

State of Nebraska
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

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State of Nebraska

**DHHS Division of Development
Disabilities (DDD)**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The funding will be utilized for COVID related expenditures and to address workforce shortages. The money will go toward incentivizing employees for retention purposes.

Uses of Funds

The funds will be disbursed to DD Agency providers only and will be utilized for specific services as follows: prevocational; residential habilitation (excluding shared living services); supported employment – individual; enclave; behavioral in-home habilitation; community inclusion; community integration; consultative assessment; crisis intervention support; habilitative workshop; independent living; in-home residential habilitation; medical in-home habilitation; supported family living; supported employment – follow along; and child day habilitation, which shall only be used for such purpose.

Such payments shall be used for the purpose of enhancing employee retention and recruitment.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Labor Practices

The funding is to enhance employee recruitment and retention.

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Not Applicable

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25850100: Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Funding amount: \$47,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance

Nebraska DHHS distributed the funds appropriated pursuant to LB1014 to DD Providers to support employee recruitment and retention activities, due to financial distress created by the COVID-19 Pandemic. As of June 30, 2023, the department has obligated \$20,000,000 and expended \$20,000,000 of the total funding amount. The department will obligate another \$15,000,000 in SFY24 and the remaining \$12,500,000 in SFY25.

EMS Ambulance Replacement Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The goal of this project is to assist Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state to replace aging ambulance fleets.

Uses of Funds

Open application process by which all licensed EMS services within Nebraska were eligible to apply for one-time funding to support the purchase of an ambulance.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Applications were scored based on community need and included measures focused on achieving equitable outcomes. Scoring criteria included the age of existing ambulance stock, the community resilience estimate (CRE) for the applicant's community, and the social vulnerability index (SVI), among others.

Community Engagement

Prior to the release of the funding opportunity two virtual townhall sessions were held to engage with potential applicants and to promote the funding opportunity.

Labor Practices

Not applicable

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580002: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$20,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

The goal of this project is to assist Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state to replace aging ambulance fleets. This funding was awarded to eligible EMS services following an open application window in late 2022.

Emergency Medical Services Equipment Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The goal of this project is to assist Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state purchase lifesaving equipment.

Uses of Funds

Open application process by which all licensed EMS services within Nebraska were eligible to apply for one-time funding to support the purchase of lifesaving equipment.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Applications were scored based on community need and included measures focused on achieving equitable outcomes. Scoring criteria included the age of existing ambulance stock, the community resilience estimate (CRE) for the applicant's community, and the social vulnerability index (SVI), among others.

Statutory priority was granted on the following basis:

Priority in awarding grants should be given to emergency medical services programs which are volunteer-based, located in a community with a population of fewer than one hundred thousand inhabitants as determined by the most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the United States Bureau of the Census, and have high needs, as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services in consultation with a statewide organization dedicated to supporting providers of prehospital emergency medical care in Nebraska. (LB 1014, 2022)

Community Engagement

Prior to the release of the funding opportunity two virtual townhall sessions were held to engage with potential applicants and to promote the funding opportunity.

Labor Practices

Not applicable

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580003: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

The goal of this project is to assist Emergency Medical Services (EMS) across the state with the purchase of lifesaving equipment. This funding was awarded to eligible EMS services following an open application window in late 2022.

Local Health Department Support Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

To provide additional funds and support to 18 local health departments for one-time infrastructure needs and any other costs, including testing, personal protective equipment, and other preventive measures to combat the COVID-19 virus.

Uses of Funds

Funds for the local public health departments that receive aid pursuant to section Neb. Rev. Stat. 71- 1628.08, which shall be distributed evenly to the local public health departments for one-time infrastructure needs and any other costs, including testing, personal protective equipment, and other preventive measures, to combat the COVID-19 virus and any of its mutations.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Applicant departments were engaged with to develop workplans and budgets for all available funding. Parameters were only those included in ARPA SLFRF requirements and those of Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022).

Labor Practices

Applicants must follow all applicable state and federal labor law when using funds in this project.

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580005: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

To provide additional funds and support to 18 local health departments for one-time infrastructure needs and any other costs, including testing, personal protective equipment, and other preventive measures to combat the COVID-19 virus. Funding first became available to local health departments following the completion and approval of a workplan and budget in 2022.

Loan Repayment for Healthcare Workers Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Funds for repayment of qualified educational debts owed by eligible health professionals as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-5662.

Uses of Funds

Recruitment and retention of health professionals for rural and underserved areas through the repayment of qualified educational debts for individuals serving in designated health shortage areas.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-5662 makes funding available for health professionals serving in designated shortage areas. By increasing the availability of health care providers in these shortage areas, this project serves to increase health access to underserved communities.

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Labor Practices

Not applicable

Use of Evidence

This project is built on the existing Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) infrastructure. Literature suggests that such programs increase the availability of health resources and have positive economic effects on benefitting communities. See <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Loan-Repayment-FAQ.aspx>

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580007: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other^*

Funds for repayment of qualified educational debts owed by eligible health professionals as provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-5662. This funding supplemented the existing state-funded Nebraska Student Loan Repayment program.

COVID Model System of Care Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

This project will support a rehabilitation hospital in advancing COVID-19 model system of care in the state. The selected rehabilitation hospital will coordinate with the DHHS Division of Public Health and other healthcare facilities with established long COVID clinics to set up a statewide “long COVID surveillance and support network.” The network will assist in identifying patients with persistent symptoms who will benefit from rehabilitation services. These include both medical and mental health (cognitive and psychiatric) services. The project will enhance access for long COVID treatment and rehabilitation services across the state (which may require additional post-COVID clinics, telehealth, or other virtual programs in partnership with established long COVID clinics). In addition, the surveillance network will continue to collect and evaluate data to understand the long COVID burden and impact on the communities. That data should inform the services provided through long COVID (or post-COVID rehabilitation) clinics. The long COVID surveillance and support network will also focus on educating healthcare providers and the public on long COVID and help them connect with healthcare resources in the state for treatment and rehabilitation.

Uses of Funds

Funds have been awarded to a rehabilitation hospital for the purpose of the following:

- Gain better understanding of the current burden and impact of long COVID in Nebraska to inform the services provided through long COVID clinics.*
- Improve access of Nebraskans to long COVID clinics for meeting the medical and mental health needs including rehabilitation services*
- Increase awareness of long COVID symptoms and treatment resources available in the state for both public and healthcare providers*

Promoting equitable outcomes

Enumerated eligible uses of ARPA funds allow its use toward medical services for COVID-19, support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services, public health surveillance, and public communication efforts. This project consists of urgently needed interventions including of all the above-mentioned eligible components of COVID-19 public health response. Beyond the enumerated uses, the development of a system of care is a reasonable response to address the class of individuals affected by persistent symptoms after COVID-19 infection.

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Labor Practices

Applicant must follow all applicable state and federal labor law when using funds in this project.

Use of Evidence

With the awardee, Nebraska DHHS will coordinate on database development, maintenance, and analyses; and to coordinate with the rehabilitation hospital to inform long COVID support needs on an ongoing basis. This is expected to build a base of evidence for further public health activity.

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580001: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

This project will support a rehabilitation hospital in advancing COVID-19 model system of care in the state. The selected rehabilitation hospital will coordinate with the DHHS Division of Public Health and other healthcare facilities with established long COVID clinics to set up a statewide “long COVID surveillance and support network.” The network will assist in identifying patients with persistent symptoms who will benefit from rehabilitation services. These include both medical and mental health (cognitive and psychiatric) services. The project will enhance access for long COVID treatment and rehabilitation services across the state (which may require additional post-COVID clinics, telehealth, or other virtual programs in partnership with established long COVID clinics). In addition, the surveillance network will continue to collect and evaluate data to understand the long COVID burden and impact on the communities. That data should inform the services provided through long COVID (or post-COVID rehabilitation) clinics. The long COVID surveillance and support network will also focus on educating healthcare providers and the public on long COVID and help them connect with healthcare resources in the state for treatment and rehabilitation.

HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Surveillance and Prevention Programs for education on the benefits of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication and for the costs of medication.

Uses of Funds

Project goals include the following:

- *Expand education about PrEP as well as access to PrEP medication and required lab draws to receive medication.*
- *Get PrEP into the hands of any and all individuals who are at risk of HIV/AIDS. Providing PrEP is a prevention strategy to help stop the spread of HIV.*
- *Provide PrEP education for providers, medical case managers, and consumers including benefits of PrEP, prescribing information, maintenance (importance of remaining on the medication while transmissible), and resources for continuing medication assistance when these funds are depleted (since this is a time-limited program).*

Promoting equitable outcomes

This project focuses on individuals at highest risk for HIV, which includes disproportionately affected communities.

Community Engagement

Care navigation services and wider education services will engage directly with the community.

Labor Practices

Applicant must follow all applicable state and federal labor law when using funds in this project.

Use of Evidence

During COVID-19, several testing sites for HIV were shut down and providers' offices were only offering telehealth. This limited Nebraskans' access to HIV testing and office visits. The program has seen an increase in positive HIV cases during FY21. Nebraskans as a whole constitute a population class impacted by reduction in these services, with particular subpopulations already disproportionately affected by HIV risk (<https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/overview/about-hiv-and-aids/who-is-at-risk-for-hiv>). A program to provide education and PrEP drugs would respond to this

impact through the prevention of HIV infection/transmission. This response is reasonably proportional, as current research indicates a prevention intervention is cost-saving if the cost effectiveness ratio is less than \$379,668 (in 2010 dollars). <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/programresources/guidance/costeffectiveness/index.html>

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580006: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Surveillance and Prevention Programs for education on the benefits of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) medication and for the costs of medication.

Nursing Scholarship Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Provide incentives for current and prospective nursing students to finish nursing school and subsequently practice nursing for two years in Nebraska.

Uses of Funds

Funds for scholarships to students (a) residing in Nebraska, (b) intending to enroll or enrolled in a nursing program that (i) is approved pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-2232 to 38-2236, (ii) is offered by a public or private postsecondary institution in Nebraska, and (iii) consists of courses of instruction in regularly scheduled classes leading only to an associate degree, diploma, or certificate in nursing or an accelerated bachelor of science in nursing degree, (c) intending to practice as a licensed practical nurse, licensed registered nurse, or nurse aide upon completion of the approved nursing program, and (d) agreeing in writing to work for two years in this state as a licensed practical nurse, licensed registered nurse, or nurse aide upon completion of the approved nursing program. Each qualifying student shall receive a scholarship of up to \$2,500 per semester.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Not applicable

Community Engagement

Not applicable

Labor Practices

Not applicable

Use of Evidence

Healthcare industry staff were uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased burnout, turnover, and departures from the industry. This has created a dual negative economic and public health impact by creating a nursing shortage, resulting in difficulties recruiting and retaining nursing staff across the state. This shortage decreases the availability of healthcare services, to the detriment of the public health.

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580008: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

*Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other**^*

Provide incentives for current and prospective nursing students to finish nursing school and subsequently practice nursing for two years in Nebraska. Application windows began in 2022 and will open prior to each new semester until funds are expended.

Rural Behavioral Health Acute Care Project

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Expand acute care behavioral health capacity in rural Nebraska.

Uses of Funds

Funding is intended to provide grants of up to \$250,000 for capital costs of expanding access to behavioral health acute care beds in rural areas where beds are not currently available, or a shortage exists.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The focus on these funds is to provide increased access to acute behavioral health services in shortage areas.

Community Engagement

A consultant has been engaged to gather data and feedback from the rural healthcare community to tailor the project to the needs of rural Nebraska.

Labor Practices

Applicants must follow all applicable state and federal labor law when using funds in this project.

Use of Evidence

Healthcare industry staff were uniquely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased burnout, turnover, and departures from the industry. This has created a dual negative economic and public health impact by creating a nursing shortage, resulting in difficulties recruiting and retaining nursing staff across the state. This shortage decreases the availability of healthcare services, to the detriment of the public health.

Performance Report

Performance will be evaluated based on compliance with provisions included in Nebraska Legislative Bill 1014 (2022). Expenditures will be monitored in accordance with legislative requirements and program guidance.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580014: Division of Public Health (DPH)

Funding amount: \$2,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Expand acute care behavioral health capacity in rural Nebraska.

State of Nebraska
DHHS Premium Pay

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Pursuant to LB 1014 Section 7, federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) appropriated to the DHHS will be used for premium pay increases which were implemented for essential workers..

Uses of Funds

These increases were made to retain staff and fill staff vacancies during the Covid-19 pandemic. The increases ensure that DHHS is competitive in pay in the future for positions that support public health and safety.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Labor Practices

The funding is to enhance employee recruitment and retention.

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Not Applicable

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID: 25110401

Funding amount: \$12,204,895

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Public Sector Employees

Nebraska DHHS distributed the funds appropriated pursuant to LB1014 to support employee recruitment and retention activities, due to financial distress created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

State of Nebraska

DHHS Child Care Program

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The child care industry and programs were negatively impacted by the pandemic. Funds were awarded to an agency to increase capacity across Nebraska.

Uses of Funds

The child care industry had many businesses close due to loss of revenue. Individuals could not bring their children to a center due to Covid-19 diagnoses either in the workforce or at home. These funds were awarded to another entity that will be used to either expand local childcare businesses or start new businesses. This will allow more families to have access to childcare across the state. The funds have been sub-awarded to an agency that has worked to collect applications for use of the funds. The entity has worked with the state to review and approve applications of these new or existing businesses to award the funds. The scoring has selected a few businesses with some funds being paid out prior to June 30, 2023.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The program is promoting access to child care across the state. Part of these businesses are located in areas where socio-economic data suggest that high-quality child care is a need for the community. This will improve the equality of learning prior to school age for families who cannot access quality child care.

Community Engagement

During the application process, it was encouraged that local communities interact with businesses to help make a sustainable model for child care in the future. Part of these funds will be used to improve business acumen so that the businesses can remain open and grow once the SLFRF funds are fully utilized.

Labor Practices

These funds are used to either expand businesses or start new ones. The funds will be used for remodeling existing locations, purchasing program supplies, and paying for new workers.

Use of Evidence

The use of SLFRF is appropriate for child care industry. Many businesses closed or were impacted by the pandemic. The state will review the impact of the funds to determine if the program would be used in the future to entice and expand child care businesses in the future.

Performance Report

The awardees and state are review costs of running a program to determine the impact of the dollars. This includes business stability after funds have been utilized as well as impact of access to child care as a ratio of the community. The state will take the data to analyze the true cost of child care and overall impact of the industry to Nebraska.

PROJECT INVENTORY

The state does not track specific inventory to each business. However, the state does have a report (provided by the licensing board) of child care spots across Nebraska. The state will look at the number of cases prior to SLFRF awards and after the programs have been designed.

State of Nebraska

DHHS Child Welfare Program

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Due to the pandemic, the State of Nebraska had higher case counts for child welfare. The state will use the temporary funds from SLFRF to reimburse state costs as case counts are expected to drop as the system stabilizes.

Uses of Funds

The SLFRF funds are not replacing lost revenue but compensating the state of Nebraska for increase child welfare case counts.

Promoting equitable outcomes

These funds were used to reimburse the state of Nebraska for higher case counts of child welfare. Part of these funds also were used to temporarily increase rates for child welfare providers.

Community Engagement

The funds went to the providers serving the youth in the community.

Labor Practices

N/A

Use of Evidence

The state has not spent all funds obligated to this project as of June 30, 2023. The state will evaluate if the funds were used appropriately for the youth and families.

Performance Report

The state reviews closure rates of child welfare cases based on acquity of the case. If the cases did not meet standard practice, the state will review if more funding is needed in the future.

State of Nebraska

DHHS Food Assistance Program

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Food Assistance program will assist local food banks in addressing food insecurity. The pandemic caused many individuals to lose their jobs or reduce hours. This loss in funds has created a need that the food banks across Nebraska have been addressing through SLFRF funding.

Uses of Funds

The funds allocated for Food Assistance are being handled by 2 organizations that sub-award the money to each local community. The local community food banks lack the structure to be awarded funds directly. The community benefits from these funds to address the lack of affordable food for low-income and at-risk individuals. The pandemic created greater food insecurity that is being addressed by these funds. These funds meet part b (Negative Economic Impacts) of the SLFRF federal funding.

