

July 25, 2025



# The Ninety-Three

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## Attorney General's Opinion on Assessor Trespass

Attorney General Mike Hilgers has issued the attached opinion ([AGO 25-003](#)) that affects assessment practices in all counties.

This is the summary from the opinion:

*County tax assessors are not exempt from the general law of trespass. A county tax assessor who enters private property without consent or a warrant therefore exposes himself to potential liability. Moreover, a county tax assessor who enters a home, or its immediately surrounding area, without a proper search warrant conducts an unreasonable search in violation of the United States and Nebraska Constitutions.*

[A more detailed explanation can be found here.](#)

NACO will continue to examine this issue and the need for legislation to grant specific authority to assessors to enter private property.

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## NACO West Sees Continued Success with Full Calendar of Events

The NACO West Training Center has had a busy summer of meetings, seminars, and networking events! We're always excited to host organizations looking for a space where they can learn, connect, and inspire.

Looking for the ideal spot for your next workshop or event? Rent the NACO West Training Center and experience an environment designed for success. [Click here to learn more!](#)



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## National Center for Public Lands Counties - Advancing the policy and practice study of America's public lands counties

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Center for Public Lands Counties is dedicated to advancing the policy and practice study of America's public lands counties. Our mission is to deepen the understanding and address the unique challenges faced by counties containing federal lands through strategic research and collaboration.

[Head to the NACo website](#) to watch a video about America's public lands counties, access the public lands knowledge hub, and explore the latest NACo resources.

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## BEAD Policy Revision Creates Challenges for Rural Nebraska

As you may be aware, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released a revised policy for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program on June 6, 2025. You can view the full policy notice here:

[\[BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice \(PDF\)\]](#).

One of the most immediate impacts of this new policy is the removal of more than 15,000 premises from Nebraska's BEAD-eligible map. These areas are now considered "served" due to the presence of unlicensed wireless providers — a concerning interpretation given the known performance limitations of such services, especially in rural and agricultural regions.

Perhaps most concerning is the revised scoring rubric, which no longer prioritizes fiber-optic infrastructure. Instead, fixed wireless and satellite services are now scored alongside fiber. While fiber typically carries higher upfront costs per premise, it also offers a stronger return on investment over time through lower maintenance, greater capacity, and better reliability.

The new defined project area definitions will also limit opportunities to bring fiber to areas that were previously targeted under the original NBEAD framework.

During last year's challenge process, NACO and many of our partners worked diligently to secure additional resources for Nebraska. That effort brought \$105 million in additional BEAD funding to the state. However, if funding decisions are now based solely on upfront cost rather than long-term impact and infrastructure sustainability, we fear much of this money may go unused and returned to the federal government.

Wireless and satellite are good, cost-effective broadband options for areas of Nebraska; however, there are many benefits to fiber deployment, especially in areas where telehealth, precision agriculture, and remote learning demand reliable, high-capacity internet.

In response to these policy changes, we've engaged in multiple in-person and virtual meetings with NACO, NTIA, the Nebraska Broadband Office, and state and federal policymakers.

In these meetings, we are emphasizing the economic and public health stakes of this issue:

Fiber broadband supports the precision technologies that drive Nebraska's agricultural economy.

Our aging population, especially in areas with limited long-term care options, needs dependable broadband to age in place.

Telehealth access is becoming critical as rural hospitals face closures and staffing shortages.

Nebraska was allocated \$405 million under the BEAD program. These funds should be used to implement the broadband strategy originally developed by the Nebraska Broadband Office and approved by NTIA - one that reflected input from local stakeholders across the state.

To learn more about how your county was impacted by the policy change, please visit <https://broadband.nebraska.gov/nebraska-broadband-maps/>.

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## NACO Photography Contest - Last Call for

# Submissions!

We want to see Nebraska through your lens!

Submissions for NACO's Wildlife Wonders Photography Contest close next Friday, August 1. [Click here](#) to review the rules and submit your photos!

## Wildlife Wonders

### PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Take a spectacular photo of a native plant or animal someplace in a Nebraska county.



13 Winning Photographs will be featured in NACO's annual calendar! Grand Prize Winner will receive \$100!

ENTRY  
DEADLINE:

**August 1**

WINNERS  
ANNOUNCED:

**Mid-September**

For entry rules and photo criteria, visit our website:

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



## Save the Dates - 2025 Annual Conference

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE IMPORTANT DATES

**Aug. 18**

Sponsor & Exhibit Hall Registration Opens - 8 AM CST

**Sept. 10**

County Official Registration Opens - 8 AM CST  
Hotel Reservation Form Available - 2:30 PM CST

**Oct. 10**

Hotel Reservation Form Deadline

**Nov. 21**

County Official Pre-Registration Deadline - 11:59 PM CST  
Registration Cancellation Refunds No Longer Available

**Dec. 17**

Conference Begins

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## Send Us Photos of Your County Fair!

