

May 16, 2025



The Ninety-Three

Funding Terminated for Digital Equity Capacity

Effective May 9, 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has terminated the \$6.5M in funding for the Digital Equity Capacity (DECAP). [Click here to learn more.](#)

There is no impact to the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. County Board Chairs, County Attorneys, County Engineers and County Highway Superintendents will be receiving zoom invite(s) from NACO to discuss the status of BEAD Projects and Broadband Readiness planning.

Registration for County Board Workshop Closes Soon!

[Don't forget to register for the 2025 County Board Workshop!](#) **Registration closes May 28.** Attendees can look forward to two days of informative presentations and collaborative discussions, including a great presentation from [Tim Wynn](#) from Perfect Rules Inc. **County Board members can also receive 8 continuing education credit hours to count toward their NACO County Board Certification.**

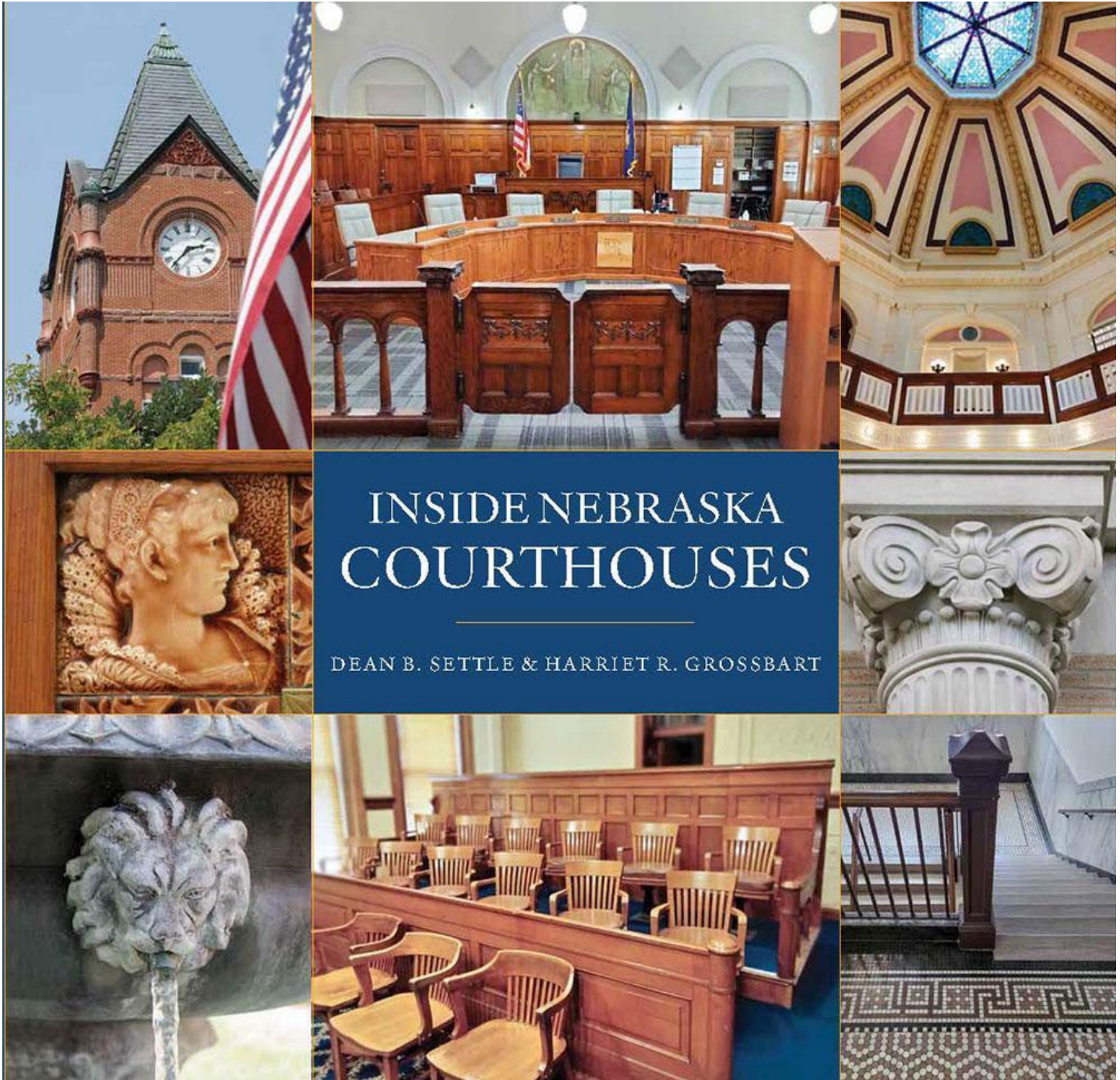
The workshop will be held Wednesday, June 4-Thursdays, June 5 at the Younes Center North in Kearney. Make sure to join us Wednesday night for our banquet, awards, Pitch tournament, and featured keynote speaker [Tom Turcich](#) - the man who walked around the world. We also have a great lineup of sponsors, business members, and vendors that you can network with in our exhibit hall. **Click the button below to register!**

[Register Here](#)

Limited Time Offer: *Inside Nebraska Courthouses*

Inside Nebraska Courthouses by Dean B. Settle and Harriet R. Grossbart is a celebration of Nebraska's cultural and architectural legacy. Through short narratives, photographs, and illustrations specific to the state's 93 counties, it offers a unique window into the landmarks that define the state. A must-have for anyone who appreciates regional history, architecture, or the stories that shape a place.