Promoting equitable outcomes

This project directly addresses the economic impact of food insecurity on low-income and at-risk households. The pandemic reduced income and access to basic household food. The food banks are located in areas of disproportioned income where food insecurity is chronically high. These organizations can directly assist those with purchasing food as well as increase education of food nutrition. The program is currently collecting data on outcomes and those individuals served with these funds.

Community Engagement

These funds are allocated to the food banks that serve populations of disadvantaged households. The community food banks are allocated funds to bridge the gap of food insecurity of households.

Labor Practices

The food banks that are allocated the funds will hire local labor and use a portion on local fresh produce and other food.

Use of Evidence

The funds that are allocated to food banks will collect data on the impact to local individuals and businesses. Some will include the household use of existing benefits.

Performance Report

The final report regarding the impact of the funds will indicate if this program should continue in the future and in what capacity. There will also indicate if there are current gaps in food programs that assist low-income or at-risk households.

PROJECT INVENTORY

This project does not have any inventory that is tracked.

State of Nebraska
DHHS Youth Living

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

This project will be used to assist young adults who have transitioned out of foster care. Many of these young people were impacted by the pandemic due to a lack of housing and coaching support.

Uses of Funds

The pandemic negatively impacted former foster care youth (FFCY). These individuals have fewer support than other young adults who come from a stable household. The SLFRF funds will be used to improve housing and coaching for FFCY. The funds were awarded to two entities who will coordinate the housing and coaching support of these youth.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Without access to housing and support, FFCY have a disadvantage compared to others with financial and family support. The pandemic further exasperated these gaps. These funds will be used to assist these young adults in maintaining housing. Without stable housing, FFCY face challenges in adjusting to adulthood.

Community Engagement

The two agencies that were awarded funds will engage the community to build existing support and programs that will last beyond the pandemic. Each agency will try to encourage local communities to support young adults as they transition to their own household.

Labor Practices

The local agencies will hire local workers to conduct case management and other support for FFCY.

Use of Evidence

The program will be evaluated once it is completed to determine if this should be done in the future. The two agencies will be evaluated as each have a slightly different practice in reaching out and impacting FFCY.

Performance Report

The report will indicate how the funds were used and the impact of these youth. Did they achieve independence as well as the long term impact of the services for these youth.

PROJECT INVENTORY

The final report will have multiple metrics. These include but not limited to the number of youth served, impact to continuous employment, education achieved, and emotional impact to the FFCY. The entities will work with the state to coordinate other benefits so the FFCY are not disadvantaged due to their lack of housing and support.

State of Nebraska

**DHHS Health Aid for Assisted
Living Facilities**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The goals of this program are to provide additional funding to assisted living facilities (ALFs) for employee recruitment and retention activities and for costs for supplies and equipment for facilities, due to financial distress created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Uses of Funds

Pursuant to LB1014(2022) the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services distributed funds appropriated to assisted-living facilities. The distribution equalled four hundred dollars per licensed bed in licensed ALFs. A licensed assisted-living facility shall use the funds distributed pursuant to this section for:

(a) Incentives for staff members employed by the licensed assisted-living facility in order to enhance employee recruitment and retention; or

(b) Assistance with costs for supplies and equipment purchased by the licensed assisted-living facility.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Labor Practices

This funding is intended to promote local hiring and retaining of employees to ensure adequate care and support staff in ALFs.

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Not Applicable

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580009: Health Aid for Assisted Living Facilities

Funding amount: \$5,462,800

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Nebraska DHHS distributed the funds appropriated pursuant to LB1014 to ALFs to support employee recruitment and retention activities and for costs for supplies and equipment for facilities, due to financial distress created by the COVID-19 Pandemic. As of June 30, 2023, the department has obligated \$5,400,400 and expended \$5,068,000 of the total funding amount.

State of Nebraska

**DHHS Health Aid for Medicaid
Certified Nursing Facilities**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The goals of this program are to provide supplemental incentive payments for direct care staff members employed at licensed and Medicaid-certified nursing facilities (NFs), for employee recruitment and retention activities due to financial distress created by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Uses of Funds

Pursuant to LB1014(2022) the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services distributed funds appropriated to NFs. The distribution was determined by the formula established in LB1014 which allocated a portion of the available funds to be paid based on a facilities share of the Medicaid certified beds in the state and then further allocated a portion of the funds to facilities in the top quartile of facilities with the highest percentage of Medicaid utilization, as a percentage of overall utilization. The bill earmarked funds for SFY23, 24, and 25.

The legislative bill directed that the funds should be used by facilities to provide supplemental incentive payments for direct care staff members employed at licensed and medicaid-certified nursing facilities. Such payments are intended to enhance employee recruitment and retention.

The bill further defined that direct care staff means nursing facility employees who regularly perform in-person work with residents, interact with residents, or physically handle items handled by residents. The term includes nurses, medication aides, therapists, therapy aides, dietary staff, social service and activity staff, housekeeping and maintenance staff, and other medical staff.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Not Applicable

Community Engagement

Not Applicable

Labor Practices

This funding is intended to promote local hiring and retaining of employees to ensure adequate care and support staff in NFs.

Use of Evidence

Not Applicable

Performance Report

Not Applicable

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ID 25580010: Health Aid for Medicaid Certified Nursing Facilities

Funding amount: \$47,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Nebraska DHHS distributed the funds appropriated pursuant to LB1014 to NFs to support employee recruitment and retention activities, due to financial distress created by the COVID-19 Pandemic. As of June 30, 2023, the department has obligated \$20,000,000 and expended \$20,000,000 of the total funding amount. The department will obligate another \$15,000,000 in SFY24 and the remaining \$12,500,000 in SFY25.

State of Nebraska

DHHS Mental Health Services

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Over the past seven decades, Children’s Hospital & Medical Center (Children’s) has maintained its strong community focus and commitment to serving all children without regard to family income. Our mission is to improve the life of every child through exceptional care, advocacy, research, and education.

Children’s is the only full-service pediatric specialty health care center in Nebraska. Patients are referred to the 225-bed Hospital from throughout the region for the treatment of complex or unusual diseases in addition to pediatric primary care.

Children’s vision is to dedicate funding to the mental health needs of children in a new, innovative way that strategically leverages a limited pediatric-trained workforce across the state of Nebraska.

For over a decade, Children’s has integrated mental health in our primary care offices, bridging any gaps our families would have to accessing mental health services. Our outcomes prove this model is beneficial and highly effective for our patients. With the \$1.8 million investment from the Legislature, Children’s is working on supporting primary care offices and providers across the state with the knowledge, resources, and technology to be connected virtually to a pediatric trained mental health professional, generating efficient and equitable access to mental health care in Nebraska.

Prior to COVID -19, one in five children experienced a mental health condition. Today, data suggests that number to be one in four. According to the Children’s Hospital Association, from April 2019 to October 2020, children’s hospitals have seen a 24% increase in the number of mental health emergency room visits for kids 5 to 11 years old; for teens 12 to 17 years old, a 31% increase. In the first half of 2021 alone, children’s hospitals reported cases of self-injury and suicide in children ages 5-17 at a 45% higher rate than during the same period in 2019. Children’s in Omaha has noted a similar trend in mental health emergency room visits as well.

These statistics reflect a fragmented pediatric mental health infrastructure that lacks the necessary attention or support to be effective. Understanding the nationwide shortage of pediatric mental health providers in the state, Children’s is positioned to partner with these providers and be the trusted advisor to coordinate the complex mental health needs of children in Nebraska.

The key goals of this project include:

1. Provide mental health education and training for providers through Children’s Outreach & Provider Education (COPE), formerly Project TEACH, to help treat children with these needs in their own community.

2. Increase the number of providers treating the mental health conditions of children and youth in Nebraska.
3. Provide timely access to expert mental health practitioners via telemedicine for primary care providers as needed to serve children with mental health needs.
4. Serve as a resource to pediatric primary care providers in Nebraska for best practices in treating mental health in children.
5. Create a data repository on the types of consults requested to define trends, patterns, and areas of future support.

Through this project, Children's will create a dedicated infrastructure to support training and telemedicine supports to providers; thereby, strengthening and streamlining access to mental health services.

Uses of Funds

Telehealth and telemedicine are effective and are essential tools for immediate intervention. Children's has experienced tremendous growth in telemedicine and telehealth visits within mental health. In 2017, Children's completed 567 visits. At the peak of COVID-19 in 2020, nearly 21,000 patient visits occurred, which flattened to a remarkable 19,036 visits in 2021.

The need for mental health services increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, further stressing the workforce and resources available to meet the needs of children and youth. Currently, not all primary care practitioners across the State have integrated mental health into the primary clinics. In fact, there is a critical shortage of mental health providers in throughout Nebraska.

According to the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska, 81 of Nebraska's 93 counties meet the federal criteria for a "Mental Health Professional Shortage Area" designation. Most counties in Nebraska do not have any psychiatry providers who specialize in the pediatric population. Almost all those specialists practice in Omaha. Census data estimates that approximately 40% of the youth in Nebraska live in rural counties. These youth were previously unable to access care without traveling to Douglas, Lancaster, or Sarpy counties in Eastern Nebraska.

The global public health crisis has worsened disparities in health for Nebraskans children with higher rates of underlying health conditions and those with poor access to quality health care. In addition, the last two years have overwhelmingly affected children in Nebraska. The disruption to their lives, including the lack of socializing and school closures – along with uncertainty and stress have contributed to staggering levels of loneliness, anxiety, and depression.

The trends in children's mental health were sobering prior to the pandemic, with 1 and 5 children experiencing a mental health illness and rates of major depression rising dramatically. Now, there is growing concerns that the pandemic has led to increased mental health

challenges and suicide risk among children. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death for youth, up 67% for youth 10-14 years of age.

The first and perhaps most important way telehealth can help expand pediatric mental healthcare access is by bolstering the mental health workforce. Children's will use the allocated funds for a one-time capital and program expenditure to streamline and provide access to mental health services training through primary care providers across the state. Virtual and integrated care for mental health are innovative ways to deliver care that strategically leverages a limited pediatric-trained workforce. This training will be supported by access to telehealth consultants between primary care providers and trained mental health professionals who will serve as a resource and advisor.

The collaboration between mental healthcare professionals, pediatricians, and adolescent medicine practitioners is vital for early detection and diagnosis of mental health conditions in children that parents may be unable to catch.

The capital and program expenditures are appropriate for this project as it is a strategic investment of \$1.8 million that will allow Children's to bridge the gap to mental health care for children throughout the state. Due to the shortage of pediatric mental health providers in Nebraska, there are limited alternative capital expenditures to help resolve this crisis in communities that do not have access to pediatric mental health care. This project will increase Nebraska's capacity to meet the mental health needs of our children and youth by leveraging primary care providers (PCP's) throughout the state.

3. Project Description

Overview of the Main Activities of the Project:

For over a decade, Children's has integrated mental health services into our 13 primary care offices across the state, bridging any gaps our families would have to accessing mental health services and offering immediate intervention. Prior to COVID-19, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended routine screening of all patients 12 years and older for depression to reduce suicide risk, a practice we begin as young as 10 years old at Children's. Following a routine screen, an immediate follow-up with a mental health provider is available should the child indicate mental or mental health concerns.

Primary care physicians such as pediatricians and family practice doctors are often the first-place families go to seek help or information about mental health concerns with their children. Primary Care providers can provide mental health support and prescribe medications, but they may not have access to consultation, or the training needed to make decisions for children with mental health needs.

Children's will leverage Nebraska's primary care workforce of approximately 4,000 providers to address mild to moderate health conditions with youth and children. This model of care offers primary care offices and providers across the state with the knowledge and resources to treat

60% of basic mental health conditions. In addition, it provides the technical tools to be connected virtually to a pediatric trained mental health professional, generating efficient and equitable access to mental health care in Nebraska.

The primary focus of this project is to partner with providers throughout Nebraska to provide mental health training and support them through telemedicine. Children's pediatric psychiatry access program COPE (Children's Outreach & Provider Education – formerly known as Project TEACH) offers training for primary care providers that includes basic mental health skills to keep kids closer to home and out of overwhelmed emergency departments.

Developed specifically for Nebraska, COPE will include rapid consultation, education and training, referrals, and linkage services to pediatric primary care providers (PCP's) statewide who provide care for children and adolescents with mental health disorders.

Providers who are trained through COPE Nebraska will have access to the following services:

- E-Consults and Telehealth Visits: Access to rapid consultation from child and adolescent psychiatrists. All participating pediatric PCP's are eligible to receive consultation about their patients' mental health needs through a telemedicine visit.
- Access to Education and Training: Trainings are held regularly on a variety of topics related to children's social and emotional development. CME credits are available to providers for attending the training. Intensive training includes 12 hours of education in screening, treatment, and management of mental health conditions with children and adolescents.
- Learning Collaborative: 6 hours of collaborative learning opportunities with cohort participants to problem-solve and support their continued learning through case discussions.
- Access to Referral and Linkage Services: Referral and linkage services assist families and pediatric PCP's to access community mental health and support services such as clinic treatment, case management, or family support. PCP's will be provided Mental Health Coordinators to help navigate the mental health services within the state.

Primary Delivery Mechanisms and Partners, if applicable

The primary mechanism for communication and data collection will be through COPE's web-based platform that connects Children's with PCP's located throughout Nebraska. COPE puts mental health specialists directly in touch with PCP's and will be used to connect training opportunities providers across the state.

The benefits of telemedicine and utilizing COPE include:

- Better access: Telemedicine supports rural areas that suffer from lack of access to high quality healthcare. This technology, along with provider training, has made healthcare accessible to a wider spectrum of children. Additionally, it has been an excellent way for physicians and specialists to expand the reach of their services and offer the benefit of

their expertise to a greater number of people. Considering the critical shortage of qualified and experienced healthcare professionals in rural Nebraska, telemedicine is extremely beneficial in bridging the gap between demand and supply in healthcare.

- **Affordability:** Telehealth and telemedicine provide high-quality medical care that is easily accessible and affordable. By reducing the cost of healthcare and increasing efficiency, physicians can manage mental health conditions in youth and adolescents more effectively.
- **Better quality of care:** Telemedicine helps in delivering better quality service, especially in mental health. Children’s patients and families have shown superior satisfaction levels for services provided through virtual care.

Additionally, Children’s will dedicate technical tools for use by willing providers to streamline immediate access to mental health services. This equipment includes e-consult and telehealth hardware such as laptops, servers, cameras, and AV equipment. Children’s will also build a COPE classroom in Kearney, Nebraska as part of a new mental health care hub that will be a specific site to provide intensive and core trainings as well as in-person and virtual learning.

As a safety-net provider for children in Nebraska, Children’s is dedicated to improving access to mental health care for children through better integration and coordination with community partners. Children’s has a long history of partnering across the state. Partners for our pediatric psychiatric services utilizing telemedicine in rural clinics include Great Plains in North Platte, Community Hospital in McCook, and Regional West in Scottsbluff.

Children's current Virtual Care program was developed based on research by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the American Telemedicine Association (ATA). These two organizations are leaders in the development and delivery of effective and safe interactive videoconferencing-based mental health services. COPE will build on that success.

In addition, Children’s consulted the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) for resources, specifically their “Child and Adolescent Telepsychiatry Toolkit.” Children’s psychiatrist Dr. Jennifer McWilliams served on this board and helped develop the toolkit. Lastly, Children’s is partnering with the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) on a grant with DHHS to achieve integrated primary care across the state.

Intended Measurable Outcomes

Measurable outcomes for this project will include:

- Increased access to care through linkages and referrals. This will be measured by the number of mental health coordinators assisting PCP’s in Nebraska, and number of referrals.
- Increased provider knowledge about pediatric mental health through intensive trainings and learning collaborative opportunities. This will be measured by the number of providers that participate in COPE trainings, number of hours of training provided and

changes in provider knowledge and comfort as reported by providers upon completion of intensive trainings and e-consults.

- Increased e-consults with mental health specialists for patients managed by PCP's.

Children's long-term outcomes for this project are:

- Earlier identification and reduced time to initiate care.
- Reduced barriers to initial and sustained care.
- Increased collaboration among clinic professionals, psychiatrists, and parents.
- Reduce patient risk taking, depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation in Nebraska.
- Increase pediatric providers screening, treating, and monitoring mild to moderate mental health conditions in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska.

