

**Nebraska Information Technology Commission  
Joint Council Committee**

**Network Policy Work Group  
Draft Charter**

<b>Purpose</b>	Develop recommendations on policy issues pertaining to the management and operation of shared networks, including policy input to the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership
<b>Sponsor</b>	Steve Schafer, Chief Information Officer
<b>Scope/ Boundaries</b>	This work group would make recommendations on such issues as long-term management of a shared network, including funding strategies, network services and pricing, resolution of technical problems, quality assurance, and security needs.
<b>Desired Goals and Outcomes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conduct informative and working sessions to determine the needs, issues, and constraints regarding the growth and management of a statewide network;</li> <li>b. Research the advantages and disadvantages of different long-term management models and make a detailed recommendation to the NITC;</li> <li>c. Explore alternative funding strategies to enhance the network's ability to deliver services;</li> <li>d. Provide advice on policy issues to the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership as they aggregate bandwidth and develop a shared network;</li> <li>e. Conduct an annual meeting of all network participants to discuss network performance, growth projections, emerging technologies, vendor service, and pricing.</li> </ol>
<b>Authority</b>	This work group will act in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the NITC on September 16, 2002 in the Nebraska Network Study. Representatives serve on behalf of their network constituents and provide policy input to the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership in order to serve the telecommunications needs of Nebraska network participants.
<b>Membership</b>	<p><b>Membership</b> should include representatives from each of the following subsectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (State Government) Major state agencies</li> <li>• (Education) Community colleges, state colleges, public universities, independent colleges/universities, K-12 districts, ESUs, distance learning consortia, Department of Education</li> <li>• (Community) Telehealth, public libraries, informal education entities</li> <li>• NITC Council representatives and other members as determined by the sponsor</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	The sponsor of the work group will report to the NITC Councils as needed.
<b>Timeframe</b>	This work group will function until this charter is repealed. The work group will develop recommendations on long-term management models by June 30, 2003.

**Background** The following excerpt is Recommendation #9 and #10 of the Final Report and Recommendations of the Nebraska Network Work Group, adopted by the NITC on Monday, September 16, 2002.

9. Under the auspices of the NITC, an interim work group composed of stakeholders should coordinate implementation of a shared Nebraska statewide IP-centric network (Recommendation 6). The work group should include stakeholders, with some representation of the Community Council, Education Council, and State Government Council. The work group should address technical requirements, network management, quality assurance and security needs.
10. Long-term functions of the network and a mechanism for constituent input could be delivered in a variety of ways. Issues to be decided include funding strategies, pricing and services to be offered, resolving technical problems, and establishing service levels. Funding options should encourage collaborative mechanisms for multiple independent entities to use existing resources as well as other available sources. The interim work group would research the advantages and disadvantages of different models and make a detailed recommendation to the NITC.
  - a. Distributed Model

Stakeholders would divide up the tasks of running the network and applications and share responsibilities using existing staff and resources. The group would meet as needed to resolve differences and reach consensus on future service changes. Each participant in the network would deal with the purchasing entity individually.
  - b. Centralized Model

Stakeholders would designate a central entity to support the network and applications. The central entity would make decisions on behalf of the stakeholders and solicit input when needed. The central entity would be an existing state agency or educational institution and would be responsible for interacting with the purchasing entity.
  - c. Cooperative Model

Stakeholders would form a group under 501(c)3 and/or the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Act that would be the oversight group for the management of the network and implementation of multi-jurisdictional applications. The resulting collaborative would receive oversight by a stakeholder board and have the ability to enter into purchasing agreements with application providers, purchase telecommunications services from the purchasing entity and other providers, and hire staff.