

February 16, 2024



The Ninety-Three

District Meeting Registration

Southeast - Thursday, March 14th - Southeast Community College Career Academy, Lincoln

Northeast - Friday, March 15th - Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center, Norfolk

Central - Thursday, March 21st - Holthus Convention Center, York

Panhandle - Wednesday, March 27th - Prairie Winds Community Center, Bridgeport

West Central - Thursday, March 28th - Quality Inn & Conference Center - Ogallala

General Agenda for District Meetings

- Registration - 8:00 - 9:00 am
- Business Meeting - 9:00 - 10:15 am
- Affiliate Breakout Sessions - 10:15 am - 12:00 pm
- Lunch - 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Registration Open Now

Full agendas coming later this month.

[Registration](#)

Alliance for the Future in Agriculture Modern Livestock Facility Tours

SAVE THE DATE

MODERN LIVESTOCK FACILITY TOUR



Make plans to join AFAN for a livestock facility tour following your local NACO meeting this spring!

If a livestock operation comes to your county, will you be prepared to make a decision? Join us to..



- *See a modern livestock facility*
- *Hear from the farmer how it operates*
- *Smell what it smells like*
- *Taste....some ice cream*

Site locations will be given out during lunch at your local district meeting.

For questions, call our office at 402.421.4472.



Tours to follow district meetings

March 14, Lincoln, Southeast Community College Career Academy

March 15, Norfolk, Lifelong Learning Center

March 21, York, Holthus Convention Center

Site Locations will be given during the meeting

PREVIOUS TOURS

This was AFAN's second consecutive year of hosting livestock facility tours for elected officials. This year's tour was held in Colfax and Platte County area. The tour consisted of three site tours along with a program during lunch. The event was well attended by county board members, planning and zoning administrators, and assessors.



"This was a great opportunity to see what modern livestock facilities look like. I was impressed with the operations, especially the dairy, they are well run, clean, and have very little odor. I was also able to learn about all the regulations a livestock operation has to comply with." - *Tim Cornwell, Chair of Nance County Supervisors*

"What an amazing experience learning about exciting new innovations and diversity in Agriculture, thank you AFAN!"
- *Judy Migner, Adams County Zoning Administrator*

"AFAN provides a great educational opportunity for county decision-makers in being able to see modern livestock facilities, talk to the producers, and network with other county leaders to learn about zoning best practices from other counties. I'd strongly recommend attending one of these sessions."

-*Chad Nabity, Hall County Regional Planning Director*



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 NACO scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

Applications are due March 15, 2024.

[Click Here for the Application and More Information](#)



NACO West Update

Work continues on the sheathing and framing.



NACo County Explorer Bridge Inventory Profiles

NEBRASKA

BRIDGE INVENTORY | 2023

NUMBER OF BRIDGES	SHARE OF COUNTY-OWNED BRIDGES	SHARE OF STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES	SHARE OF OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES
15,348	71.3%	7.9%	64.8%

STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES

A bridge is classified as structurally deficient if the deck, culverts, superstructure or substructure are rated in poor or worse condition.

1,213

Share of County Owned	84.1%
Share of City/Town Owned	3.5%
Share of Other Locally Owned	2.2%
Total Locally Owned	89.8%

OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGES

Off-system bridges are located on a public road that is not part of the federal-aid highway system.

9,940

Share of County Owned	93.2%
Share of City/Town Owned	3.2%
Share of Other Locally Owned	1%
Total Locally Owned	97.4%

Source: NACo Analysis of the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – 2023 [National Bridge Inventory Data](#).

Notes

Structurally Deficient (SD): This term was previously defined in www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/0650dsup.cfm as having a condition rating of 4 or less for Item 58 (Deck), Item 59 (Superstructure), Item 60 (Substructure), or Item 62 (Culvert), OR having an appraisal rating of 2 or less for Item 67 (Structural Condition) or Item 71 (Waterway Adequacy). Effective Jan. 1, 2018, FHWA changed the definition of structurally deficient bridges. This term will be defined in accordance with the [Pavement and Bridge Condition Performance Measures final rule](#), published in January of 2017, as a classification given to a bridge which has any component elements – the deck, superstructure, substructure or culverts – rated in poor or worse condition [a rating code of 4 or less].

Good (G), Fair(F), Poor(P): Bridge Condition is determined by the lowest rating of National Bridge Inventory (NBI) condition ratings for Item 58 (Deck), Item 59 (Superstructure), Item 60 (Substructure), or Item 62 (Culvert). If the lowest rating is greater than or equal to 7, the bridge is classified as Good; if it is less than or equal to 4, the classification is Poor. Bridges rated 5 or 6 are classified as Fair.

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The NACo County Explorer Bridge Inventory Profile is a tool provided by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers detailed information about bridges within a particular county.

Click the link below to view the bridge inventory for your county and download the 1-pager.

ICS Training for Senior and Elected Officials

Free, virtual training opportunity:

ICS 402 – NIMS Overview for Senior Officials

TIME:

March 15, 2024 (Friday) 0900 – 1300 CST

Description

The purpose of this course is an overview to familiarize Executives/Senior Officials (elected officials, city/county managers, agency administrators, etc.) with incident Command System (ICS) principles and their role in supporting incident management.