By 2025, Children's intends to have 200 primary care providers in Nebraska who will have completed intensive trainings for mild to moderate mental health conditions and 475 providers that have completed core training for pediatric-specific support and on-going education.

Approximately 60% of mild to moderate health conditions can be screened, treated, and managed by a PCP's. Through this project, Children's aims to increase the number of youth and adolescents gaining access to needed mental health services in Nebraska.

4. Performance Measures (KPI's)

- (1) The geographic location of patients and number of referrals completed through this project.
- (2) The number of providers recruited in Nebraska who participate in COPE trainings, including intensive training and core training.
- (3) The number of mental health coordinators.
- (4) The number of e-consults and telemedicine visits.
- (5) Satisfaction data from medical providers, coordinators, patients, and clinic team.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Health equity in telehealth provides the opportunity for everyone to receive the health care they need and deserve, regardless of social or economic status. Providing health equity in telehealth means making changes in digital literacy, technology, analytics, and equipping providers with skills for meeting the needs of diverse populations. This will help Children's reach the underserved communities that need it the most.

The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred increasing use of telehealth, leading to greater access to care for people who may experience barriers getting to a provider's office. Telehealth and telemedicine are essential tools and can cover a geographically large area. Nebraska covers 76,872 square miles, with a 2021 estimated population of 1,963,692 people – 660,029 living in rural areas (USDA-ERS). Telehealth and telemedicine give patients living in rural and

underserved areas increased access to more providers and allows them to receive care in their own communities.

In 2021, Children's adopted the NIH's definition of underrepresented child populations when addressing issues of health equity, which include children of color, children with disability and children with disadvantaged backgrounds including homeless, foster care, poverty, low socio-economic status, and rural/isolated communities. Through census tract data, Children's will prioritize recruiting PCP's providers serving communities of color, poverty, and rural/isolated areas.

Goals to promote equity will include:

- Analyzing telehealth utilization data to identify any potential access gaps.
- Implementing a health equity quality improvement project that will be monitored throughout the duration of the funding period to adopt innovative strategies to mitigate barriers to care.
- Increasing the number of pediatric providers caring for mental health conditions in Nebraska focusing on underrepresented populations served.
- Educating providers to assist with the level of comfort with technology and basic mental health services to patients.

Children's is partnering with the Nebraska Academy of Pediatrics, the Nebraska Mental Health Association, and the Nebraska Academy of Family Practice to make practitioners aware of this service. Additionally, we will use provider Grand Rounds and state-wide educational sessions to promote the availability of this service.

The intended outcomes are focused on closing the gap and reaching universal levels of service by providing access to care in underserved communities, educating primary care providers in mental health skills to keep kids closer to home, assisting providers with coordination of care, and creating a model for mental health access in primary care offices in Nebraska.

Children's believes telehealth and telemedicine are a vital tool for expanding much-needed access to pediatric mental healthcare in Nebraska. This investment in telehealth will impact our state's children for years to come.

Community Engagement

Planned use of the funds will incorporate input that will capture diverse feedback from patients, providers, and stakeholders from community-based organizations. The funds will help to build the capacity of community organizations to serve children with significant barriers to services.

To develop the concepts for this project, we used a group of community-based mental health providers as advisors. This included representatives from Project Harmony, the Nebraska Medical Association, Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations, Nebraska Rural

Health Association, CHI Health, Region 6, Charles Drew, and One World Health Centers. Children's will continue to seek input regarding the program's content, delivery, and interface for PCP's as the project moves forward.

In addition, we have identified three physician champions who completed the intensive training in fall 2022 and have agreed to serve ambassadors to the State's PCP community. Once formally launched, we aim to recruit 20 physicians to serve as champions and co-facilitators in future training opportunities.

Labor Practices

Children's will be effective in our labor practices in that we will use a centralized resource to provide services to providers in primary practices who could not otherwise have access to pediatric-specific psychiatry support.

Use of Evidence

COPE has been modeled and informed by New York's Project TEACH, an evidence-based model that has been cited in over 12 peer-reviewed articles. Within the model, its components are also evidence-based including:

- Screening and Rating Tools: Only evidence-based, open sources screening tools are available for any provider accessing the platform. The platform offers approximately 75 tools and rating scales for use by PCP's.
- Telehealth Services: Access to a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
- E-consults: Provided for PCP's with a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Education: PCP training materials and curriculum

Performance Report

Children's made the decision in the second quarter of this project to re-brand Project TEACH due to feedback provided from providers through the State. The new name is *Children's Outreach for Provider Education (COPE)*. Future communication and updates will reflect COPE as a program name (versus Project TEACH). We noted the name change in the narrative in the first half of this annual report as well. Project TEACH New York will continue to be the program COPE is modeled after, and Drs. Kaye and Fornari will serve as consultants throughout the program's development and implementation.

In 2023, Children's identified key partners for this project that includes:

- Nebraska Medical Association - NMA
- Nebraska Hospital Association - NHA
- Behavioral Health & Education Center of Nebraska - BHECN
- Nebraska – American Academy of Pediatrics – NE-AAP
- Nebraska Rural Health Association - NRHA

- Nebraska Behavioral Health Regions

In addition, a program called TRAYT was identified as the data platform for tracking participation and outcome data within the program. A kick-off meeting took place on May 16, 2023, and platform testing, and initial training was convened on July 7, 2023, with subsequent trainings on July 12 and August 30. The launch of the platform will take place July 21, 2023. The Trayt's platform will provide the following operational supports for COPE:

- Enroll and track providers in the COPE program
- Collect and support Psychiatric consultation requests for the state's PCPs
- Support enrollment in provider education opportunities
- Collect data regarding program outcomes and house COPE dashboard

Children's staff and key stakeholders met with Dr. David Kaye and Dr. Victor Fornari, founders of Project TEACH, in May to provide consulting services. During their visit, they served as keynote for the Nebraska AAP & ROCAP Spring Conference and provided a CME Lunch & Learn opportunity for the 45 participants of COPE's first intensive training earlier in the month.

Other activities in the first half of 2023 included:

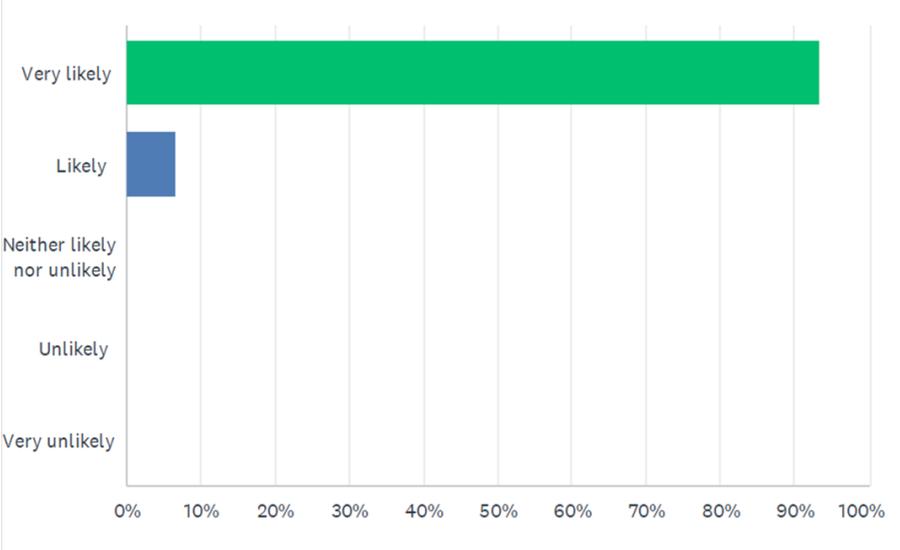
- COPE Program Manager job description was finalized during the first quarter of 2023. During the second quarter, Children's completed interviews and selected Paige Tuttle, LICSW as the program's first full-time staff. Paige started at Children's on June 19, 2023, and is currently on-boarding with the Behavioral Health Department at Children's.
- Children's received \$500,000 grant award from BHECN (Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska) to support staffing for first three years of COPE.
- Initiated a partnership with *The REACH Institute* to serve as one of the program's consulting and educational partners.
- Children's facilitated Pediatric Mental Health Champions, a quarterly meeting with key partners and mental health provider organizations regarding program progress and provide opportunities to receive feedback to ensure alignment within current system of care.
- Finalized COPE's formal business plan and worked with the Business Strategy Team to operationalize the program across the organization. Departments involved include Finance, Human Resources, IT, Digital Health, Behavioral Health, Care Coordination, Administration, Quality & Safety, Legal, Marketing and Operations.
- COPE staff are currently working with Children's Marketing Department to develop a website, and promotional materials to support outreach and education.
- The first COPE cohort was held on May 5-7, 2023, and included 45 primary care providers. The following chart breaks down the type of professionals, location and organizations represented:

Professionals/License Type:	MD – Pediatrics = 19 MD – Family Practice = 17 MD – Internal Medicine = 1 APPs = 8
Location	Rural = 20 Lincoln = 9 Greater Omaha = 16
Unique Clinics, Organization & Systems Represented (n = 31)	Beatrice Community Hospital Bluestem Health Boys Town Brown County Hospital Bryan Health CHI Health Children First Pediatrics Children's Physicians Click Family Healthcare Columbus Family Practice Complete Children's Health Creighton University, Dept. of Family & Community Medicine Dundee Pediatrics Faith Regional Health Services Family Practice of Grand Island Frontier Pediatric Care Grand Island Clinic Great Plains Health Havekost Personal Healthcare, LLC Heartland Health Center Holy Family Medical Associates, LLC Internal Medicine and Family Physicians, Inc Lincoln Medical Education Partnership Methodist Physicians Clinic Norfolk Medical Group - Pediatrics Offutt AFB OneWorld Community Health Centers Pediatrics, PC Sidney Regional Medical Center Theodore N. Pham and Elizabeth A Peter UNMC/Nebraska Medicine
Key Partners Promoting/Supporting Registration:	Nebraska Medical Association Nebraska Hospital Association Nebraska Rural Health Association Southeast Rural Physician Alliance Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians

	Children's Health Network Metro Omaha Medical Society ROCAP (joint NE-AAP/NE Psychiatric Society) Nebraska American Academy of Pediatrics Nebraska Counseling Association Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations Children's Physicians Region 6 Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln
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Feedback from Cohort 1 was overwhelmingly positive. The charts that follow detail how participants rated the training session:

How likely are you to encourage a colleague to complete the REACH Intensive Training when offered in the future?



REACH Course Evaluation – Nebraska
May 5-7, 2022

Assessment and Diagnosis:

"I am knowledgeable/comfortable about assessing and diagnosing the following disorder or symptom..."	Knowledge		Change	Comfort		Change
	Pre (n=41)	Post (n=41)		Pre (n=41)	Post (n=41)	
ADHD	2.9	3.63	0.73	2.95	3.71	0.76
Anxiety Disorder	2.83	3.56	0.73	2.8	3.61	0.81
Major Depressive Disorder	2.9	3.61	0.71	2.83	3.61	0.78
Bipolar Disorder	1.83	2.78	0.95	1.61	2.66	1.05
Conduct Disorder	2	2.93	0.93	1.83	2.85	1.02
Autism and Autism Spectrum	2.24	2.61	0.37	2.1	2.49	0.39
Suicide Risk	2.59	3.39	0.8	2.59	3.32	0.73
Aggression	2.15	3.12	0.97	2.12	3.15	1.03
Co morbid Psychiatric Disorders	1.93	2.95	1.02	1.85	2.9	1.05
Average Change			0.80			0.85
<i>Not at all (1), Small Amount (2), Moderate Amounts (3), Great Deal (4)</i>						

Treatment:

"I am knowledgeable/comfortable with treating the following disorder or symptom..."	Knowledge		Change	Comfort		Change
	Pre (n=41)	Post (n=41)		Pre (n=41)	Post (n=41)	
ADHD	2.93	3.54	0.61	2.9	3.66	0.76
Anxiety Disorder	2.78	3.61	0.83	2.68	3.54	0.86
Major Depressive Disorder	2.78	3.61	0.83	2.71	3.61	0.9
Bipolar Disorder	1.66	2.66	1	1.41	2.49	1.08
Conduct Disorder	1.56	2.78	1.22	1.59	2.66	1.07
Autism and Autism Spectrum	1.95	2.54	0.59	1.9	2.44	0.54
Suicide Risk	2.39	3.33	0.94	2.32	3.2	0.88
Aggression	1.85	3.05	1.2	1.73	2.9	1.17
Co morbid Psychiatric Disorders	1.71	2.98	1.27	1.68	2.85	1.17
Average Change			0.94			0.94
<i>Not at all (1), Small Amount (2), Moderate Amounts (3), Great Deal (4)</i>						

Comments from participating providers include:

- “[The training] teaches clinicians how to improve patient care and implement what we learn in a way that is actually practical.”
- “The REACH training helped me hone not only basic mental health care skills, but greatly increased my confidence as a provider to tackle more complicated cases that I may have otherwise referred.”
- “This was a wonderful training- all the educators did a great job and I loved how they were so positive about our participation in being there and asking questions. Thank you!”
- “It was very helpful. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow my knowledge for my patients”
- “Priceless training for any providers that care for children.”

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project #: 25840224

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Subaward is to provide education and training to pediatric mental health providers throughout Nebraska as a means to coordinate the complex mental health needs of children.

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Funding amount: \$1,800,000

Project Overview

For over a decade, Children’s has integrated mental health in our primary care offices, bridging any gaps our families would have to accessing mental health services. Our outcomes prove this model is beneficial and highly effective for our patients. With the \$1.8 million investment from the Legislature, Children’s is working on supporting primary care offices and providers across the state with the knowledge, resources, and technology to be connected virtually to a pediatric trained mental health professional, generating efficient and equitable access to mental health care in Nebraska.

Use of Evidence

The key goals of this project include:

1. Provide mental health education and training for providers through Children’s Outreach & Provider Education (COPE), formerly Project TEACH, to help treat children with these needs in their own community.
2. Increase the number of providers treating the mental health conditions of children and youth in Nebraska.
3. Provide timely access to expert mental health practitioners via telemedicine for primary care providers as needed to serve children with mental health needs.
4. Serve as a resource to pediatric primary care providers in Nebraska for best practices in treating mental health in children.
5. Create a data repository on the types of consults requested to define trends, patterns, and areas of future support.

COPE has been modeled and informed by New York’s Project TEACH, an evidence-based model that has been cited in over 12 peer-reviewed articles. Within the model, its components are also evidence-based including:

- Screening and Rating Tools: Only evidence-based, open sources screening tools are available for any provider accessing the platform. The platform offers approximately 75 tools and rating scales for use by PCP’s.
- Telehealth Services: Access to a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
- E-consults: Provided for PCP’s with a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
- Education: PCP training materials and curriculum

Performance Report

Key Activities and Status Update

Activity	Timeline				Timeline Status
	Y1 - 2022	Y2 - 2023	Y3 - 2024	Q4 - 2025	
Model Research & Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review literature and model • Preliminary stakeholder discussions • Staffing considerations • Train initial 3 providers as a trial 	X				Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined National Network of Child Psychiatry Access Programs (NNCPAP), a collaborative of 38 states with like programs, to ensure best-practice and share lessons learned. • Engaged Nebraska AAP, ROCAP, AAFP-NE, NHA, NMA and others to define training needs of PCPs, and build buy-in for COPE programming.