[Click here to order your copy!](#)



**Mental Health Awareness Month - NACo
Resources & Tools**



In partnership with the [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#), NACo is proud to continue celebrating Mental Health Awareness Month and promoting mental wellbeing for our County members and workforces.

Learn how you can help your colleagues, or even yourself, take advantage of the resources available from NACo EDGE including [this month's webinar](#), talking points for your organization to help foster a stigma-free environment and navigate open dialogue, downloadable self-help tools on mindfulness, and learning more about our Mental Health First Aid training.

You can learn more about NACo's partnership with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing by [clicking here](#).

Upcoming Savi Student Loan Webinars

The [Department of Education announced](#) that involuntary collections on student loans resumed on May 5, 2025, for the first time in five years.

Currently, more than 5 million borrowers are in default. Another 4 million borrowers are in late-stage delinquency, and the Department of Education expects them to default by the end of this month.

Student loan default has serious consequences, including employer wage garnishment, tax refund seizure, social security offset, or damage to credit scores. Employer HR will start receiving letters from the government requiring them to garnish up to 15% of employees' paychecks.

With so many borrowers at risk, the resumption of collections will directly impact your communities, and it's critical that your team is prepared. To help, Savi is hosting a Stakeholder

Network Briefing call to share more information and answer your questions. You can register for the upcoming webinar below:

June 5th, 2025 at 1pm CT: [Our Monthly NACo webinar: The Current State of Student Debt](#)

If you register for the webinar and can not attend, a recording will be shared afterward.

New Pharmacy Benefit Management Coalition & Benefit Cost-Savings for Nebraska Counties

As a dedicated partner in strengthening Nebraska counties, NACO is excited to announce a new collaboration with the National Association of Counties' Public Promise Insurance Agency (NACo PPI) to offer a powerful pharmacy benefit management (PBM) solution tailored specifically for counties.

Through this partnership, Nebraska counties can now access the NACo Pharmacy Benefit Management Coalition, which leverages the collective purchasing power of 3.6 million county employees nationwide to negotiate lower prescription drug costs. Designed exclusively for counties and county pools managing self-insured health plans, with at least 1000 covered lives, this PBM Coalition offers strong multi-year pricing guarantees and delivers an estimated 15%-30% savings on annual prescription drug plans. Explore this opportunity and consider how it could enhance your county's benefits plan and cost-savings opportunities by visiting the links below.

For more details on the NACo PBM Coalition, please visit edge.naco.org/public-promise-insurance/ or the [NACO website](#).



Cyber Security Key Points: AI Procurement

Click the flyer below to download.

CYBER SECURITY KEYPOINTS

MAY 2025

*From the County
Network Security
Cooperative*



AI Procurement

Questions & Strategic Considerations when adopting AI:

- What are the Specific Needs & Goals?
- What are the data requirements?
- What are the ethical considerations?
- What is the total cost of ownership?
- What are the vendor qualifications?



Key Factors to Evaluate

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Assure AI solutions comply with local, state, and federal regulations.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** Assess how the AI solution will integrate with current IT infrastructure.
- **Scalability:** Ensure the AI solution can scale with the growing needs of your county.
- **Training & Support:** Plan for training staff and ongoing support from the vendor.
- **Risk Management:** Identify potential risks up front and have a game plan.



Potential Public Service Enhancements

- **Public Safety** (predictive policing to allocate resources effectively)
- **Infrastructure Management** (predictive maintenance, traffic management)
- **Citizen Services** (virtual assistants for 24/7 citizen support)
- **Administrative Efficiency** (data analysis and decision support, automating routine tasks such as document processing)
- **Public Health** (chatbots for broadcasting public health information)

Ethical Considerations

- Evaluate potential biases in AI models.
- Verify transparency and accountability in AI decision-making.
- Ensure constituent data remains protected by verifying it is not used to train models available to others.
- Conduct a security assessment and ensure AI solutions follow ethical coding standards.
- Ensure data privacy and security measures are in place.
- Evaluate the return on investment and vet each vendor's experience/expertise.

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.



Check out our Elite Business Member Spotlight, First Concord Benefits Group!

First Concord builds employee benefit programs that are easy to implement and maintain!
[Check out their website to learn more.](#)



WE ARE A PLAN SERVICE
PROVIDER with a passion
for simplicity and people



First Concord Benefits Group breaks down the complexities of consumer-directed benefits and simplifies the administration of pre-tax benefits by calling on decades of expertise and a reputation for outstanding client service. We're proud to be NACO-endorsed.

Our NACO-endorsed Programs

Cash In Lieu

Cash in Lieu (CIL) is a program under our Flexible Retiree Plans created specifically by First Concord Benefits Group for NACO members to help control the rising cost of health care.

Section 125

A benefit provided to employees allowing them to set aside a certain amount of pre-tax income, which can then be used during the year to be reimbursed for qualified healthcare and dependent care expenses.

Deductible Buy-Down

This solution can save counties thousands of dollars in premium costs and quickly provide reimbursement dollars to employees.

20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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