

eHealth Council

October 14, 2022

9:30 a.m. CT – 11:00 a.m. CT

Nebraska Hospital Association, Board Room

3255 Salt Creek Circle, Lincoln, NE 68504

Please e-mail anne.byers@nebraska.gov to receive the Zoom Link.

Tentative Agenda

Links to agendas, minutes, and meeting materials can be found at
http://www.nitc.nebraska.gov/ehealth_council/meetings/index.html

9:30	Roll Call Notice of Posting of Agenda Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act Posting <i>Approval of March 31, 2021 minutes*</i>
9:45	NeHII/CyncHealth Update— Robert Wagner, CyncHealth
10:15	Broadband and Digital Equity Funding Update
10:40	Role of eHealth Council in Supporting Digital Equity and Broadband Deployment
10:50	Membership*
11:00	Adjourn

* Indicates action items

Meeting announcement was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting website on Sept. 1, 2022 and NITC website on Sept. 2, 2022.
The agenda was posted on the NITC Website on October 7, 2022.

[Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#)

eHEALTH COUNCIL
Thursday, March 31, 2022 1:30-3:30 p.m. CT
Nebraska Hospital Association, Board Room
and Via Videoconferencing
3255 Salt Creek Circle
Lincoln, NE 68504
MINUTES

ROLL CALL NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING

Mr. Fattig called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There were eleven voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. Meeting notices were posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and NITC websites on March 4, 2022. The meeting agenda was posted on March 24, 2022. The agenda included a link to Nebraska's public meeting law and was available on the table.

Members Present: Kevin Borchert, Kathy Cook, Marty Fattig, Paul Hakenkamp, Cindy Kadavy, Dr. Jim McClay, Francie McNeil, Ashley Newmyer, Dave Palm, Jina Ragland, and Brian Sterud

Members Absent: Gary Cochran, Jan Evans, Todd Searls, Anna Turman, Alison Wisco, and Linda Wittmuss.

APPROVAL OF May 11, 2021 MINUTES*

There were no corrections to the minutes. Cindy Kadavy moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Dave Palm seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Borchert-Yes; Cook-Yes; Fattig-Yes; Hakenkamp-Yes; Kadavy-Yes; McClay-Abstaining; McNeil-Abstaining; Newmyer-Yes; Palm-Yes; Ragland-Yes; and Sterud-Yes;. Results: Yes-9, No-0, and Abstaining-2. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP

There were no new member nominations.

CYNCEALTH UPDATE

Kevin Borchert and Paul Hakenkamp, CyncHealth

CyncHealth is taking steps to improve the health data in Nebraska. Steps include:

- Moving to full Certified Qualified Entity status to obtain Medicare claims data for public reporting
- Recertifying National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Data Aggregator Validation (DAV) program and adding Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) to existing sites
- Writing a second Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) measure and moving the existing Transportation Measure to next level review
- Facilitating interoperability, Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and regulatory reporting utilizing CyncHealth

Pharmacy Informatics Accomplishments and Goals include:

- Improved provisioning process with Salesforce
- Interoperability

- Sharing data with 20 states
- PDMP workflow integration into 36 hospitals and 4 pharmacies
 - 34% of Hospitals
 - 57.2% (3,972/6,944) Hospital beds
- Data integrity
- ONC Data Quality Framework patient matching project
- Education/learning opportunities

The My CyncHealth patient portal is currently in alpha testing. It will include COVID-19 vaccination information, medication history, lab results and immunization records. The patient portal will be available in English and Spanish. It will include social and community resources and referrals. The patient portal will be available to those 18 years and older.

CyncHealth is working HITrust certification and expects to receive it this fall.

BryanHealth and Faith Regional are in the process of connecting to CyncHealth.

NDHHS— USE OF HEALTH IT AND DATA FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health is modernizing the public health data infrastructure to make it more accessible. Felicia Quintana-Zinn shared information from the Department of Health and Human Service's COVID-19 response website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>. Genomic surveillance and wastewater surveillance information is now available.

The Public Health Atlas <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Public-Health-Atlas.aspx> currently includes two dashboards:

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard
- Nebraska Hospital Capacity and Respiratory Illness Dashboard

The Data Atlas will be growing to show genomic and wastewater surveillance data. The Division of Public Health is also working to make interactive Information from vital records available.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE

Kathy Cook, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department implemented the COVID-19 dashboard in March 2020. The health department also used news releases, press conferences and social media to keep the public informed. The risk dial was useful in communicating with the public. The health department worked with cultural centers for testing and getting information out. Information was translated into five or six languages.

An online request system for PPE was implemented. The department followed up with requestors to discuss options when supplies were not sufficient. Over 5.5 million items were distributed. The department also set-up an ultraviolet germicidal irradiation disinfection service for N95 masks.