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PCPs attending Project TEACH’s intensive training in October 2022 to review curriculum and observe the learning experience of PCPs within the program. • Identified the program’s Medical Director, Dr. Jennifer McWilliams, a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist.
Formalize partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of service and program needs • Clarify roles among partners • Draft contracts/MOU’s 	X	X			Completed <p>Three key partners identified, and contracts executed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project TEACH</i>: COPE is using Project TEACH’s framework, and is using Dr. David Kaye and Dr. Victor Fornari, the founders of Project TEACH, as consultants throughout the development of COPE. • <i>REACH Institute</i>: COPE’s education partner for intensive trainings is the REACH Institute, a nationally known organization specializing in educating primary care providers for treatment mental health conditions. • <i>Trayt Health</i>: Trayt’s platform was designed to support pediatric psychiatry access programs and serves as the ‘gold-standard’ nationally for data collection and communication.
Partner Visit & Stakeholder Communications (Planning Phase) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate partner visit • Host stakeholder discussions • Deliver Grand Rounds • Facilitate focus groups • Cohort 1 recruitment 	X	X			Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Pediatric Mental Health Champion meetings continue to disseminate information and seek input for program offerings. • Engaged professional organizations throughout the state to support PCP recruitment and promotion of COPE. • Successfully recruited 45 PCPs to participate COPE first cohort for intensive training May 5-7 in Omaha.
Program Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and review operating practices and policies • Finalize job descriptions • Hire staff • On-board and train staff 	X	X			In-progress (60% complete) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COPE Program Manager job description was finalized, and Paige Tuttle, LICSW, was hired June 19, 2023, as the program’s first full-time

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craft workflows, resource guides, and referral network documentation. • Create Nebraska-specific core trainings, educational materials, and resources 					<p>employee. On-boarding is currently underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently crafting promotional and outreach materials in partnership with Children’s Marketing department. • Currently scheduling meetings with key stakeholders to explore additional partnership opportunities, to promote COPE’s formal launch in August 2023, and to seek input regarding topics for the program’s first core trainings.
<p>Operational Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize sustainability plan • Legal Requirements (consent, liability) • Identify and expand Learning Management System • Identify platform and website host • Select platform for provider communication and data collection • Secure licenses and agreements • Contract with program evaluator to measure program impact • Finalize operating schedule & calendar 	X	X			<p>In-progress (80% complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafted COPE’s business plan, and will begin discussions in August 2023 with Behavioral Health Regions, MCOs and private insurers to explore long-term sustainability. • Program Agreement finalized in partnership with Legal Department, and finalized platform build with Trayt, which will serve as evaluation software and communication tools for PCPs. • Operating schedule finalized, and back-up pediatric psychiatry provider identified and trained to cover PTO. • Website under construction in partnership with Marketing Department.

Activity	Timeline				Timeline Status
	Y1 - 2022	Y2 - 2023	Y3 - 2024	Q4 - 2025	
<p>Implementation Kick-off & Stakeholder Communication (Implementation Phase)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Training, Cohort 1 • Website build and testing • Customize educational offerings to NE providers • Initiate core trainings to support PCP recruitment • Communicate and market services and supports throughout NE. • Build awareness and buy-in with PCP’s 		X			<p>In-Progress (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Training, cohort 1 completed May 5-7, training 45 PCPs in Nebraska. • Communication plan being finalized to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COPE launch August 2023 ○ Program promotion ○ Recruitment for cohort 2 in October 2023 • Meeting with professional organizations in anticipation of launch,

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch referral and linkage services • Expand e-consult offerings 					and to coordination communication and promotions.
<p>Launch: Full Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort 1 Learning Collaborative & follow-up discussions • Launch referral and linkage services • Expand Core Trainings statewide • Assess PCP satisfaction and appropriate adjustments • Schedule & recruit for 2024 Intensive Trainings 		X			<p>In-Progress (40% complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort 1 Learning Collaborative underway with bi-weekly via ECHO through November 2023. • First PCP evaluation completed, and outcomes shared with funders and key stakeholders regarding Cohort 1 intensive training. • Planning meeting scheduled July 17 with REACH Institute to finalize 2024 intensive training schedule.
<p>Program Expansion: 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cohorts – complete Intensive Trainings and Learning Collaborative discussions • E-consults provided for trained PCP’s • Expand e-consults statewide • Referral and linkage services expanded to new partners • Core Trainings offered statewide • On-going development of training content and related curriculum 			X		Not Started
<p>Program Expansion: 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three cohorts – complete Intensive Trainings and Learning Collaborative Discussions • Continued expansion of e-consults • Continued expansion of referral and linkage services • Continued expansion of core trainings • On-going development of training content and related curriculum 				X	Not Started

State of Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

N/A

Uses of Funds

Department of Agriculture: There was included in the appropriation to this program for FY2021-22 \$10,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$9,875,000 Federal Funds for the Independent Processor Assistance Program, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$125,000 Federal Funds for a dairy industry study, which shall only be used for such purpose. Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Agriculture: Independent Processors Assistance Program (IPAP) –

The current use of funds is to provide direct aid to meat-processing small businesses throughout the state. All applicants need to submit eligibility paperwork to show that they are processing facilities with existing sales revenue less than \$2.5 million, and they must employ fewer than 25 people.

Agriculture: Dairy Industry Study – N/A

Community Engagement

N/A

Labor Practices

N/A

Use of Evidence

Agriculture: IPAP - The goal is to facilitate improvements, enhancements, or expansions that will increase harvest capacity and/or product through-put for independent meat processors throughout the state impacted by COVID. These SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Agriculture: Dairy Study - The goal is to identify key factors and policies to enhance growth and development in the Nebraska Dairy Industry to provide a more stable and resilient food supply. These SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Agriculture: IPAP - We intend to evaluate the final reports from grantees to measure the impact of these funds on market access, supply chain strength, workforce development, and production capacity across Nebraska. This project primarily serves small independent meat processors who were disproportionately affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agriculture: Dairy Study - The study is currently in process. We intend to evaluate the final analysis for completeness, relevance, insight, and actionable recommendations.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project 18031003: Independent Processor Assistance Program

Funding amount: \$9,875,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview

- The Independent Processor Assistance Program provides aid to small meat processors within Nebraska to mitigate the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; addresses supply chain disruptions, increases processing capacity, expands market access, and facilitates workforce development. Eligible expenses by beneficiaries of each grant include capital improvements, upgrades to utilities, livestock intake and storage equipment, packaging and handling equipment, warehouse equipment, technology that allows increase to capacity or resilience, rental of buildings & facilities, costs for increased inspections, and educational and workforce training. Round one of funding provided up to \$80,000 for reimbursement or advance to eligible firms and additional rounds of funding will be completed before June 30, 2024.

Use of Evidence

- The goal is to facilitate improvements, enhancements, or expansions that will increase harvest capacity and/or product through-put for independent meat processors throughout the state impacted by COVID. These SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- We intend to evaluate the final reports from grantees to measure the impact of these funds on market access, supply chain strength, workforce development, and production capacity across Nebraska. This project primarily serves small independent meat processors who were disproportionately affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project 18031002: Dairy Study

Funding amount: \$125,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.36 Aid to Other Impacted Industries

Project Overview

- The purpose of the Nebraska Dairy Study is to conduct an analysis of the opportunities facing the Nebraska Dairy Industry, Nebraska resource availability, producer and processor perspectives, historical trends, and current conditions and to provide

recommendations to ensure the viability and mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding has been allocated for the current State fiscal year, ending June 30, 2024.

Use of Evidence

- The goal is to identify key factors and policies to enhance growth and development in the Nebraska Dairy Industry to provide a more stable and resilient food supply. These SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- The study is currently in process. We intend to evaluate the final analysis for completeness, relevance, insight, and actionable recommendations.

State of Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Corrections

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Nebraska Department of Corrections (NDCS) has 11 facilities that house over 5500 incarcerated individuals. Since April 4, 2020, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services had over 120 incarcerated individuals and staff members test positive for COVID-19 within their facilities. Activities within this project relate to provisions of adequate staffing needed during the COVID-19 Pandemic to maintain a safe and secure environment within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Service facilities.

Uses of Funds

NDCS completed the SLFRF Program created to address staffing needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All available funds were claimed in program year 2022.

Premium Pay (EC4): It is the goal of NDCS to maintain staffing levels conducive to mitigating the threat of COVID-19 to the health and safety of staff and the incarcerated individuals with our facilities. Premium pay is available to much of the staff, those in direct contact with incarcerated individuals as well as support staff needed to maintain services.

NDCS has a complex staff with interrelated duties. Correctional officers partner with social workers, nurses, and administrative staff to keep the facilities safe and functioning. In addition, there are housekeeping, maintenance, and food service workers striving to provide basic needs for incarcerated individuals.

Priority has been given to those with the most direct contact with inmates as well as those supporting their efforts.

Promoting equitable outcomes

NDCS completed the SLFRF Program created to address staffing needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All available funds were claimed in program year 2022.

- a. Goals: For several years prior to April 4, 2020, NDCS was struggling with overcrowded prisons and understaffing at those facilities. This resulted in many staff members working extended overtime in order to maintain staff levels at the facilities. The resulting stress led to staff burnout and acerbated personnel turnover. COVID-19 compounded our efforts to maintain staffing. The goal of NDCS is to stop the constant churn of employees. These funds have helped to stabilize the workforce, reduce training costs, as well as overtime expenditures. Ultimately this leads to better safekeeping of incarcerated individuals as well as protecting the public.*
- b. Awareness: The Nebraska State Legislature apportioned the funding to NDCS. Legislative sessions were open to the public for hearings and questions.*
- c. Access and Distribution: Premium Pay is only awarded for actual hours worked. Leave time is not rewarded. This offers additional incentive to avoid excessive leave usage.*

- d. *Outcomes: These funds have provided much needed relief to our staffing situation. We have been able to fill most vacancies in a short amount of time. Recruitment is at an all-time high, with individuals signing on from several states. We have kept our standards high throughout this time and believe we are well on our way to having not just a functional workforce, but a superior one.*

Community Engagement

NDCS completed the SLFRF Program created to address staffing needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All available funds were claimed in program year 2022.

Labor Practices

NDCS completed the SLFRF Program created to address staffing needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All available funds were claimed in program year 2022.

Use of Evidence

NDCS completed the SLFRF Program created to address staffing needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All available funds were claimed in program year 2022. These SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

NDCS completed the SLFRF Program created to address staffing needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All available funds were claimed in program year 2022.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project: Premium Pay

Funding amount: \$20,262,543

Project Expenditure Category: Premium Pay

Project Overview

- *Activities within this project relate to provisions of adequate staffing needed during the COVID-19 Pandemic to maintain a safe and secure environment within the Nebraska Department of Correctional Service facilities*

Use of Evidence

- *These SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions.*

Performance Report

- *These funds have provided much needed relief to our staffing situation. We have been able to fill most vacancies in a short amount of time. Recruitment is at an all-time high, with individuals signing on from several states. We have kept our standards high throughout this time and believe we are well on our way to having not just a functional workforce, but a superior one.*

State of Nebraska

Nebraska Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF)

PROMOTING SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES SPECIFIC TO STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF
OR HARD OF HEARING

THE NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE
OF SPECIAL EDUCATION



Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Statute 84-901.03, this guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document. For comments regarding this document contact nde.guidance@nebraska.gov.

Promoting supports for students with disabilities specific to students who are Deaf or hard of hearing through Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF)

The needs of children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing are diverse, ranging from a need for access supports to highly specialized instruction. For all children, and especially children who are deaf or hard of hearing, there are windows of opportunity for learning that should be maximized. When children, along with their families, are supported with appropriate language and learning opportunities that address the nuances of their hearing status, most will thrive and achieve their chosen educational and occupational aspirations.

LB 1014 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) Appropriations

As part of LB 1014e, the legislation stipulates the following requirements to ensure federal compliance, accountability, and reporting obligations are met:

1. *“All grants utilizing Federal Funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund shall meet the eligible uses under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and any relevant guidance on the use of such funds by the United States Department of the Treasury.” (Page 2, section 10, 1st paragraph)*
1. *“Each agency, board, or commission shall complete guidance documents related to the distribution of the Federal Funds appropriated pursuant to this act within sixty days after the effective date of this act.” (Page 2, section 10, 2nd paragraph)*

Appropriate and quality learning opportunities should exist for all children. The education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing requires specialized programs, and appropriately certified personnel with effective communication skills. Appropriate and quality learning experiences for children who are deaf or hard of hearing should accommodate not only their disabilities but should also recognize and build on their unique strengths and learning styles.

The communication and language environments for children who are deaf or hard of hearing must be varied and rich. The individual communication and language needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing may present special challenges during naturally occurring interactions. All

communication modes and languages are to be provided for and respected, whether oral/aural language or manual language, whether American Sign Language or English signing systems, regardless of the type or use of hearing assistive technology (i.e. cochlear implant, hearing aids, etc.). Early identification followed by timely and appropriate intervention must form a safety net of support around all programs and services if quality and equity are to be made a reality for all. The state system is a distinct yet fluid network of connected options that allow students to move to appropriate programs and receive services as needs and circumstances change, all of which are determined by the student's IFSP or IEP team.

LB 1014 reads in Section 13:

There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23 \$1,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose.

The State Department of Education shall spend the funds appropriated in this section exclusively for programs and interpreters that provide services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing in the following manner: (1) \$300,000 for equipment; (2) \$300,000 for service; and (3) \$400,000 for an enhanced educational interpreter training and mentoring program.

To ensure the continued progress is made on reaching the goals set forth in the NDE State Plan: Statewide Educational Programs and Support Services for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and that the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) Appropriations are used to enhance the progress towards these goals, the NDE, Office of Special Education has developed the following outline for planning for use of funds.

Developing Stakeholder Input Plan for obligations of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) appropriations.

The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education will hold several stakeholder engagement activities to garner feedback on the use of each fiscal appropriation. These activities will include, but are not limited to; stakeholder engagement activities, meetings with advocacy and support agencies, needs assessments conducted of state-level programs and district-level programs, and surveys of families and parents.

\$300,000 – Services:

Qualified providers are critical to a child's success. Early intervention providers must have core knowledge and skills to assist families in promoting language development and other pertinent developmental growth for their infants and toddlers. Teachers of students who are deaf or hard of hearing, speech-language pathologists, educational interpreters, educational audiologists and other specialized instructional support personnel must meet professional standards that include minimal qualifications and ongoing performance monitoring. State and local education agencies should provide professional development and training specific to the needs of infants, toddlers and students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Without qualified staff and appropriate support services, the ability of children to achieve appropriate outcomes is jeopardized.

The NDE, Office of Special Education will be conducting a needs assessment in collaboration with The NDE, OSE - Deaf or Hard of Hearing Regional Programs to see what services are needed or training for service providers are needed in each of the regions. A survey of parents, families, and service providers will also be conducted to see what additional supports are needed to support families in understanding services that are available through the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act for students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Timeline: Needs Assessment and Survey will be conducted by October 2022.

\$300,000 – Equipment:

There are many devices and systems available to assist individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in accessing the environment. Some devices convey information visually, and some devices enhance auditory information. There are a variety of Hearing Assistive Technologies, referred to as HATS, designed to overcome distance, background noise, and reverberation. Some of the assistive listening devices most commonly used are Frequency Modulation systems, called FM systems, Infrared systems, Audio Induction Loop systems, and other accessories to couple hearing aids to media such as phones, music players, computers, and tablet devices. There are also a variety of assistive visual technologies including visual alerting devices, technologies to convert spoken language to text, and technologies to support telecommunication.

The NDE, Office of Special Education will be conducting a needs assessment in collaboration with The NDE, Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) to capture a statewide picture of what needs for equipment are currently present in the state. Currently D/HH equipment run through the NDE, Office of Special Education Regional Programs, allowing for regional equipment needs to be met. The NDE, Office of Special Education will work with ATP to build out a statewide repository of all equipment specific to supports for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing purchased with CSFRF funds as well as the equipment that is intended for statewide distribution and loan within school districts. ATP in coordination with The NDE, Office of Special Education Regional Programs will gather information regarding current equipment in the regions to ensure that appropriate purchases of new or updated equipment is being purchased for districts to utilize in a loan fashion for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Timeline: Needs Assessment will be conducted by October 2022.

\$400,000 – Educational Mentoring Support:

Interpreter mentorship programs have been created to address the increased demand for high quality interpretation services and the need for ongoing support for new and experienced interpreters. ASL/English interpretation is a complex social-linguistic task. The NCIEC states that “interpreting takes a high level of fluency in each language, keen ability to focus on what is being said, vast world knowledge, and professional, ethical conduct.” The National Association of Interpreters (NAIE) in Education Guidelines cite an array of professional competencies needed by ASL/English interpreters, including proficiencies in use of American Sign Language and English; broad liberal arts knowledge; critical thinking and problem solving skills; appreciation of diversity and cross-cultural competence; knowledge in social and behavioral science, linguistics and communication; understanding of theories of interpretation and translation, human resources, professional ethics, and certification; and stress and health management.

