

March 29, 2024



# The Ninety-Three

## Upcoming Events 2024

**County Budget Workshop**  
**June 12, Kearney, Younes North**

**County Board Workshop**  
**June 12-13, Kearney, Younes North**

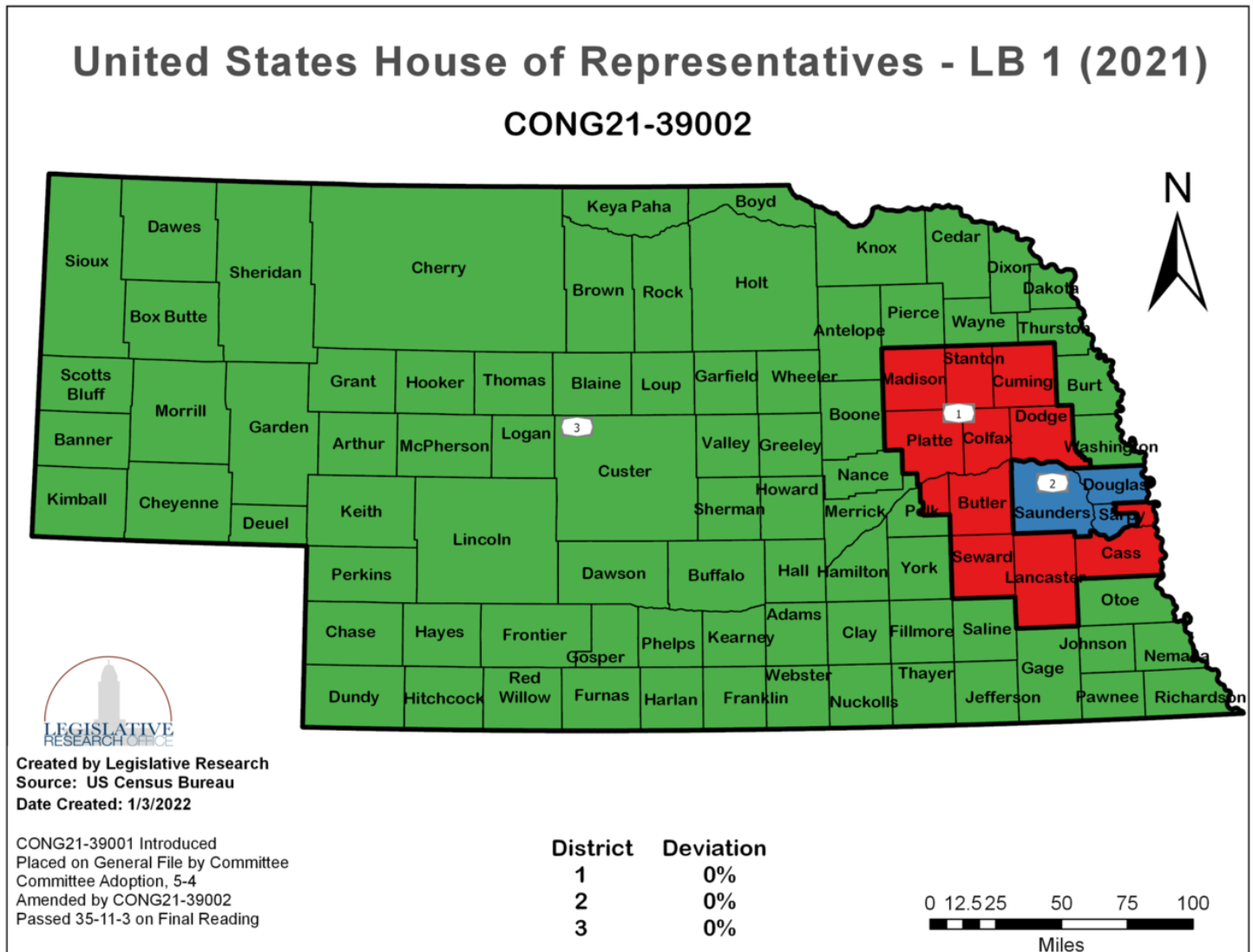
**NACREC Workshop**  
**June 12-14, Kearney, Younes South**

**NACT Workshop**  
**June 12-13, Grand Island, Balz Reception Hall**

[www.nebraskacounties.org](http://www.nebraskacounties.org)

Registration for the County Budget Workshop, County Board Workshop, and NACREC Workshop will be opening soon on the NACO website. Stay tuned!