The health department worked with our City of Lincoln Information Services staff to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 Vaccination Application which handled:

- Registration

- Scheduling vaccinations
- Check-in and administration of vaccine
- Upload to NESIIS
- Inventory management

Over 230,350 vaccinations were given at 461 clinics.

FEDERAL BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY FUNDING AND STATE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND DIGITAL EQUITY PLANS

Anne Byers

Both the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) included programs which could be used for broadband.

Nebraska will receive at least \$100 million for broadband infrastructure projects from the IIJA Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program. In order to receive the implementation funds, the State will need to submit a 5-year broadband deployment action plan. States will be required to engage stakeholders in the development of the plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity will be available in mid-May.

Nebraska will receive \$300,000 to develop a state digital equity plan through the IIJA State Digital Equity Capacity Planning Grant Program. States which complete and submit a digital equity plan can apply for at least \$7.2 million over 5 years to distribute through a state digital equity grant program. States will be required to engage stakeholders in the development of the plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity will be available in mid-June.

ROLE OF EHEALTH COUNCIL IN SUPPORTING DIGITAL EQUITY AND BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

Anne Byers suggested that the eHealth Council could play a role in the development of the state broadband deployment and digital equity plans. Internet access is needed for telehealth and health monitoring applications. It is also considered to be one of the social determinants of health. Members expressed interest in participating in the planning processes. Anne Byers said that she would send out information on the funding programs. When more information is available, Anne Byers will draft an action item for inclusion in the NITC's statewide technology plan and send to members via e-mail.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Connect Nebraska Broadband Initiative

"A connected Nebraska—especially in our rural areas—is essential for us to grow in our state."
—Governor Pete Ricketts

broadband.Nebraska.gov

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Connect Nebraska Working Group

The Connect Nebraska Working Group, comprised of staff members from the State Budget Office, Governor's Policy Research Office, Nebraska Public Service Commission, and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO is coordinating all federally funded broadband programs.

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Middle Mile Grant Program

Funding Agency:	National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Program Established By:	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Funding Available:	\$980,000,000
Purpose:	Middle mile infrastructure grants
Application Deadline:	Sept. 30, 2022
Eligible applicants:	Telecommunications providers, others
Expected award range:	\$5,000,000 to \$100,000,000
Match required:	30%
Expected award date:	March 2023

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Middle Mile Grant Program

Nebraska applicants should submit a completed Nebraska Middle Mile Coordination Form by Sept. 23, 2022.

The form is available for download at:
<https://broadband.nebraska.gov/MiddleMileGrantProgram>

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Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

Program Established By:	Nebraska Legislature, LB 388, 2021; updated provisions in LB 1144, 2022.
Amount Appropriated:	\$20 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2021-22
Purpose:	Broadband deployment projects in unserved or underserved areas.
Application Deadline:	July 1, 2022 (2022 Round)
Expected Award Date:	December 6, 2022 (2022 Round)

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Broadband Bridge Program

- Program started after Nebraska Legislature approved it in 2021
 - Requires:
 - 100/100 Mbps Speeds
 - At least 25% match (50% in Year 1)
 - Prioritizes Unserved over Underserved

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Broadband Bridge Program

Additional details:

- Applicants have to show that they are capable of providing the service – demonstrated history.
- Applicants have to provide details on the rates to be assessed, and get points awarded if they are within a benchmark rate.
- Applicants have to provide GIS shapefiles that show the project area, and GIS shapefiles that show the locations to be served.
- Challenge Process – In place to allow providers that either have service, or are in the process of building to provide service, to intervene in an application.

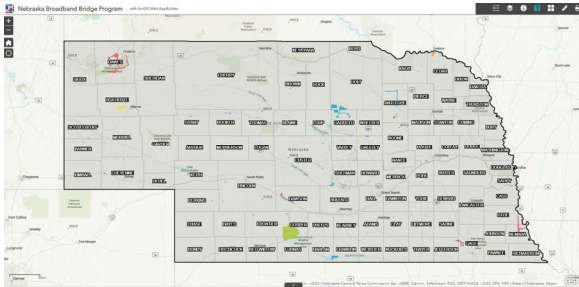
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Broadband Bridge Program

Year 1

- 76 grant applications
- 61 grants awarded for \$19.2 million
- Locations to be served: 12,640
 - 1,765 Unserved; 10,962 Underserved

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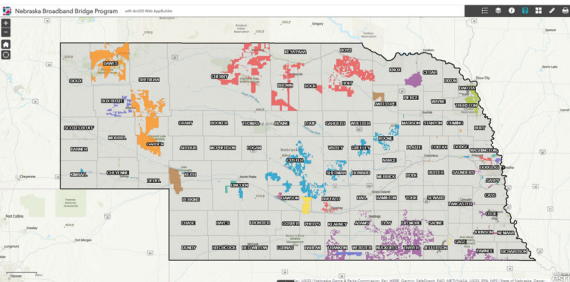
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Broadband Bridge Program

Year 2

- 115 applications, \$74.76 million in requested funding.
- Grants will be awarded in December 2022.
- Applications include 22,346 locations:
 - 9,081 Unserved; 13,265 Underserved.