Increased demand for qualified ASL/English interpretation led to growth of professional training opportunities for aspiring as well as working interpreters. However, the interpreting community’s efforts to increase the numbers and availability of qualified ASL/English interpreters met with several challenges:

- Time lag between new interpreters’ graduation from an interpreter preparation program and their attaining national certification
- A skills gap, including the level of ASL proficiency, among new and working interpreters
- Need for more professional development opportunities and networking support for interpreters
- Alternative entry pathways into professional interpreting, often by members of diverse racial/ethnic groups
- Lack of awareness of the role and acceptance of Deaf interpreters
- Lack of persistence in or dropping out of the interpreting profession

For students who are deaf who are attending school in general education settings, the provision of an educational interpreter is an important accommodation. The demand for educational interpreters has soared in recent years and has paralleled the increase in the number so students who are deaf who are attending local schools. Rapid growth in the field of educational interpreting has resulted in a shortage of well-prepared interpreters, a situation that is even worse in rural settings. Many individuals employed as interpreters have not completed formal preparation through interpreter preparation programs, and even fewer still have had appropriate training for employment in

educational settings. The paucity of interpreters, coupled with the concern about the quality of interpretation puts a high emphasis on the need to “grow your own” in rural and high shortage areas.

One way of addressing these challenges is through the design and implementation of interpreter mentoring programs to support new interpreters, interpreters from diverse populations, Deaf interpreters, and working interpreters seeking professional growth.

Beyond formal postsecondary interpreter preparation programs, interpreter mentoring programs are particularly suited to fostering refined skills and deeper understanding and sensitivities that come only through guided practice, feedback from other interpreters, and self-assessment in increasingly challenging situations.

The NDE, Office of Special Education currently administers 2 activities funded through the IDEA-Part B 611 Discretionary Funding made available to the state to support Educational Mentoring support.

The NDE, Office of Special Education will scale up the current activities with the CSFRF funds to enhance the current mentoring projects.

Current Activities:

1. TASK12 – Training and Assessment Systems for K-12 Educational Sign Language Interpreters (IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.18 and 300.34)

a. Goals:

- i.** Provide oversight to the overall TASK12 Project, budget, and Advisory Board.
- ii.** Administer the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) for educational sign language interpreters to improve their services for children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- iii.** Provide comprehensive State reports from assessment data.
- iv.** Provide access to training modules for educational sign language interpreters.

b. Activities and Deliverables:

- i.** TASK12 will provide networking and support to elevate the quality of services being provided by sign language interpreters in K-12 settings. Each member State has a representative who serves on the TASK12 Advisory Board to provide guidance and direction for the TASK12 project. The TASK12 project will administer assessments for K-12 educational sign language interpreters at a location in Nebraska.
- ii.** TASK12 staff will collect and save data from the assessment results as measured by the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) of the Boys Town National Research Hospital. This data will be used to create and submit comprehensive reports which help States target the necessary supervision, intervention, support, and training for their interpreters.
- iii.** The Advisory Board will meet annually to receive reports on TASK12 activities and provide recommendations for improvements.
- iv.** TASK12 will provide access to all available, self-directed, online, training modules for K-12 educational sign language interpreters Statewide during this contract period.

c. Project Activities:

- i.** TASK12 staff will work under the direction of the appointed State Special Education Services (SES) staff member.
- ii.** TAESE will facilitate assessments for all interested educational interpreters from Local Education Agencies (LEAs) Statewide.
- iii.** TAESE will provide the SES a comprehensive report of data collected from all the Nebraska assessment results.
- iv.** TAESE will coordinate and conduct an annual TASK12 Advisory Board meeting where members can provide recommendations of improvement and growth for

the TASK12 project. TASK12 staff will report on related project data and activities to the Advisory Board during the meeting. Each member State will be represented at the Advisory Board meeting by a person of their choice.

- v. Maintain and facilitate a TASK12 Advisory Board listserv for the purpose of ongoing communication among Board members.
- vi. TAESE will coordinate and oversee activities related to assessment registration, data collection, assessment administration, State reporting, and the Advisory Board.
- vii. TAESE will provide access to all available self-directed online training modules for K-12 educational sign language interpreters Statewide with the option to earn continuing education credit.

d. Outcomes:

- i. Interpreters will have the opportunity to take the EIPA for their skills to be evaluated to establish strengths and areas for improvement to target the necessary supervision, support, and training for them.
- ii. Resources will be collaborated together through the network of the multi-State Advisory Board.
- iii. Interpreters will have access to a rich array of professional development opportunities to improve language and interpreting competency.
- iv. Overall interpreting services will improve for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**2. TASK12 Mentoring for Sign Language Interpreters
(IDEA Regulations CFR 34.300.18 and 34.300.34)**

a. Goal: Enhance the signing skills of school-based sign language interpreters in Nebraska through onsite and virtual mentoring.

b. Activities:

- i. TASK12 staff and the Nebraska TASK12 Board representative will conference together to discuss and refine the training and mentoring activities.
- ii. Nebraska will serve as a mentoring pilot State to provide support to their sign language interpreters and help sustain their signing skills.
- iii. If needed, and if the interpreters meet the 3.0-3.9 EIPA standard, interpreters will participate in a TIPS cohort to help them continue to improve their signing.
- iv. TASK12 staff and Nebraska SEA staff will work together in developing and implementing virtual mentoring services for 5-9 other qualified interpreters in the State.

c. Outcomes:

- i. TASK12 staff and the Nebraska Advisory Board representative will communicate and network with each other during each training and mentoring activity.
- ii. Nebraska interpreters (5-9) will receive training and virtual mentoring services to help sustain and improve their signing skills.

In addition to the current projects, The NDE, Office of Special Education will be developing an online submission process where individuals or agencies can submit project proposals to enhance education interpreter training and mentoring programs in Nebraska that are aligned to the following priority goals.

Priority Goals:

- I.** Provide for development of and/or access to training modules for educational sign language interpreters
- II.** Enhance the signing skills of school-based sign language interpreters in Nebraska through onsite and virtual mentoring.
- III.** Provide opportunities for providers to network on Low Incidence issues.

The scale up of current projects will enhance the ability to meet goals II and III, however, there is a great need to continue to enhance the ability to attract and prepare individuals to the Educational Interpreting profession and then support the individual to becoming a highly qualified educational interpreter, goal I.

To continue to ensure meeting goals II and III there is continued need to support Educational Interpreters through mentoring and professional development to ensure they meet requirements. Currently 92 NAC 51 requires the following for Qualified Educational Sign Language Interpreters:

010.06A In order to be a qualified educational sign language interpreter for the purposes of 92 NAC 51-010.06, an individual must have a high school diploma, high school equivalency diploma or higher, and meet the requirements of 92 NAC 51-010.06A1 or 010.06A2:

010.06A1 Receive a passing score on the EIPA written exam, and attain and maintain one or more of the following competency levels as measured by the following assessments:

010.06A1a Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA), Competency level 4.0 or above

010.06A1b Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf Certification (RID)

010.06A1c National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Competency level 4.0 or above

010.06A1d National Interpreter Certification (NIC)

010.06A1e Quality Assurance Screening Test (QAST) Competency level 4.0

Additional scale up of the current educational interpreter mentoring and professional learning opportunities will assist districts in providing for individuals to meet these requirements.

Projects can be submitted that meet one or more of the priority goals, with each goal area being met scoring higher in the selection process. Projects will be selected based on scoring within a rubric regarding the alignment to enhance goals, project proposed costs, and ability to sustain the project beyond funding opportunities within regions.

Activity Timeline

Year	Year 1 – FY2021-22 July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022	Year 2 – FY2022- 23 July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023	Activity/Funding Update	Year 3 – FY2023-24 July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024	Year 4 – FY2024-25 July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
All	Development of Project Activities and Guidance Document related to the distribution of the Federal Funds – will be completed by June 13, 2022	Stakeholder Engagement – October 2022 through February 2023 Development of State Plan for use of funds – February 2023 through April 2023	Stakeholder Engagement Complete State Plan (use of funds) currently under development	Obligate all funds and begin State Plan – July 2023 through June 2024 Monitor Progress on State Plan - July 2023 through June 2024	Expend funds and evaluate State Plan
Services		Needs Assessment and Survey for use of funds re: Services - will be conducted by October 2022	Needs Assessment Completed March 15 – Stakeholder meeting to approve service/training contracts/sub- grants.	Obligate funds based on State Plan for use of funds - July 2023 through June 2024	

Equipment		Needs Assessment will be conducted by October 2022	<p>Completed</p> <p>Obligated to Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) \$20,000.00</p> <p>March 15 – Stakeholder meeting to approve equipment contracts/sub-grants.</p>	Obligate funds based on State Plan for use of funds - July 2023 through June 2024	
Mentoring		<p>Scale up of current activities – July 2022 through June 2023</p> <p>Development of Project Proposal Process – June 2022 through October 2022</p> <p>Deploy Call for Project Proposals – October 2022 through December 2022</p>	<p>Current Activity Obligations –</p> <p>TASK12 Mentoring for Sign Language Interpreters - \$21,000.00</p> <p>TASK12 – Training and Assessment Systems for K-12 Educational Sign Language Interpreters - \$11,306.00</p>	Obligate funds based on State Plan for use of funds	

		<p>Form Review Committee – October 2022</p> <p>Review Submitted Project Proposals – November 2022 through January 2023</p> <p>Announcement of Project awards – February 2023</p> <p>State Plan for use of funds from selected projects – March 2023 – June 2023</p>	<p>Review Committee is finalizing the selection of project proposals with a February 28, 2023 anticipated announcement of those projects selected.</p>		
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The Nebraska Department of Education intends the following uses of the funds, supporting a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

Amount:	Intended Use:	Timeframe:
\$300,000	Selection of Specific Services that can be enhanced to support students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing or training on services provided to service providers based on Needs Assessment.	Purchases or Contracts entered into for the 2023-24/2024-25 School Year(s).
\$300,000	Selection of Specific Equipment that can be enhanced to support students who are Deaf of Hard of Hearing or training on equipment provided to service providers based on Needs Assessment.	Purchases or Contracts entered into for the 2023-24/2024-25 School Year(s).
\$400,000	Selection of Projects to support students who are Deaf of Hard of Hearing regarding Educational Mentoring Support.	Purchases or Contracts entered into for the 2023-24/2024-25 School Year(s).

How is this eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)? As referenced in SLFRP final rule, pages 6-7, “an expanded set of households and communities are “impacted” or “disproportionately impacted” by the pandemic, thereby allowing recipients to provide responses to a broad set of households and entities without requiring additional analysis. Further, the final rule provides a broader set of enumerated eligible uses available for these communities as part of COVID-19 public health and economic response, including making affordable housing, childcare, and early learning services eligible in all impacted communities.

Infants, toddlers, and students who are deaf and hard of hearing often face significant barriers to receiving effective communication accommodations in educational settings. Effective communication in educational settings between students/families and their providers is critical for improved outcomes for students with disabilities. Complex, sensitive, and vital information is often conveyed in educational settings, and effective communication is essential to ensure that all information shared is understood clearly by all parties. But a lack of effective communication remains a significant barrier to education for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition

to the already existing barriers faced by the deaf and hard of hearing in educational settings in normal times, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted all aspects of educational services, poses additional issues for this population.

Barriers to effective communication, which exist across educational settings, include providers and staff not having the requisite knowledge of what is required of them by federal law and regulations and protocols that assume a “one-size-fits-all” approach to effective communication across most situations. The cost of providing services, and staff not understanding what services may aid in effective communication or how to access those services, also pose challenges. When facing barriers to effective communication, deaf or hard of hearing individuals often experience dissatisfaction with their education, are unable to successfully navigate educational systems, and face negative outcomes.

Ironically, many of the communication challenges posed to the deaf or hard of hearing in educational settings during the COVID-19 pandemic are the result of safety precautions. To slow the spread and reduce the risk of exposure, many educational entities implemented mandated precautions such as the wearing of personal protective equipment including masks; visitation and capacity restrictions, which may limit or eliminate access to in-person sign language interpreters; and increased use of tele education, all of which create communication challenges.

Some individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing rely on lip reading, visual cues, and residual hearing. With the proliferation and common use of face masks during the pandemic, individuals who rely on residual hearing and visual cues to understand others were not be able to do so if the person they were communicating with was wearing a mask. Since a mask covers the mouth and much of the face, it takes away the ability to observe lip movement and facial expressions. For infants, toddlers, and students who wear hearing aids, mask wearing also posed challenges; both masks and hearings aids are worn around the ears, and when wearing a mask, deaf or hard of hearing individuals who use hearing aids may faced increased discomfort and may even lose their hearing aids.

The switch to remote learning and the need for social distancing continues to limit many kids' ability to interact with their peers in-person. And that lack of in-person engagement has had a social impact on many students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

The Nebraska Department of Education’s use of funds would help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.

Project and Expenditure Report - Quarterly

Period Covered	State Due Date	US Treasury Due Date
April 1 – June 30, 2022	July 18, 2022	July 31, 2022
July 1 – September 30 , 2022	October 17, 2022	October 31, 2022
October 1 – December 31 , 2022	January 16, 2023	January 31, 2023
January 1 – March 31 , 2023	April 17, 2023	April 30, 2023
April 1 – June 30, 2023	July 16, 2023	July 31, 2023
July 1 – September 30, 2023	October 17, 2023	October 31, 2023
October 1 – December 31 , 2023	January 16, 2024	January 31, 2024
January 1 – March 31, 2024	April 15, 2024	April 30, 2024
April 1 – June 30, 2024	July 16, 2024	July 31, 2024
July 1 – September 30, 2024	October 16, 2024	October 31, 2024
October 1 – December 31, 2024	January 16, 2025	January 31, 2025
January 1 – March 31 , 2025	April 15, 2025	April 30, 2025
April 1 – June 30, 2025	July 16, 2025	July 31, 2025
July 1 – September 30, 2025	October 16, 2025	October 31, 2025
October 1 – December 31 , 2025	January 16, 2026	January 31, 2026
January 1 – March 31 , 2026	April 15, 2026	April 30, 2026
April 1 – June 30, 2026	July 16, 2026	July 31, 2026
July 1 – September 30 , 2026	October 16, 2026	October 31, 2026
October 1 – December 31, 2026	March 16, 2027	March 31, 2027

Other Dates of Note:	Due Date
State Guidance Documents Due:	June 13, 2022
Report to Executive Board Due:	July 13, 2022

Note: The administrative expenditures of any agency, board, or commission related to the use of the Federal Funds appropriated pursuant to this act shall not exceed fifteen percent of the Federal Fund appropriation to such agency, board, or commission for such purpose. The expenditures for permanent and temporary salaries and per diems for FY2022-23 as provided for in this act shall not be considered in the basis for continuation funding for any fiscal year of a succeeding biennium.

References

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Resnick, S. The skill gap: Is mentoring the answer? (1990). Conference of Interpreter Trainers, p. 1.

