEMBER 18-20, 2024

DONATE NOW

www.nebraskacounties.org/conferencefundraiser/donate.html

This holiday season, NACO is hosting a fundraiser to support Children's Nebraska. You can

donate through our online payment portal for a convenient way to contribute, or in person at our 130th Annual Conference in December.

At the Annual Conference, all donors, whether online or in person, will receive a special ornament from our holiday tree.

[Donate to Children's Nebraska](#)

NACo Rural Action Caucus



Rural Action Caucus (RAC)

Rural America today is dynamic as it is diverse. Encompassing over 70 percent of the nation's land mass, America's 2,108 rural counties, parishes and boroughs are home to 38.5 million Americans. While each rural county faces distinct challenges, all rural counties share a common commitment to building healthy, vibrant and prosperous communities across the country.

Since 1997, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Rural Action Caucus (**RAC**) has provided **a powerful platform** for county leaders to **amplify the unique voices of rural America** in Washington, D.C. and beyond. Composed of elected officials, county executives and board members, RAC fosters innovation and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, equipping members with tools to tackle critical issues impacting rural communities.

RAC's advocacy efforts focus on forging policies and partnerships that can unlock the full potential of rural communities. These priorities span a broad spectrum, including infrastructure development, healthcare access, housing affordability, broadband connectivity and much more.



Scan to learn more about the Rural Action Caucus



Over **70 percent** of all America's counties are rural, home to nearly 40 million people and covering over 70 percent of the nation's land



Rural counties employ more than **126,000 public safety officials, including 54,000 first responders**



Rural counties invest **over \$252 million** annually in housing and community development



Joint WIR/RAC Symposium, Salt Lake County, Utah, 2021

Member Benefits

RAC members gain access to a wealth of NACo resources tailored to the unique needs of rural counties, including cutting-edge insights into federal policy, opportunities to engage directly with policymakers, monthly virtual calls and curated newsletters.

RAC convenes in person several times throughout the year, including during the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. each winter and the NACo Annual Conference each summer. The **RAC Symposium**, held every fall, has become a premier event for connecting rural leaders with federal policymakers, thought leaders and innovators from philanthropic organizations, think tanks, academic institutions and businesses. Through these collaborations, RAC cultivates opportunities to drive creative solutions for rural communities.

Get Involved!

RAC membership is open to officials from any county that serves rural residents and communities. The caucus is led by a chair and vice chairs, appointed annually by the NACo president.

For more information on the Rural Action Caucus, visit www.naco.org/rac or contact Owen Hart, NACo Legislative Director for Agriculture & Rural Affairs and RAC Liaison, at ohart@naco.org or 202-942-4280.



Rural counties employ **over 91,000 hospital and healthcare workers** and own or support nearly **600 public hospitals**



70 percent of the nation's roadways are located in rural areas. Rural counties invest nearly **\$7 billion in roadway infrastructure** every year to maintain



Each year, rural counties invest **\$11.1 billion in human services and education**



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[View the Information Here](#)



We're available to meet virtually

Education and guidance are needed no matter the circumstance. In fact, a little education can give you more confidence. Take advantage of the insights and educational resources available to you.



Have questions? Your Nationwide Retirement Specialist is here to help.

Together, we can help you gain the confidence to make the right choices to meet your financial goals.

This material is not a recommendation to buy or sell a financial product or to adopt an investment strategy. Investors should discuss their specific situation with their financial professional.



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Countdown to the ARPA SLFRF obligation deadline: What counties need to know before

December 31, 2024

[Click Here to View](#)

FEMA Region 7 WinterReady Toolkit

FEMA Region 7 WinterReady campaign toolkit contains preparedness information, key messages, social media graphics and other resource to launch your community's own #WinterReady campaign.

[View the Toolkit Here](#)

[View the NBO Newsletter Here](#)

Nebraska Broadband Office Horizons Newsletter

December Cyber Security Key Point

CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS DECEMBER

From the County
Network Security
Cooperative



Best Practices for Cybersecurity @ Home

- Secure your home networks and Wi-Fi.
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Update software on computers, mobile devices, game consoles, and all other smart devices.
- Secure personal devices
- Be Wary of Phishing Scams
- Backup Important Data
- Practice Safe Browsing
- Educate Family Members



Cyber hygiene isn't just some corporate buzzword; it's a hard-hitting necessity for keeping networks, systems, and data safe. It's also vital for individuals to adopt in their everyday lives at home to shield their networks, devices, and personal info from threats.