NACO wants to share photos of your county fair! Snap pictures of the rides, the food, the animals, or any other fun moments, and email them to [lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org](mailto:lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org) so we can feature your county fair on our social media!

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## DAS Surplus Property Sales & Purchases

Surplus Property and Asset Management acquires excess equipment from agencies, boards, commissions, and political subdivisions that no longer need them, and sells this equipment to other state government organizations, political subdivisions, and the public at reasonable prices, which are lower than purchasing brand new equipment.

Available items range from cars and trucks to computers and monitors to general office equipment like filing cabinets and desks. Their available inventory is always changing, and

surplus property is available for purchase through <https://www.govdeals.com/nebraska>.

Surplus Property can sell excess items from counties to other agencies, political subdivisions, and the public for a minimal 7% commission. This gives you an opportunity to recycle used equipment to others and eliminates the need to store items that are no longer in use. These sales also provide additional resources to counties. Check out the flyer below for more information on selling surplus through GovDeals.



## Sell Your Surplus Through GovDeals Using the State of Nebraska Account

All governmental departments in Nebraska should be auctioning their surplus through the State of Nebraska's GovDeals account.

GovDeals.com is an online auction service for over 15,000 Federal, State, Local, and Educational Agencies to conduct online sales of their surplus property.

To view all active State of Nebraska auctions, visit this url or scan the qr code below:  
[govdeals.com/NESurplus](https://govdeals.com/NESurplus)

We are here to assist your agency with the auction process and encourage you to reach out for help or with questions. We have an established partnership with GovDeals, selling over 13,000 items on the site since 2018.

GovDeals has over 200 categories of surplus, specializing in the sales of

- [transportation](#)
- [real estate](#)
- [heavy equipment](#)
- [electronics](#)
- [specialized vehicles](#)
- [and more](#)



For assistance listing auctions, purchasing, or general questions, contact Shannon Morris at:

Email: [shannon.morris@nebraska.gov](mailto:shannon.morris@nebraska.gov)



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## Register for the Institute of Excellence - Deadline August 1

Strong leaders build strong counties. Elevate your leadership skills and increase your impact with the NACO Institute of Excellence.

Register here: <https://go.unl.edu/NACOIOE>

# INSTITUTE OF EXCELLENCE

Building Leadership Skills to Move Your Nebraska County Forward

TO REGISTER:

**[go.unl.edu/NACOIOE](https://go.unl.edu/NACOIOE)**

The NACO Institute of Excellence is a professional development program for county officials. Participants will connect with peers from across the state as they strengthen their leadership skills in their official roles.



**N**  
NEBRASKA EXTENSION

**Registration Fee: \$200**

**Registration Deadline: Aug 1, 2025**

**Session Starts: Aug 7, 2025**

**AUG  
7**

## LEADING WITH YOUR STRENGTHS

*Virtual*  
11am CT/10am MT

**AUG  
14**

## DATA INFORMED DECISION MAKING

*Virtual*  
11am CT/10am MT

**AUG  
21**

## NAVIGATING CONFLICT

*Virtual*  
11am CT/10am MT

**AUG  
28**

## STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

*In-person, Kearney*  
9am-12pm CT

## Registration Open for 2025 Thriving Children Conference

Registration is now open for the 8th annual Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference! Join hundreds of community leaders and be part of conversations driving real change in Nebraska.



The Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference envisions a Nebraska where every community is empowered and united in its commitment to high-quality early childhood education and care.

By fostering collaboration, amplifying local voices, and equipping leaders with knowledge and tools, the conference inspires action to address critical challenges and embrace new opportunities. Together, we are building a future where every Nebraska child and family can thrive.

**When:**

**Tuesday, September 16** - Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference

**Evening of Tuesday, September 16** - C4K Convening kicks off with a celebratory dinner for C4K Pillar and Planning Communities

**Wednesday, September 17** - C4K Convening Day

**Where:**

Younes Conference Center North  
707 Talmadge Street, Kearney, NE 68845

[Click here to register.](#)

# Registration Open



## THRIVING

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

## 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 becoming 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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