State of Nebraska

**Nebraska Department of Economic
Development**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Intended uses of funding include Building Mental Health Treatment Facilities, Internships and Crime Prevention, County Agricultural Society Grants, Shovel-Ready Capital Projects, Financial Literacy Grants, International Competition Grants, Nuclear Reactor Study, Qualifying Census Tract Affordable Housing and Recovery Grants, Rural Workforce Land Development, Pandemic Relief Housing, Airport Business Park, Meat Processing Infrastructure, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Act (NIFA) LIHTC Pandemic Relief Program, and

Department of Economic Development ARPA Programs: Funding, Obligations, and Expenditures through 06/30/2023				
Program	Expenditure Category	Funding Amount	Amount Obligated as of 6/30/2023	Amount Expended as of 6/30/2023
Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery	2.34		\$ 100,000,000.00	\$ 47,139,243.00
	Total	\$ 100,000,000.00	\$ 100,000,000.00	\$ 47,139,243.00
Airport Business Park Planning Grant	2.34		\$ 800,000.00	\$ -
	Total	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ -
Building Mental Health Treatment Facilities	1.12		\$ 40,000,000.00	\$ 40,000,000.00
	Total	\$ 40,000,000.00	\$ 40,000,000.00	\$ 40,000,000.00
Financial Literacy Grant Program	2.7		\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -
	Total	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -
International Competition Sponsorship Program	2.35		\$ 500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
	Total	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
Internships and Crime Prevention	2.34		\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
	Total	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
Meat Processing Wastewater Pretreatment and Runoff Control Program	5.1		\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ -
	Total	\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ -
Nuclear Plant Siting Feasibility Study Program	5.18		\$ 863,000.00	\$ -
	Total	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 863,000.00	\$ -
Pandemic Relief Housing	2.15		\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ -
	2.18		\$ 1,210,000.00	\$ -
	Total	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ 4,210,000.00	\$ -
Rural Workforce Land Development	2.23		\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -
	Total	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -

Qualifying Census Tract Affordable Housing Program - Metropolitan	2.15		\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ 30,042.81
	Total		\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ 30,042.81
Qualifying Census Tract Affordable Housing - Primary	2.15		\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ -
	Total		\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ -
Refugee Job Training	2.10		\$ 500,000.00	
	Total		\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -
Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Act (NIFA) LIHTC Pandemic Relief Program	2.15		\$ 20,500,000.00	
	Total		\$ 20,500,000.00	\$ -
County Agricultural Society	2.34		\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00
	Total		\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00
QCT Recovery Grants - Greater Nebraska	2.10		\$ 1,868,500.00	\$ -
	2.15		\$ 750,000.00	\$ -
	2.22		\$ 1,550,000.00	\$ -
	2.30		\$ 750,000.00	\$ -
	2.32		\$ 750,000.00	\$ -
	2.33		\$ 750,000.00	\$ -
	2.34		\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -
	2.35		\$ 81,500.00	\$ -
	5.1		\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -
	5.2		\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -
	Total		\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -
	QCT Recovery Grants - Lincoln	2.10		\$ 3,625,000.00
2.18			\$ 3,125,000.00	\$ -
2.21			\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -
2.35			\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ -
Total			\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ 634,549.48
Grand Total	Total		\$ 273,800,000.00	\$ 269,373,000.00
				\$ 93,353,835.29

Uses of Funds

Programs from LB1014

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Industrial Recruitment. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$10,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown to this program for FY2022-23 \$30,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$10,000,000 Federal Funds for capital construction grants to build mental health care and education capacity, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$30,000,000 Federal Funds for capital construction grants to build mental health care and education capacity, which shall only be used for such purpose. Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not be restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Industrial Recruitment. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$500,000 Federal Funds for the purpose of awarding major sponsorship grants for international competitions to be hosted in Nebraska that are recognized by an international governing body. Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not be restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Industrial Recruitment. There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23 \$1,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$1,000,000 Federal Funds for distribution to a political subdivision that owns or operates a nuclear power plant in Nebraska. Such political subdivision shall use the funds appropriated in this section to conduct a feasibility study to assess (1) siting options for new advanced nuclear reactors throughout Nebraska and (2) existing electric generation facilities based on key compatibility assets for such advanced nuclear reactors. Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not be restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Industrial Recruitment. There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2021-22 3 \$50,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23 \$50,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$50,000,000 Federal Funds for grants to capital projects eligible under the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount show as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$50,000,000 Federal Funds for grants to capital projects eligible under the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act, which shall only be used

for such purpose. It is the intent of the Legislature that, in addition to the requirements of the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act, the Department of Economic Development shall divide total appropriations, including any General Fund appropriations, for grants to capital projects eligible under the act equally by each congressional district and give priority to grant requests less than or equal to \$5,000,000. After eligible grantees with priority status have been awarded grant funds, remaining funds may be awarded on a statewide basis with the department considering each project based on the overall economic impact of the project to the respective community and the overall benefit to the State of Nebraska. It is the intent of the Legislature that the department make reasonable adjustments to dates and deadlines and request additional documentation pursuant to any requirements for use of Federal Funds received pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not be restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Industrial Recruitment. There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23 22 \$20,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$20,000,000 Federal Funds for wastewater pretreatment and runoff control for meat processing plant site development, which shall only be used for such purpose. Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not be restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Community and Rural Development. There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2021-22 \$21,500,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23 \$18,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for such purpose. (2)(a) There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$6,000,000 Federal Funds for grants to prepare land parcels pursuant to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$4,000,000 Federal Funds for grants to prepare land parcels pursuant to the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act. (b) For purposes of this subsection, preparing land parcels shall include: (i) Laying of drinking water transmission lines; (ii) Rehabilitation, renovation, maintenance, or costs to secure vacant or abandoned properties in disproportionately impacted communities; (iii) Costs associated with acquiring and securing legal title of vacant or abandoned properties in disproportionately impacted communities and other costs to position the property for current or future use for the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act; (iv) Removal and remediation of environmental contaminants or hazards from vacant or abandoned properties in disproportionately impacted communities, when conducted in compliance with applicable environmental laws or regulations; (v) Demolition or deconstruction of vacant or abandoned buildings in disproportionately impacted communities; and (vi) Costs associated with inspection fees and other administrative costs incurred to ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations for demolition or other remediation activities in disproportionately impacted communities. (3) There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$10,500,000 Federal Funds to contract with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, as

described in the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Act, for development of affordable housing units eligible for federal four and nine percent low-income housing tax credit programs. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$10,000,000 Federal Funds to contract with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, as described in the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Act, for development of affordable housing units eligible for federal four and nine percent low-income housing tax credit programs. (4)(a) There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$4,000,000 Federal Funds for grants to nonprofit organizations that develop affordable housing, including housing for refugees and other such immigrants. There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2022-23 \$4,000,000 Federal Funds for grants to nonprofit organizations that develop affordable housing, including housing for refugees and other such immigrants. (b) The Department of Economic Development shall create a program in accordance with the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 42 U.S.C. 802, for the purpose of awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that develop affordable housing, including housing for refugees and other such immigrants. Housing developed under this program shall be for households with an income at or below 185% of the most recent poverty guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and shall include housing located in disproportionately impacted geographies or directed towards disproportionately impacted populations or households, including, but not limited to, those in a qualified census tract, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), as such section existed on January 1, 2022. (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that at least one-half of the funds distributed pursuant to this subsection (4) be awarded as grants to organizations located in counties with a population of fewer than 100,000 residents as determined by the most recent federal decennial census. (5) There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for FY2021-22 \$1,000,000 Federal Funds for job training and placement grants to nonprofit organizations for employment and employability services for refugees. (6) Expenditures from the appropriation to this program shall not be restricted to state aid if operating and administrative expenditures are necessary to administer the funding appropriated pursuant to this section. In such instances, an agency, board, or commission shall be reimbursed through the Federal Fund appropriation to the Military Department.

Program from LB1024

Section 1. Sections 1 to 7 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Economic Recovery Act.

Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that: (1) The COVID-19 public health emergency has caused widespread economic, social, and public health-related turmoil that deepened existing disparities; (2) The social and economic challenges caused and exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency include high unemployment, wage decreases, increased homelessness, and food insecurity; (3) The impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and related challenges were disproportionately felt in low-income and minority communities such as North Omaha and South Omaha; (4) The social and economic challenges in North Omaha and South Omaha have persisted for multiple generations, partially fueled by past racial segregation and the historical practice known as redlining; (5) Funding under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to respond to the challenges facing North Omaha and South Omaha that have been worsened by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and (6) Federal guidance issued by the United States Department of the Treasury has identified qualified

census tracts as areas in which certain activities and investments will be deemed presumptively eligible for the use of funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Sec. 3. For purposes of the Economic Recovery Act, qualified census tract means a qualified census tract as defined in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), as such section existed on January 1, 2022.

Sec. 4. (1) A primary responsibility of the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division of the Department of Economic Development shall be to utilize federal or state funding to award grants as provided in this section. The division shall develop a coordinated plan and a grant application and scoring process to award grants under subsection (3) of this section. (2) The coordinated plan developed pursuant to this section shall direct and prioritize the use of grants toward the economic recovery of those communities and neighborhoods within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency and related challenges, with an emphasis on housing needs, assistance for small businesses, job training, and business development within such communities and neighborhoods. In prioritizing the use of grants, the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division may rely on any studies produced pursuant to section 5 of this act. Not later than August 1, 2022, the division shall submit a copy of an initial coordinated plan to the Economic Recovery Special Committee of the Legislature. Not later than December 1, 2022, the division shall submit a final copy of such coordinated plan to the Economic Recovery Special Committee of the Legislature. (3)(a) The Economic Recovery and Incentives Division shall create a Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grant Program to provide funding to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts throughout the state to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. (b) Not to exceed ten million dollars in grants shall be distributed under the grant program to eligible grantees in qualified census tracts that are located in a city of the primary class. (c) Not to exceed ten million dollars in grants shall be distributed under the grant program to eligible grantees in qualified census tracts that are located outside of a city of the metropolitan class or a city of the primary class. (d) All remaining funds shall be allocated for grants distributed under the grant program to eligible grantees in qualified census tracts that are located in a city of the metropolitan class, with no less than thirty-five million dollars in such grants allocated to eligible grantees which are located south of Dodge Street and east of 72nd Street in such city and no less than fifty-five million dollars in such grants allocated to eligible grantees which are located north of Dodge Street and east of 72nd Street in such city. Any funds not applied for within such areas may be allocated for grants to eligible grantees in any qualified census tract in such city. (4) In addition to grants under the Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grant Program, the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division shall provide grant funding for the following purposes: (a) Not to exceed sixty million dollars in grants to a nonprofit economic development organization for the development of a business park located within or adjacent to one or more qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class and within two miles of a major airport as defined in section 13-3303; (b) Not to exceed thirty million dollars in grants to one or more innovation hubs located in one or more qualified census tracts and within two miles of a major airport as defined in section 13-3303 providing services and resources within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class; (c) Not to exceed three million dollars in grants in fiscal year 2022-23 and not to exceed three million dollars in fiscal year 2023-24 to a nonprofit organization partnering with a city of the metropolitan class for the purpose of providing internships and crime prevention within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of such city; (d) Not to exceed five million dollars in grants pursuant to the purposes of the Nebraska Film Office Fund on or before June 30, 2023,

for the purpose of producing a film on Chief Standing Bear, a portion of which is to be filmed in one or more qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class; (e) Not to exceed twenty million dollars in grants to public or private entities to prepare land parcels for affordable housing or conduct other eligible affordable housing interventions under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 including production, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership units within qualified census tracts which are located in a city of the metropolitan class; (f) Not to exceed twenty million dollars in grants to public or private entities to prepare land parcels for affordable housing or conduct other eligible affordable housing interventions under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 including production, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership units within qualified census tracts which are located in a city of the primary class; (g) Not to exceed five million dollars in grants to a county agricultural society with facilities within a city of the primary class to recoup lost revenue; and (h) Not to exceed one million dollars in grants to a postsecondary institution located in a qualified census tract in a city of the metropolitan class to provide funding for a financial literacy program to improve economic and health outcomes for individuals residing in qualified census tracts. (5) For purposes of subdivisions (4)(e) and (f) of this section, preparing land parcels shall include: (a) Laying drinking water mains, lines, pipes, or channels; (b) Rehabilitation, renovation, maintenance, or other costs to secure vacant or abandoned properties in disproportionately impacted communities; (c) Acquiring and securing legal title of vacant or abandoned properties in disproportionately impacted communities; (d) Removal and remediation of environmental contaminants or hazards from vacant or abandoned properties in disproportionately impacted communities when conducted in compliance with applicable environmental laws or regulations; (e) Demolition or deconstruction of vacant or abandoned buildings in disproportionately impacted communities; and (f) Costs associated with inspection fees and other administrative costs incurred to ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations for demolition or other remediation activities in disproportionately impacted communities. (6) All grants made by the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division utilizing federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 shall meet the eligible uses under such act and any relevant guidance on the use of such funds by the United States Department of the Treasury.

Sec. 5. (1) The Economic Recovery Special Committee of the Legislature is established as a special committee of the Legislature to perform the duties provided in the Economic Recovery Act. The special legislative committee shall consist of the chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature, who shall serve as chairperson of the special legislative committee, the Speaker of the Legislature, the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature or his or her designee, and four other members of the Legislature appointed by the chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The appointed members of the special legislative committee shall include members who represent legislative districts containing one or more qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class. (2) The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall provide staff as required by the special legislative committee from existing legislative staff. In addition, the special legislative committee may hire additional staff, make expenditures for travel, and enter into contracts for consulting, engineering, and development studies. The contracts shall be based on competitive bids and subject to approval of the executive board upon the recommendation of a majority of the members of the special legislative committee. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two million

dollars for fiscal year 2022-23 to carry out this section. (3) The special legislative committee may hold hearings and request and receive reports from the federal government, state agencies, counties, municipalities, and other public and private entities regarding the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on low-income and minority communities in Nebraska. The special legislative committee may hold one or more closed sessions for the receipt of confidential information if at least one-half of the members of the special legislative committee vote in open session to hold a closed session. (4) No later than June 30, 2022, the special legislative committee shall issue a request for proposals for studies on potential eligible uses of funds made available under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 or state funds within or adjacent to qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class. Such studies shall include, but not be limited to, potential eligible uses of such funds in the areas of entrepreneurship, housing, employment, job creation, and small business assistance. Copies of all such studies received by the special legislative committee shall be forwarded to the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division of the Department of Economic Development.

Sec. 6. (1) The Economic Recovery Contingency Fund is created. The fund shall consist of transfers by the Legislature to carry out the Economic Recovery Act. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. (2) No funds shall be expended from the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund until the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division of the Department of Economic Development has submitted a final copy of its coordinated plan to the Economic Recovery Special Committee of the Legislature pursuant to section 4 of this act and to the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services.

Sec. 7. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two hundred fifty million dollars from federal funds for fiscal year 2022-23 to the Department of Economic Development to carry out the Economic Recovery Act. The federal funds described in this subsection are the funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 42 U.S.C. 802, as amended. The department may use not more than ten million dollars of such federal funds for the administration of the Economic Recovery Act. (2) Of the intended appropriation described in subsection (1) of this section, eighty million dollars of such federal funds shall not be expended by the Department of Economic Development until the Economic Recovery and Incentives Division of the department has submitted a final copy of its coordinated plan to the Economic Recovery Special Committee of the Legislature pursuant to section 4 of this act. (3) The State Treasurer shall transfer any interest earned after the effective date of this act on federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 42 U.S.C. 802, as amended, to the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund on such dates and in such amounts as directed by the budget administrator of the budget division of the Department of Administrative Services. (4) It is the intent of the Legislature that any unobligated amount as of July 1, 2024, of the federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, 42 U.S.C. 802, as amended, be appropriated to the Department of Economic Development to carry out the Economic Recovery Act no later than August 1, 2024. (5) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate ten million dollars from the General Fund to the Department of Economic Development for fiscal year 2022-23 to provide grants under the Economic Recovery Act. (6) It is the intent of the Legislature to transfer ten

million dollars from the General Fund to the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund for fiscal year 2023-24 and ten million dollars from the General Fund to the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund for fiscal year 2024-25 to provide grants under the Economic Recovery Act. (7) The Department of Economic Development shall not use money from the General Fund to implement or administer the grants provided under the Economic Recovery Act.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The COVID-19 public health emergency has caused widespread economic, social, and public health-related turmoil that deepened existing disparities. The social and economic challenges caused and exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency include high unemployment, wage decreases, increased homelessness, and food insecurity. The impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and related challenges were disproportionately felt in low-income and minority communities such as North Omaha and South Omaha. The social and economic challenges in North Omaha and South Omaha have persisted for multiple generations, partially fueled by past racial segregation and the historical practice known as redlining. Funding under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to respond to the challenges facing North Omaha and South Omaha that have been worsened by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and Federal guidance issued by the United States Department of the Treasury has identified qualified census tracts as areas in which certain activities and investments will be deemed presumptively eligible for the use of funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Community Engagement

The Department of Economic Development (DED) has incorporated extensive community engagement strategies to guide program development and implementation of SLFRF funds. The Department conducted focus groups in August 2022 for several newly created SLFRF programs, including the Internships and Crime Prevention program and the QCT Affordable Housing Program – Metropolitan and Primary. Input from stakeholders at these focus groups informed program design. In November 2022, the Department conducted in-person town halls, traveling to every Qualified Census Tract in the state that was eligible for QCT Recovery Grant Program funds. The decision to conduct the town halls in-person, rather than via web conferencing software, was deliberately made to be inclusive of Nebraskans with limited access to high-speed broadband internet. Additionally, by seeking live feedback rather than solely relying on written surveys, DED was able to ensure that Nebraskans with limited written English proficiency could participate. A schedule of town halls can be found here:

<https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/nebraska-department-of-economic-development-to-host-economic-recovery-town-halls-across-nebraska/>

At these town halls, the Department presented information about the QCT Recovery Grant Program and solicited feedback from local community members on the most pressing needs of their QCTs. The needs reported by community members were further validated by a study the Department commissioned on recommendations for Nebraska's QCTs based on a socioeconomic analysis of key economic indicators in each jurisdiction.