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Capital Projects Fund

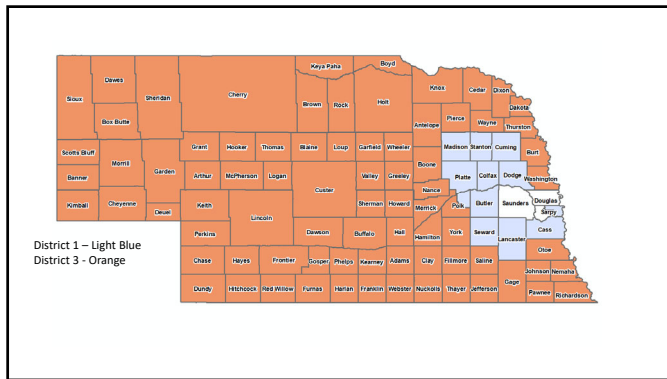
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of the Treasury
Program Established By: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Nebraska Allocation: \$128.7 million total –

LB 1024 Allocation:

- At least \$40 million to Congressional District 1
- At least \$40 million to Congressional District 3
- No more than \$35 million to Congressional District 2 for multi-purpose community facilities.

Federal Award Date: (\$87.7 million)- August 30, 2022 for Congressional Districts 1 and 3.

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Capital Projects Fund

- Funds allocated to Congressional Districts 1 and 3 will be awarded through the Broadband Bridge Program.
- Requires no matching funds from applicants.
- Anticipated grant cycle in early 2023.

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Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD)

Funding Agency: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Program Established By: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Nebraska Allocation: \$100 million minimum
 Announcement of funding expected in 2023
Expected Award Date: October 2022
State Entity Administering: Nebraska Public Service Commission

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Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD)

- Involves extensive planning and outreach activities
- Requires completion of a 5-year plan once Initial Planning Funds are awarded
- Money to be distributed primarily through a future Broadband Bridge grant cycle
- Grant cycle dates TBD - likely in 2024

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State Digital Equity Planning Grant

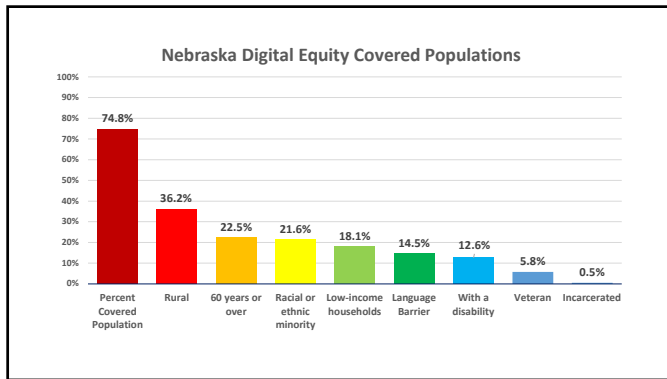
Funding Agency: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Program Established By: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Nebraska Allocation: \$600,000
Expected Award Date: Late September 2022
State Entity Administering: Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC)/Office of the CIO

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State Digital Equity Planning Grant

- Digital Equity is the goal of achieving parity in digital participation in the economy and society.
- Digital Equity Plan will guide the development of a state digital equity grant program.
- Nebraska will receive a minimum of \$7.2 million over 5 years for implementation through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program.

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Digital Equity Planning Activities

- Webinars
- Listening sessions
- Inventory of digital equity assets and best practices
- Development of regional digital equity plans
- State planning conference
- Digital equity planning activities will coordinate with BEAD planning activities.