Designed for executives, administrators and policy makers, ICS for Executives introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) concepts and provides an orientation for executive understanding and participation in ICS. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System, including relationships between the Incident Commanders and Agency Executives. Additional courses are available to learn more about ICS. Further ICS courses and experience are required to qualify for serving in any of the ICS Command and General Staff positions.

Specific Course Topics

Basic concepts, organization, and terminology of Incident Command System (ICS)
ICS applications

Role of an Executive/Senior Official relative to the ICS

Major responsibilities of an Executive/Senior Official as related to an incident

Functional responsibilities of the Command and General Staffs

Issues that influence incident complexity and the tools available to analyze complexity

Differences between on-incident ICS organizations and activities and the activities

accomplished by Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Area Commands, and Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACS)

Types of agency(ies) policies and guidelines that influence management of incident or event activities

Target Audience

Executives and Senior Officials (including elected officials, city/county managers, agency administrators, etc.) who establish or implement policy, but who are normally not part of the on-scene ICS organization.

Prerequisites

None

The link for the course will be sent out 5 days prior to class. To get on the list, please send an email to Michael.gibson@nebraska.gov. In the subject line please put "402 ICS for Senior Officials"



Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Funding Opportunity Webinar

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. (Central Time), NACO will be facilitating a webinar on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grants. These grants are awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operations initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users, motorists, and commercial vehicle operators.

The webinar will include:

- An overview the program
- Specific details about eligibility and applying
- Insight from the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Testimonials from prior applicants about success and challenges

Notably, counties can use SS4A funds not just for outright construction projects, but also for planning and demonstration grants, as well as for developing community safety action plans (which can then be used as part of future grant applications).

Webinar Information:

When: Feb 22, 2024, 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Funding Opportunity Webinar

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AhxNgW-IS9uUih6Um_tavQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

USDOT announced the FY24 RAISE Grant application which makes \$1.5B available to state, local and tribal governments for projects "for planning or constructing surface transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation".

The deadline is February 28, 2024.

The NOFO is [here](#) and additional information about RAISE is [here](#).

BRIC Direct Technical Assistance

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities non-financial Direct Technical Assistance (BRIC DTA) request form submission deadline is approaching on **February 29, 2024, 2 p.m. Central Time**.

FEMA established the BRIC DTA initiative to provide non-financial technical support to tribal nations and underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by natural hazard disasters and have fewer resources to address resilience needs. BRIC DTA services can include broad planning and capacity-building support, community engagement and communications, and partnership building, as well as hands-on technical assistance in mitigation alternatives development, project design (including engineering and cost estimation), application assistance, financing strategies, grants writing and grants management.

To apply, communities and tribal nations should send a request through the online submission [BRIC DTA Request Form](#) and email it to fema-bric-dta-submission@fema.dhs.gov. There is no requirement for a previous BRIC grant sub-application or award, or an approved hazard mitigation plan, to be considered for participation. To learn more about the BRIC DTA program and the application, please make sure to review the webpage [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) and the Program Support Material [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance](#).

If you have any questions, please direct them to: fema-r7-bric-dta-outreach@fema.dhs.gov

FY 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Application Period Open for \$324 Million

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell announced the opening of the latest application period for the Fiscal Year 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, which will award \$324 million to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters nationwide against fire-related deaths and hazards.

Applications Must be Submitted by March 8

During 2023, there were nearly 2,300 home fire fatalities in the United States, including 85 firefighters. To help keep communities and firefighters safer, FEMA is announcing new funding for critically needed resources to better equip and train emergency response personnel, enhance operational efficiencies, foster communications interoperability between emergency responders, and support community risk reduction and resilience. In addition, these grants will provide direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations, and state fire training academies. The application period will close on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET.

Over the years, AFG funds have had a big impact in communities around the nation including supporting firefighters from Gloucester City, New Jersey, that saved a 14-year-old boy from drowning after he fell off a train trestle into swift water, thanks to Swiftwater Rescue Training and equipment paid for by an AFG grant.

In Topeka, Kansas, a thermal imaging camera purchased with an AFG grant prevented two firefighters from falling through a compromised staircase while fighting a housefire. The Portland (Maine) Fire Department was able to send 50 of its members to the hospital for screening as part of an ongoing firefighter lung cancer study. A serious lung abnormality was found in one of the firefighters, fortunately, it was in an early stage and treatable. Without that early detection, it would have become untreatable and possibly fatal. These examples represent the impact these funds can have on communities and FEMA encourages more communities to apply.

Since fiscal year 2001, the AFG has awarded approximately \$8.4 billion in grants to provide critically needed resources help keep firefighters and the public safe from fires and fire-related hazards. Although the available funding for FY 2023 AFG is \$324 million, the total amount appropriated under the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2023, Pub. L. No. 117 - 328 is \$360 million. However, to meet the statutory requirements of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, \$36 million (10%) of these “available grant funds” will be awarded later this year under the FY 2023 Fire Prevention and Safety program.

This year’s AFG Notice of Funding Opportunity was released on Jan. 22, 2024. The funding notice and technical assistance documents for this program are available at www.grants.gov and on the [FEMA website](#). Additional information about upcoming webinars to assist applicants is also available on the [FEMA website](#).

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 by May 3, 2024.

[Click here for the Nomination Form](#)

RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2024 Election Calendar](#)



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