Inventory Personal Technology

Update operating systems, web browsers, and applications regularly to address vulnerabilities. However, to achieve this, it is essential first to comprehend how technologies are employed in your personal life. Take a moment to compile a list of all technological devices in your home; there are frequently more than individuals initially consider.



Knowledge is Power

Over 800,000 people's accounts and devices are compromised yearly, with an average of 8 hours lost per compromised account or 1-3 days lost in the case of compromised devices. Understanding where technology is utilized in your personal life and how to secure and protect it is vital to not falling victim to cyber threat actors at home. If it has chips and connectivity, it needs protection.

The County Network Security Cooperative is a collaboration of partners including:



- AND -



Disclaimer: This document reflects current guidance and is subject to change due to the evolving cyber security environment.

[Download the Flyer](#)

Enhancement (EB) Request for Application (RFA) Announcement

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is pleased to announce the availability of the **2026 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid - Enhancement [EB]**. The Request for Application [RFA] outlines general guidelines, eligibility, funding requirements, and application instructions. You are encouraged to distribute and post the announcement. Please read the RFA thoroughly to ensure all requirements are met in the application. The attached documents are also located at the following website: <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/grant-apps>

Please note the change to allowable fringe as noted on page 5 of the RFA. Additional information can be found on page 15.

All applicants applying for the 2026 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid - Enhancement [EB] shall submit an application using the below link through Amplifund.

<https://ne.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/e8d016bf-be03-4660-b02a-2cff055ad891>

EMAIL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PAPER APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

You can find pre-recorded training videos to review the RFA and grant application on the NCC Grant Announcements website under the FY2025 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid (CBA) announcement at the bottom of the page.

An instructional video for how to apply using Amplifund can be found at https://rooms.vidyard.com/rooms/_wEY6z9GESNh2lBhuCwvlw?vy_player_uuid=92KSHRHx8zy5sqiHhGBJNs

Application Deadline: January 9, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

PSC Issues 2024-2025 Pro-Ag Grant Application and Program Schedule

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) has approved an Order ([C-5600](#)) issuing the 2024-2025 Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant (PRO-AG) program schedule and application materials.

Created through the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Act, the PRO-AG program paves the way for awarding grants annually to accelerate rural economic development by helping to provide connectivity and supporting technology to farm sites in rural areas of Nebraska.

“We think there’s immense potential for innovative precision agriculture projects that could benefit from this funding opportunity,” said PSC Chair Dan Watermeier. “With

over a million dollars available for the upcoming year, we encourage all eligible and interested parties to participate in the application process.”

The PRO-AG program is divided into two distinct subprograms: Connectivity, and Devices and Technology. Each subprogram is designed to fulfill a specific purpose. Applicants can submit multiple project proposals but must apply separately for each subprogram. Applications will be assessed individually. Each application will be considered on its own merits within the subprogram in which it is filed.

The available funding for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is \$1,129,077.71. The amount will be divided equally among the two subprograms with \$564,538.85 in grant funding available for each. To date, the Commission has awarded over \$678,000 in funding through the PRO-AG grant program.

Commissioner Watermeier said, “The [Precision Agriculture Grant Act](#) allows for a broad range of eligible uses. We encourage prospective applicants to explore new ways that precision agriculture can be used to promote ag productivity In Nebraska.”

Application materials and a detailed program guide can be found on the [Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program \(PRO-AG\)](#) page of the PSC website.

Applications for the 2024-2025 program year open on December 13 and are **due on or before January 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., (CT)**.

Applications should be emailed to < psc.broadband@nebraska.gov >.

Grants will be awarded by the end of April.

National Association of County Officials (NACo) Ex Officio Director Nominations

The NACO Board of Directors is seeking nominations for the NACo Ex Officio Director. This position is the Nebraska Representative of the National Association of County Officials (NACo) Board of Directors and would be responsible for attending NACo Board of Directors meetings, participate in national conferences as well as provide the NACO Board of Directors quarterly reports.

If you are interested in learning more about the NACo Representative for Nebraska please reach out to Candace Meredith at candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 NACO BUSINESS MEMBERS

ELITE



PREMIUM



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