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How you can participate

- Spread the word about digital equity resources and planning events
- Share information on digital equity assets and best practices
- Participate in or host listening sessions
- Participate in regional planning groups
- Submit comments

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Form ore information

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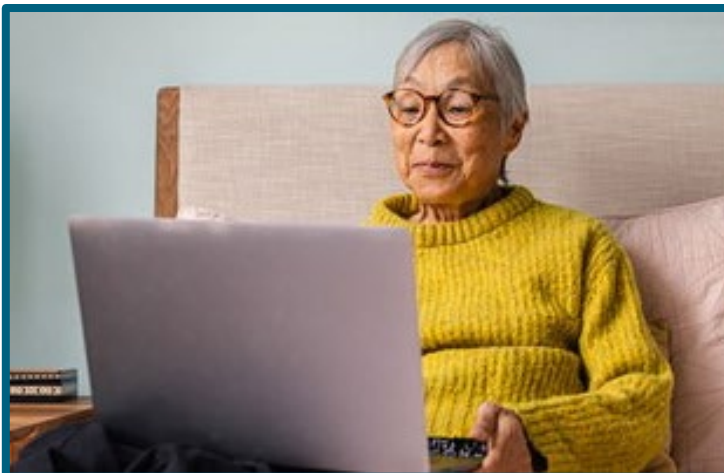
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Do you have an internet access and feel comfortable using a computer, tablet or smartphone?

Are you ready to participate in telehealth consultations?

What are your concerns?



Learn about resources to help you use technology and how telehealth can improve access to care

Listening Sessions on Older Adults, Internet Use and Telehealth

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Lincoln

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Gere Public Library

2400 S 56th St

Friday, Oct. 21

Kearney

12:30-1:45 p.m.

Kearney Public Library

2020 1st Ave

Wednesday, Oct. 26

Omaha

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Millard Branch Library

13214 Westwood Ln

For more information, contact:

Anne Byers, Digital Equity Manager

Nebraska Information Technology

Commission

anne.byers@nebraska.gov

402 471-3805



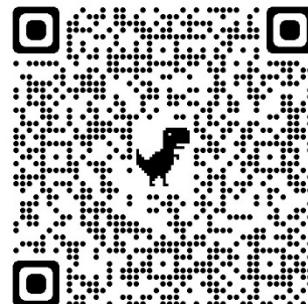
Nebraska Information
Technology Commission

Co-sponsored by:



NROC
Nebraska Regional
Officials Council

**Take our survey on older adults
and internet use**



Connect Nebraska Digital Opportunities Plan

With funding from the NTIA, the State of Nebraska will be developing a plan to ensure Nebraskans have internet connectivity, devices such as laptops and smartphone, and the skills to meaningfully use internet technologies. The grant will also promote the use technologies such as telehealth and precision agriculture which are in the early stages of adoption and have the potential to significantly impact the lives of Nebraskans and the state's economy.

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC)/Office of the CIO will be leading the planning effort with the assistance of the state's regional economic development districts and the Nebraska Library Commission. The one-year grant is expected to start in October of 2022. States which complete plans can apply for \$7.2 million or more in funding over 5 years to implement a state digital access, skills and opportunities grant program.

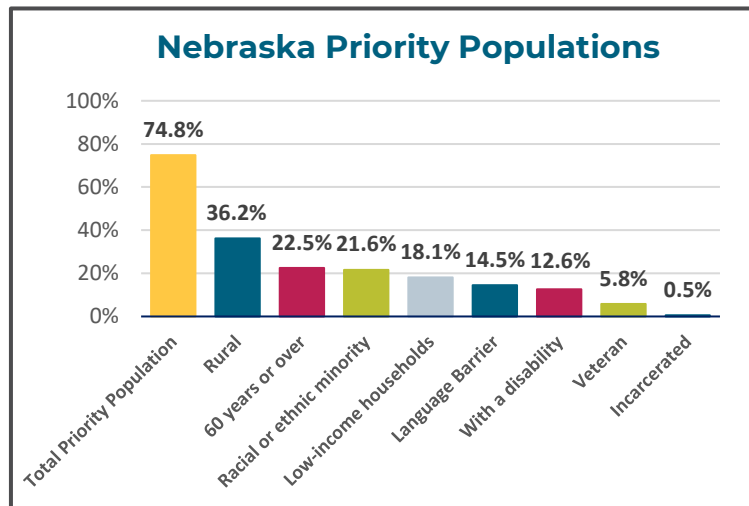
Priority Populations. Planning efforts will focus on eight priority populations shown in the chart to the right. Approximately 75% of Nebraska's population is included in one or more priority populations. Those living in rural areas and older adults are Nebraska's largest priority populations.

Library Capacity. Libraries play an important role in digital equity efforts. However, only 15% of Nebraska's libraries have broadband service of 100 Mbps down or greater. Planning efforts will address the capacity of libraries—particularly small, rural libraries—to participate in digital equity efforts.

Planning Activities. Planning activities will include:

- Inventory of digital inclusion assets and identification of best practices
- Webinars on priority populations, best practices and other topics
- Listening sessions focused on priority populations
- The development of regional digital equity plans
- A statewide planning conference

Coordination with BEAD Planning. The NITC/OCIO will coordinate planning efforts with the Nebraska Public Service Commission's BEAD 5-year deployment planning efforts.



For more information

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