# FY25 Community Project Funding Information



Community Project Funding allows Members of Congress to provide greater input on how funding will be directed to specific state or local governments or eligible non-profit recipients.

Members of Congress are allowed to submit up to 15 Community Project Funding requests to the Appropriations Committee. There are no guarantees that these Community Projects will all be funded, and the projects will be competitively evaluated by the Committee on Appropriations.

Each Congressional District in Nebraska has their own application.

If you are interested in applying for a CPF, the applications will be included below as they become available. More information will be provided soon.

[Application for Congressional District 1 - Deadline TBD](#)

Application for Congressional District 2 - Coming Soon

Application for Congressional District 3 - Coming Soon

If you have questions, please contact Candace Meredith at [candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org).

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## April is National County Government Month



April is **National County Government Month**, a time to celebrate the vital role of local governments. The Nebraska Association of County Officials encourages counties to engage with constituents and raise awareness about county government functions.

NACO's '**How Nebraska Counties Work**' webpage is a valuable resource for officials and the public, offering insights into county government operations. We urge county officials to explore and share this resource with their communities.

NACO also invites counties to showcase how they are celebrating County Government Month this April. Whether it's organizing community events, working with schools, or launching social media campaigns, every effort counts in raising awareness and appreciation for the important work of county government. Share your stories and photos with Riley at [riley.sigler@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:riley.sigler@nebraskacounties.org) for a chance to be highlighted by NACO.

Explore additional resources provided by the National Association of Counties to enhance your National County Government Month celebrations.

[How Nebraska Counties Work Webpage](#)

[National Association of Counties Toolkit](#)

[Counties 101 Tools](#)



## No New Taxes Information

At the direction of the NACO Board, NACO is a member of the ‘No New Taxes Nebraska’ coalition, which has been organized to respond to Nebraska taxpayers about the EPIC Tax ballot initiative. Below is information NACO has received from No New Taxes Nebraska.

[Click Here to View the Documents](#)

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## FCC Proposes Rulemaking for Improved 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

March 22, 2024

**WASHINGTON** – The National Association of Counties (NACo) today applauded an announcement from bipartisan congressional leaders and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel regarding steps to improve the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The FCC will issue a notice of proposed rulemaking on georouting for 9-8-8, a [priority](#) for NACo and its Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Since launching in 2022, there have been over seven million calls to 9-8-8, making it an essential tool for counties in supporting the mental health of residents. Counties are responsible for providing a robust behavioral health care continuum, and in June 2023,

NACo [met](#) with the FCC to emphasize that georouting calls to 9-8-8, meaning directing calls based on a caller's location rather than their phone's area code, would enable counties better to support the needs of those callers.

“Georouting calls to 9-8-8 will be a significant improvement to this life-saving system, facilitating faster response times to residents in need while protecting the privacy of those who dial for assistance,” said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. “The FCC has taken an important step towards georouting, and we will continue to work with our federal partners as the FCC moves forward with this proposal.”

The issue of 9-8-8 georouting has been a priority for the Bipartisan Senate Mental Health Caucus, co-founded by Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.). Last year, following NACo's advocacy on Capitol Hill and meetings with the FCC, Sens. Padilla and Tillis introduced the Local 9-8-8 Response Act of 2023, with a companion bill introduced by Rep. Tony Cárdenas, co-chair of the House 988 & Crisis Services Task Force.

“We appreciate our intergovernmental partners and allies from the mental and behavioral health community,” said Chase. “Our collective efforts will result in better services and outcomes for residents who need critical care during a crisis.”