For each SLFRF-funded program, DED incorporated feedback that was received into program design, including eligible uses of funds, key performance indicators, and application criteria, within the limits of allowable uses of ARPA funds. DED then opened an application period to accept subaward proposals from eligible applicants, posting public notice before each application period. After awards were made, DED additionally communicated awards in a public press release to continue its efforts to engage with the public and promote transparency. By relying on local community proposals for subaward programs, DED ensures that the implementation of SLFRF programs takes place as close as possible to the communities and populations benefiting from the funds.

Labor Practices

While the Davis-Bacon Act requirements (prevailing wage rates) do not apply to projects funded solely with award funds from the SLFRF program, except for certain SLFRF-funded construction projects undertaken by the District of Columbia, when undertaking capital expenditures, Treasury encourages awardees to adhere to strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions. Treasury also encourages awardees to prioritize in their procurements, employers with high labor standards and to prioritize employers without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws. Additional standards may be applicable based on state statutes (i.e., Neb. Rev. St. Chapter 73 “Public Lettings and Contracts”) and award agreement terms and conditions.

Performance Report

Respective program managers for each grant program require subrecipients to submit quarterly reports to track progress of the project. Additionally, the Department also communicates through continuous press releases for transparency and public awareness.

Link to DED press releases: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/news/>

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project [Identification Number]: Building Mental Health Treatment Facilities

Funding amount: \$40,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12, Mental Health Services

Project Overview

- The Building Mental Health Treatment Facilities Program is an authorized use of funding from State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery.
- In Section 45 of LB1014, amounts of \$10,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and \$30,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2022-23 were appropriated to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) for DED to provide for capital construction grants to build mental health care and education capacity.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/mental-health-capacity-program/>

Use of Evidence

- The goal is to improve mental health care and education capacity. The benefits of expanding mental health treatment and education capacity include improved access to mental health and education services. Improved access to services will reduce utilization of hospital emergency rooms and crisis care; decrease police involvement and incarceration; foster a higher quality of life through better education, workforce, and life skills; and increase job retention.

Subrecipient Award Name	Location	Grant Amount
Community Alliance Mental Health Facility	Omaha	\$10,000,000.00
Behavioral Health & Urgent Care Center	Omaha & Kearney	\$10,000,000.00
Boys Town Education Center	Boys Town	\$10,000,000.00
Mental Health Innovation Foundation	Omaha	\$10,000,000.00
Total Award		\$40,000,000.00

Performance Report

- Project Status (Report on project status each reporting period, in four categories: Not Started, completed less than 50 percent, completed 50 percent more, or completed).
- Demographic Project Distribution
- Primary place of performance

Project [Identification Number]: Internships and Crime Prevention

Funding amount: \$6,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

- The Internships and Crime Prevention Program is an authorized use of funding from the Coronavirus SLFRF which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery
- The Internships and Crime Prevention Program is authorized and further described within Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-12,241-4(c). This program is for a nonprofit organization partnering with a city of the metropolitan class for the purpose of providing internships and crime prevention within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of such a city. The awarded nonprofit organization will receive up to \$6,000,000.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/internships-and-crime-prevention/>

Use of Evidence

- This goal is to reduce the prevalence and incidence of youth exposed to violence through prevention and early intervention. Program efforts will target youth and families at elevated risk of violent victimization or perpetration due to their exposure to violence in their homes and the community. More specifically, the program will expand services to youth in historically marginalized and underserved Northeast and Southeast Omaha communities and residents living in public housing. TSF and partnering agencies will continue and expand programming through a community-grass root approach to assist youth and their families exposed to violence, build resilience, and prevent future juvenile violence and delinquency. This will engage participants in workforce training and development through full-time and summer internships and entrepreneurship programs to generate economic stability.

Performance Report

- Aid to nonprofits (EC 2.34)
- Number of Impacted non-profit organizations
- Number of Disproportionately Impacted non-profit organizations

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
The Simple Foundation	I	All Aspiration Starts with A Foundation	Qualified census tracks	\$ 6,000,000.00

- Number of people served in the program
- Number and amount of intern's payment
- Number of full-time positions the program provides
- Milestones during the hire process

Project [Identification Number]: County Agricultural Society

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

- The County Agricultural Society Program is an authorized use of funding from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) (Assistance Listing 21.027). Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-12,241(4)(g), DED will provide \$5,000,000 in grants to a county agricultural society with facilities within a city of the primary class to recoup lost revenue attributable to the Coronavirus public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/county-agricultural-society-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- N/A- Not using evidence-based interventions for this project.

Performance Report

- Aid to nonprofits (EC 2.34)
- Number of Impacted non-profit organizations
- Number of Disproportionately Impacted non-profit organizations

Organization Name	Impacted (I) vs. Disproportionately Impacted (DI)	Program Name	Funding Area	Grant Amount
Lancaster County Agricultural Society Inc.	DI	County Agriculture Society Program Manual	A city of the primary class	\$ 5,000,000.00

Project [Identification Number]: Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery

Funding amount: \$100,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

- Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-12, 221 *et seq* created the Shovel Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act to respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic. The purpose of the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act is a partnership between the State of Nebraska and qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations with capital projects that have been delayed due to COVID-19 and that will provide a positive economic impact in the State of Nebraska.
- Nonprofits have faced significant challenges due to the pandemic's increased demand for services and changing operational needs, as well as declines in revenue sources such as donations and program fees. Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and are organizations related to arts, culture, or the humanities, including any organization formed for the purpose of developing and promoting the work of artists and the humanities in various visual and performing forms, such as film, sculpture, dance, painting, horticulture, multimedia, poetry, photography, performing arts, zoology, or botany; or organizations that operates a sports complex.
- Eligible organizations were awarded funds not to exceed the amount of private match funding they had secured as of December 31, 2021. Organizations were required to begin or resume work on their capital project that had been delayed by the pandemic by June 30, 2022. The funding must be used for the program expenses outlined in the project application and in alignment with all local, state, and federal funding guidelines. This includes the following: expand and/or enhance existing programs and services, mitigation measures, updates to parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces as well as to mitigate financial hardship.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/business/shovel-ready-grants/>

Use of Evidence

- The goal is to replace lost revenue to nonprofit organizations throughout the state impacted by the pandemic.
- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Each funded project requires the beneficiary organization to enter into a formal agreement with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED). Agreements contain an enumerated scope of work, eligible expenses, terms and conditions, and reporting requirements. The State of Nebraska requires organizations

receiving funds through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA) to provide quarterly reporting to the state so that the data may be included in quarterly updates to the Treasury. This reporting will allow NDED to evaluate whether the nonprofits are able to continue to serve their communities across the state and evaluate progress on the organization's capital project.

Project [Identification Number]: Financial Literacy Grant Program

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.7, Household Assistance: Services for Un/Unbanked

Project Overview

- The Financial Literacy Grant Program is intended to provide operational funding to financial literacy educational programs. Such programs will assist people in becoming better-informed and less likely to become victims of fraud, predatory lending, or other financial situations. Improving financial readiness is a foundation for a full societal recovery.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/financial-literacy-grant/>

Use of Evidence

- The objective of the program is to educate communities or populations on financial literacy, on how to manage their finances and avoid debts.
- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- The Department of Economic Development will evaluate whether the nonprofits are able to continue to serve their communities across the state and whether their capital campaigns and projects started prior to covid will be able to be completed with the grants.

Project [Identification Number]: International Competition Sponsorship Program

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35, Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview

- The Nebraska International Competition Sponsorship Program is an authorized use of funding from SLFRF which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger, more equitable economy during recovery.
- In Section 43 of LB 1014, an amount \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2021-22 was appropriated to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) in grants pursuant to the purpose of awarding major sponsorship grants for international competitions to be hosted in Nebraska that are recognized by an international governing body.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/international-competition-sponsorship/>

Use of Evidence

- The objective is to launch an event that will bring hundreds of thousands of people into the community and create a huge economic impact for tourism-related businesses such as hotels, restaurants, retail, and other associated services.
- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- The Department of Economic Development will evaluate whether the nonprofits are able to continue to serve their communities across the state and whether their capital campaigns and projects started prior to covid will be able to be completed with the grants.

Project [Identification Number]: Nuclear Plant Siting Feasibility Study Program

Funding amount: \$863,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.18, Water and Sewer: Other

Project Overview

- The purpose of the grant program is to fund a feasibility study conducted by a qualifying political subdivision, which owns or operates a nuclear power plant in Nebraska, to assess (1) siting options for new advanced nuclear reactors throughout Nebraska and (2) existing electric generation facilities based on key compatibility assets for such advanced nuclear reactors. It must be demonstrated that the grant funds will be used to finance the generation and delivery of clean power to a wastewater system or a water treatment plant, on a pro-rata basis of capital costs.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/nuclear-plant-siting-feasibility-study-program/>

Use of Evidence

- Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 802(c)(1) awards made by the Nuclear Plant Siting Feasibility Study Program are in response to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Performance Report

- The Department of Economic Development will evaluate whether the nonprofits are able to continue to serve their communities across the state and whether their capital campaigns and projects started prior to covid will be able to be completed with the grants.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualifying Census Tract Affordable Housing Program - Metropolitan

Funding amount: \$20,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

- The purpose of the QCT Affordable Housing Program funds is to prepare land parcels for affordable housing or conducting other eligible affordable housing interventions, including production, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership units within qualified census tracts located in a city of the metropolitan class and a city of the primary class as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat. §14-101 and Neb. Rev. Stat. §15-101, respectively.

- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-affordable-housing-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are used to meet immediate pandemic response needs and begin building a strong and equitable recovery through affordable housing.

- This program is monitored by quarterly performance reports.

Performance Report

- Key performance indicators include
 - Project completion percentage
 - Project description
 - Total number of contractors used
 - Percentage of QCT contractors
 - Number of affordable housing units expecting to preserve or develop
 - Number of completed affordable housing units

- Mandatory performance indicators include
 - Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed
 - Metropolitan - 427

Project [Identification Number]: Qualifying Census Tract Affordable Housing Program - Primary

Funding amount: \$20,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

- The purpose of the QCT Affordable Housing Program funds is to prepare land parcels for affordable housing or conducting other eligible affordable housing interventions, including production, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership units within qualified census tracts located in a city of the metropolitan class and a city of the primary class as defined by Neb. Rev. Stat. §14-101 and Neb. Rev. Stat. §15-101, respectively.

- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-affordable-housing-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are used to meet immediate pandemic response needs and begin building a strong and equitable recovery through affordable housing.

- This program is monitored by quarterly performance reports.

Performance Report

- Key performance indicators include
 - Project completion percentage
 - Project description
 - Total number of contractors used
 - Percentage of QCT contractors
 - Number of affordable housing units expecting to preserve or develop
 - Number of completed affordable housing units

- Mandatory performance indicators include
 - Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed
 - Primary - 461

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$1,868,500

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10, Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$750,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$1,550,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22, Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$750,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30, Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$750,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.32, Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$750,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.33, Enhanced Support to Microbusinesses

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$81,500

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants – Greater Nebraska

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.2, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class outside of a city of the metropolitan class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants - Lincoln

Funding amount: \$3,625,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10, Assistance to Unemployment or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants - Lincoln
Funding amount: \$3,125,000
Project Expenditure Category: 2.18, Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served:
 - Number of sites acquired
 - Number of affordable housing developed

- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants - Lincoln

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.21, Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Qualified Census Tract Recovery Grants - Lincoln
Funding amount: \$1,250,000
Project Expenditure Category: 2.35, Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Project Overview

- The QCT Recovery Grant program is an authorized use of funding from COVID-19 State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. Grants not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 to public and private entities located within qualified census tracts in a city of the primary class to respond to the negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/qct-recovery-grant-program/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by the number of households served.
- Organizations under this expenditure category have not had any expenditures at this time.

Project [Identification Number]: Rural Workforce Housing Land Development

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.23, Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

Project Overview

- The purpose of the Rural Workforce Housing Land Development (RWLD) project is to prepare land parcels in accordance with Nebraska Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act (Neb. Rev. St. §§ 81-1226 to 81-1234), including:
 - (i) Laying of drinking water transmission lines;
 - (ii) Rehabilitation, renovation, maintenance, or costs to secure vacant or abandoned properties;
 - (iii) Costs associated with acquiring or securing legal title of vacant or abandoned properties;
 - (iv) Removal and remediation of environmental contaminants or hazards from vacant or abandoned properties;
 - (v) Demolition or deconstruction of vacant or abandoned buildings; and
 - (vi) Costs associated with inspection fees and other administrative costs incurred to ensure compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations for demolition or other remediation activities.

- Project activities will be located within one of 41 counties determined by the Department of Economic Development (DED) to be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects, or in a qualified census tract (QCT) within one of five additional rural counties. DED defined a county to have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 if it meets at least three of the four following criteria:
 - Labor force decreased from 2010 to 2019;
 - Labor force growth from 2019 to 2020 was depressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - More housing cost-burdened¹ households per capita than the Nebraska measure; or
 - Household median income in 2020 was less than Nebraska's median income.

- Completion of the project activities will result in properties that are ready for the development for workforce housing. Project funds will support long-term housing security, including development of housing, and to improve vacant and abandoned properties. Municipalities that benefit from these funds must also be awarded Nebraska Rural Workforce Housing Funds in 2017, 2020, or 2022 that will be used for the new construction or major rehabilitation of affordable workforce housing units.

- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/rural-workforce-housing-land-development-program>

¹ "Housing cost-burdened" is defined as renter and owner households that spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing.

Use of Evidence

- This municipality has provided evidence that the project will yield a positive impact through consultation with community stakeholders, recent analysis of a local housing study, demonstration of success in prior similar projects, and expertise of involved staff.
- The project’s economic impact will be increased property assessment value of the sites and other sites in the surrounding area and will address blighted or neglected areas of rural communities. The project will also hire or continue paying current employees, providing additional money spent by these employees in the community.
- The eventual development of safe, affordable housing in the community will attract new residents to the community and will support renters to become homeowners. The availability and accessibility of workforce housing will promote the economic health of the community.
- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Demographic Distribution

- The table below contains a list of the municipalities that have been subawarded program funds and the demographic distributions that will be served.

Municipality	Award Amount	Project Demographic Distribution
City of Alma	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
City of Beatrice	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
City of Central City	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
City of Hastings	\$ 750,000.00	DI: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts
City of McCook	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
City of North Platte	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
City of Red Cloud	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
City of Saint Paul	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Low income households and populations
Village of Arnold	\$ 222,770.00	DI: Low income households and populations
Village of Bertrand	\$ 491,260.00	DI: Low income households and populations
Village of Palmer	\$ 535,970.00	DI: Low income households and populations
Village of Pender	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts
TOTAL AWARD:	\$ 10,000,000.00	

Performance Report

- DED has issued Notices of Awards to these municipalities that will receive subaward funding through this program. Subaward agreements are currently being drafted. The municipalities have no obligations or expenditures at this time.
- This program includes a capital expenditure, as the project activities include rehabilitations, renovation, remediation, cleanup, or conversions of vacant or abandoned properties.

- Of the \$10 million program budget, the total expected capital expenditure is \$9,461,275.53. The remaining \$538,724.47, approximately 5.4 percent of the total program budget, will be used for administration costs and has been subtracted from the total expected capital expenditures.
- The municipalities plan to acquire vacant or abandoned properties to perform program activities in preparation for the development of workforce housing. Below is a table that summarizes the number of land parcels on which program activities will be performed and the number of workforce housing units that will result from this project.