Leaders from Los Angeles County, Calif., who have advocated for this measure for over a year, issued statements in support of the FCC's announcement:

“Expanding our crisis response network has been one of my top priorities for Los Angeles County,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and NACo Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing Co-Chair Kathryn Barger. “9-8-8 has certainly been one of the critical tools that helps ensure we have a care first response to individuals experiencing mental health crises. In my role as Chair of the NACo Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing, I prioritized 9-8-8 support, and led advocacy for this at the White House and on Capitol Hill. However, local government leaders truly needed federal intervention to ensure those calling 9-8-8 are able to connect with a responsive crisis system that is anchored where they live. I appreciate Congressman Cardenas, Senator Padilla, Secretary Becerra and FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel for their leadership and dedication to continue evolving 9-8-8. As a result, lives are being saved.”

“9-8-8 has been a game changer for how we respond to mental health crises in Los Angeles County, but the way calls are routed has caused problems,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. “While I applaud Senator Padilla and Congressman Cardenas for taking up this issue and putting forward a legislative fix, I appreciate that the FCC recognized the problem and didn't wait for Congress to act. With this announcement, we are one step closer to making sure all LA County residents can get the professional mental health response they need when they need it.”

Learn more about the county role in implementing the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline [here](#).

Source: [Counties Applaud Action to Improve 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline | National Association of Counties \(naco.org\)](#)

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# March Cyber Security Key Point: Passwords

## CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS

March

*From the County  
Network Security  
Cooperative*



### Best Practices for Password Management

- Use strong, unique passwords 12 to 16 characters long with a mix of upper and lower case letters, symbols and numbers.
- Make passwords that are hard to guess but easy to remember.
- Avoid using the same password on multiple logins.
- NEVER reveal your passwords to others.
- Require changing network users primary login password at least every four months.

Password:

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### What is Multi-Factor Authentication and 2FA?

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) is a multi-step account login process that requires users to enter more information than just a password. For example, along with the password, users might be asked to enter a code sent to their email or a biometrics reader.

**Prove it's you with two! . . .**

2FA (Two-Factor Authentication) is a security system that requires two separate, distinct forms of identification in order to access online content. A second form of authentication can help prevent unauthorized account access if a system password has been compromised. Authentication devices are most commonly an application used on a smartphone or a key fob device with numeric codes that change in timed intervals.

### Remove your vulnerabilities

Using a single password to protect your accounts is akin to placing all your eggs in one basket. It opens up a gateway for hackers to exploit, especially if you use predictable passwords or reuse them across multiple platforms. Without MFA, a cybercriminal only needs to crack or guess your password once to gain unauthorized access to your personal information, financial data, or even steal your identity. Cybercrime has become a multi-billion dollar enterprise.

### Consider using a Password Manager

A password manager is an app on your phone, tablet or computer that stores your passwords, so you don't need to remember them. Once you've logged into the password manager using a 'master' password, it will generate and remember your passwords for all your online accounts. These tools will generate complex passwords.

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.



## Broadband Challenge Portal Open Now

The Broadband Challenge aims to ensure the accuracy of the Nebraska Broadband Availability Map.

Interested in becoming an advocate? Contact Candace Meredith to learn more at [candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org).

<https://broadband.nebraska.gov/challenge/>

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## NACO West Update

Drywall has arrived!









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## **2024 Outstanding County Board Member of the Year Nomination Form**

Nominations for the 2024 Outstanding County Board Member Award are open to county board members who have been in office for at least two (2) terms. Criteria used for selecting the 2024 recipient includes: member will have been active on regional boards, been chairman of their county board, participated in the legislative process, or appointed to a statewide committee. Regular attendance at NACO educational opportunities, events and meetings is also required. Please keep your answers concise but be sure to include all pertinent information. Announcement of the recipient of this

award will be made after the Wednesday evening meal at the County Board Workshop in Kearney.

**Submit nomination form to [candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org) by May 3, 2024.**

[Click Here for the Nomination Form](#)

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# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 NACO BUSINESS MEMBERS

## ELITE



## PREMIUM



# RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar

2024 Election Calendar



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