Municipality	Land Parcels	Potential Housing Units
City of Alma	35	40
City of Beatrice	24	30
City of Central City	1	24
City of Hastings	18	20
City of McCook	20	35
City of North Platte	16	20
City of Red Cloud	29	21
City of Saint Paul	1	42
Village of Arnold	9	14
Village of Bertrand	11	11
Village of Palmer	1	45
Village of Pender	6	5
TOTAL AWARD:	171	307

- Output measures:
 - There are currently 10 grants with a combined total of \$10,000,000 that has been allocated so far.
 - Number of land parcels prepared for workforce housing: 0
- Outcome measures:
 - Number of sites secured by municipalities prepared for workforce housing: 0

Project [Identification Number]: Pandemic Relief Housing Program

Funding amount: \$8,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18, Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Project Overview

- The purpose of the Pandemic Relief Housing (PRH) project is to develop, repair, or operate affordable housing, including housing for refugees or other such immigrants, which will increase long-term housing security.
- Funds may be used for the following types of projects:
 - (i) Rental Housing – construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of single- or multi-family units for rent.
 - (ii) Homeowner Rehabilitation – rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units.
 - (iii) Homebuyer Projects – homebuyer assistance, construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of housing units for homebuyers.
- Housing units developed under this program will be for households that meet one of the following income requirements:
 - (i) Household income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS);
 - (ii) Household income at or below 65 percent of the Area Median Income, published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;AND meets one of the following other criteria:
 - (i) Is located within one of 41 counties determined by the Department of Economic Development (DED) to be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects. DED defined a county to have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 if it meets at least three of the four following criteria:
 - a. Labor force decreased from 2010 to 2019;
 - b. Labor force growth from 2019 to 2020 was depressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - c. More housing cost-burdened² households per capita than the Nebraska measure; or
 - d. Household median income in 2020 was less than Nebraska’s median income.
 - (ii) Is located in a qualified census tract (QCT) within one of five additional rural counties; or
 - (iii) Is located anywhere in the State of Nebraska but will serve refugees or other such immigrants exclusively.
- Projects funded through this program will maintain an affordability period for a twenty-year (20-year) period that begins from the date of transfer from the subawardee to the homeowner or occupancy of initial tenant upon rental unit completion.
- At least 50 percent of the funds distributed will be distributed for housing developments in counties with fewer than 100,000 residents according to the most recent federal decennial census.

¹ “Housing cost-burdened” is defined as renter and owner households that spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing.

- Of the \$8 million budget for this program, DED has obligated \$4,210,000, or approximately 52.6 percent of the budget. The remaining \$3,790,000 has not been subawarded to any eligible nonprofit organizations at this time. DED has just concluded a second application period for the balance of program funds. DED will conduct application review in the coming weeks and anticipates awarding all of the remaining balance to organizations that applied during the second application period.
- Of the five (5) organizations who have been notified of subaward funding through the PRH program, two (2) organizations will conduct project activities that fit within this Expenditure Category. The sum of the budget for these organizations' projects is \$1,210,000.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/pandemic-relief-housing-program/>

Use of Evidence

- The Department of Economic Development (DED) determined that refugees and other such immigrants were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. From 2015 to 2020, an average of 800 refugees have immigrated to Nebraska per year. Nebraska's refugees experienced a more significant, negative economic impact during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the native-born population. Based on available data, the labor force participation and employment rates from 2019 to 2020 shows more negative impact for the refugee population, considering gender, age, educational attainment, and the presence of children in the household.
- The project's economic impact will be the development of new affordable housing units or the preservation of current housing that will promote access to safe, affordable for income-qualifying households, including refugees and other such immigrants.
- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Demographic Distribution

- The table below contains a list of the nonprofit organizations that have been subawarded program funds and the demographic distributions that will be served.

Nonprofit Organization	Project Location	Award Amount	Project Demographic Distribution
Project Houseworks	Omaha	\$ 550,000.00	DI: Other households or populations that experienced a disproportionate impact due to COVID-19 DI: Low income households and populations
Neighborhoods, Inc.	Lincoln	\$ 660,000.00	DI: Other households or populations that experienced a disproportionate impact due to COVID-19 DI: Low income households and populations DI: Households or populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts
TOTAL AWARD:		\$ 1,210,000.00	

Performance Report

- DED has issued Notices of Awards to five (5) nonprofit organizations that will receive subaward funding through this program. Subaward agreements are currently being drafted. The nonprofit organizations have no obligations or expenditures at this time.
- This program includes a capital expenditure, as the project activities include the development of affordable housing, supportive housing, or recovery housing.
- Of the \$8 million program budget, \$4,210,000 has been allocated to five (5) nonprofit organizations under this program. Of this amount, the total capital expenditure is \$4,012,000. The remaining \$198,000, approximately 4.7 percent of the allocated funds, will be used for administration costs and has been subtracted from the total expected capital expenditures.
- Two (2) nonprofit organizations will conduct project activities within this Expenditure Category, and these organizations have been awarded \$1,210,000 of program funds. Of these projects, \$1,100,000 will be spent on capital expenditure costs. The remaining \$110,000, approximately 9.1 percent of the budget for these projects, will be used for administration costs and has been subtracted from the total expected capital expenditures.
- Below is a table that summarizes the number of new housing units that will be created and the number of housing units that will be preserved by the projects within this Expenditure Category, as well as the expected subsidy amount per housing unit.

Nonprofit Organization	New Housing Units	Preserved Housing Units	Per-Unit Subsidy
Project Houseworks	0	45	\$ 12,222.00
Neighborhoods, Inc.	0	12	\$ 55,000.00
TOTAL AWARD:	0	57	

- Output measures:
 - There are 5 grants with a combined total of \$4,210,000 that has been allocated so far.
- Outcome measures:
 - Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: 0

Project [Identification Number]: Pandemic Relief Housing Program

Funding amount: \$8,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

- The purpose of the Pandemic Relief Housing (PRH) project is to develop, repair, or operate affordable housing, including housing for refugees or other such immigrants, which will increase long-term housing security.
- Funds may be used for the following types of projects:
 - (i) Rental Housing – construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of single- or multi-family units for rent.
 - (ii) Homeowner Rehabilitation – rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units.
 - (iii) Homebuyer Projects – homebuyer assistance, construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of housing units for homebuyers.
- Housing units developed under this program will be for households that meet one of the following income requirements:
 - (i) Household income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS);
 - (ii) Household income at or below 65 percent of the Area Median Income, published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development;
AND meets one of the following other criteria:
 - (i) Is located within one of 41 counties determined by the Department of Economic Development (DED) to be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects. DED defined a county to have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 if it meets at least three of the four following criteria:
 - a. Labor force decreased from 2010 to 2019;
 - b. Labor force growth from 2019 to 2020 was depressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - c. More housing cost-burdened³ households per capita than the Nebraska measure; or
 - d. Household median income in 2020 was less than Nebraska’s median income.
 - (ii) Is located in a qualified census tract (QCT) within one of five additional rural counties; or
 - (iii) Is located anywhere in the State of Nebraska but will serve refugees or other such immigrants exclusively.
- Projects funded through this program will maintain an affordability period for a twenty-year (20-year) period that begins from the date of transfer from the subawardee to the homeowner or occupancy of initial tenant upon rental unit completion.
- At least 50 percent of the funds distributed will be distributed for housing developments in counties with fewer than 100,000 residents according to the most recent federal decennial census.

¹ “Housing cost-burdened” is defined as renter and owner households that spend 30 percent or more of their household income on housing.

- Of the \$8 million budget for this program, DED has obligated \$4,210,000, or approximately 52.6 percent of the budget. The remaining \$3,790,000 has not been subawarded to any eligible nonprofit organizations at this time. DED has just concluded a second application period for the balance of program funds. DED will conduct application review in the coming weeks and anticipates awarding all of the remaining balance to organizations that applied during the second application period.
- Of the five (5) organizations who have been notified of subaward funding through the PRH program, three (3) organizations will conduct project activities that fit within this Expenditure Category. The sum of the budget for these three (3) organizations' projects is \$3,000,000.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/pandemic-relief-housing-program/>

Use of Evidence

- The Department of Economic Development (DED) determined that refugees and other such immigrants were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. From 2015 to 2020, an average of 800 refugees have immigrated to Nebraska per year. Nebraska's refugees experienced a more significant, negative economic impact during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the native-born population. Based on available data, the labor force participation and employment rates from 2019 to 2020 shows more negative impact for the refugee population, considering gender, age, educational attainment, and the presence of children in the household.
- The project's economic impact will be the development of new affordable housing units or the preservation of current housing that will promote access to safe, affordable for income-qualifying households, including refugees and other such immigrants.
- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Demographic Distribution

- The table below contains a list of the nonprofit organizations that have been subawarded program funds and the demographic distributions that will be served.

Nonprofit Organization	Project Location	Award Amount	Project Demographic Distribution
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	Lexington	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Other households or populations that experienced a disproportionate impact due to COVID-19 DI: Low income households and populations
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	Omaha	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Other households or populations that experienced a disproportionate impact due to COVID-19 DI: Low income households and populations
Family Service Association of Lincoln	Lincoln	\$ 1,000,000.00	DI: Other households or populations that experienced a disproportionate impact due to COVID-19 DI: Low income households and populations
TOTAL AWARD:		\$ 3,000,000.00	

Performance Report

- DED has issued Notices of Awards to five (5) nonprofit organizations that will receive subaward funding through this program. Subaward agreements are currently being drafted. The nonprofit organizations have no obligations or expenditures at this time.
- This program includes a capital expenditure, as the project activities include the development of affordable housing, supportive housing, or recovery housing.
- Of the \$8 million program budget, \$4,210,000 has been allocated to five (5) nonprofit organizations under this program. Of this amount, the total capital expenditure is \$4,012,000. The remaining \$198,000, approximately 4.7 percent of the allocated funds, will be used for administration costs and has been subtracted from the total expected capital expenditures.
- Three (3) nonprofit organizations will conduct project activities within this Expenditure Category, and these organizations have been awarded \$3,000,000 of program funds. Of these projects, \$2,912,000 will be spent on capital expenditure costs. The remaining \$88,000, approximately 2.9 percent of the budget for these projects, will be used for administration costs and has been subtracted from the total expected capital expenditures.
- Below is a table that summarizes the number of new housing units that will be created and the number of housing units that will be preserved by the projects within this Expenditure Category, as well as the expected subsidy amount per housing unit.

Nonprofit Organization	New Housing Units	Preserved Housing Units	Per-Unit Subsidy
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.	16	0	\$ 62,500.00
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	3	2	\$200,000.00
Family Service Association of Lincoln	8	0	\$125,000.00
TOTAL AWARD:	27	2	

- Output measures:
 - There are currently 5 grants with a combined total of \$4,210,000 that has been allocated so far
- Outcome measures:
 - Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: 0

Project [Identification Number]: Airport Business Park Phase 1: Planning Grant

Funding amount: \$800,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

- The Airport Business Park Program is an authorized use of funding from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) (Assistance Listing 21.027) which was designed to provide state governments with the resources needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects and to build a stronger economy during recovery. SLFRF was established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) signed into law by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021.
- The Airport Business Park Program is authorized and further described within Neb. Rev. Stat. §81- 12,241(4)(a). The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) will provide grants to nonprofit economic development organizations not to exceed \$60,000,000.00 for the development of a business park in or adjacent to Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) located within the boundaries of a city of the metropolitan class and within two miles of a major airport as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-3303.
- The Airport Business Park Program will consist of two phases, Phase 1: Planning Grant and Phase 2: Program Grant.
- Phase 1: Planning Grant: The planning grant process will allow Applicants the opportunity to create/develop a Master Plan for the development and creation of a business park. The successful Applicant(s) will receive grants, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00. Any Awardee of the Planning Grant funds must apply for Phase 2 of the Program Grant.
- Only Phase 1: Planning Grant will be funded with ARPA funds.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/airport-business-park/>

Use of Evidence

- SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- The Applicant will provide a thorough Master Plan that details the process for an Airport Business Park to be built. Details must be pinpoint and address needs identified in the Program Manual within the North Omaha area.

Project [Identification Number]: Meat Processing Wastewater Pretreatment and Runoff Control Program

Funding amount: \$20,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- processing wastewater is high strength and requires pretreatment prior to discharging into the City of North Platte Wastewater plant or ultimate discharge. The applicant proposes installing sewer mains, lift station and sewer force mains to convey the wastewater from the Sustainable Beef Facility. The new sewer piping will transport the wastewater to the City owned property proposed for wastewater pretreatment. Pending final designs, new water main needed for wastewater processing may be part of the construction. The new preliminary treatment facility will be located north or east of the existing wastewater plant. The wastewater pretreatment will include anaerobic and aerobic processes to treat the wastewater. The applicant will apply for all permits for the treatment or the waste and discharge thereof. The site development *work will be completed by June of 2023 with the pretreatment completed in 2025.*
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/meat-processing-wastewater/>

Use of Evidence

- Responds to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. This response is an enumerated eligible use for water and sewer investments within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund projects under 31 C.F.R. § 35.6(e)(1)(i).

Performance Report

- N/A

Project [Identification Number]: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority Act (NIFA) LIHTC Pandemic Relief Program

Funding amount: \$20,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

- The purpose of the LIHTC Gap Financing program is to assist Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects that was awarded LIHTC in 2020 or 2021 and have a gap in funding as a result of construction cost increases due to the Covid pandemic. The funds will be utilized to close any gaps in funding and allow the development to move forward towards completion of construction. Should funds remain available after funding 2020 and 2021 projects, funding will be extended to Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects that were awarded LIHTC in 2022.
- The LIHTC program, Section 42(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Section 42), is a federal tax credit program designed to develop affordable rental housing by utilizing a process that requires collaboration between public and private entities. The resulting housing units will provide assistance to low-to-moderate income households and must have rents that are affordable to households earning at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the specific county. In addition, all residents of the affordable units must have a gross income that is 60% AMI, or below, for the specific county.
- Developments that received LIHTC reservations in 2020 and 2021 have been overwhelmingly impacted by the sudden increase in construction-related costs including, but not limited to, lack of supplies, increase in material costs, shortage of labor, and increase in labor costs, etc. Many of these developments will be unable to move forward without additional assistance. This program will provide successful applicants with a resource in the form of a residual receipt loan that will be fully due and payable at the time of sale or end of the affordability period (whichever first occurs) to allow for the completion of the affordable rental housing developments.
- Completion of the project activities will result in the construction of rental housing units for low-to-moderate income households. housing, and to improve vacant and abandoned properties.
- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/legislation/#1014-3>

Use of Evidence

- Each development must provide a market study detailing the needs for affordable rental housing for low-income families in a specific neighborhood or community. The project's economic impact will be realized in the creation of much needed housing in communities and areas that have businesses that are suffering from a labor shortage. The increase in housing will allow the opportunity for employees to move to communities where jobs are available. The developments will also hire or continue paying current employees, providing additional money spent by these employees in the community. The developments will also often use local contractors and purchase supplies for local businesses. The development of safe, affordable housing in the community will attract new residents to the community. The availability and accessibility of affordable housing will promote the economic health of the community.

Demographic Distribution

- The table below contains a list of the developments that have been awarded program funds and the demographic distributions that will be served. There will be additional developments added to this list as awards are finalized.

NIFA LIHTC Gap Financing Program			
Name	# of Units	SLFRF Obligation	Demographic
Union at Middle Creek	192	\$ 1,061,531	DI: Low income households and populations
1120 Lofts	24	\$ 740,735	DI: Low income households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts
Omega West Point	22	\$ 262,712	DI: Low income households and populations
Ashland Senior Housing	16	\$ 589,566	DI: Low income households and populations
Fremont Omega	39	\$ 713,605	DI: Low income households and populations
Rolling Meadows	50	\$ 800,000	DI: Low income households and populations
Deer Creek Village	48	\$ 944,567	DI: Low income households and populations
131 Fort	80	\$ 1,452,066	DI: Low income households and populations
Cottages by Siena Francis House	50	\$ 416,219	DI: Low income households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts
Hamilton	47	\$ 3,028,500	DI: Low income households and populations residing in Qualified Census Tracts
Founders Ridge	54	\$ 5,504,570	DI: Low income households and populations
Avenue 25 Villas	16	\$ 191,678	DI: Low income households and populations
State Street Villas	20	\$ 587,370	DI: Low income households and populations
Foxtail Central	35	\$ 1,095,400	DI: Low income households and populations
	693	\$ 17,388,519	

Performance Report

- NIFA has issued Awards to the above developments that will receive funding through this program. Loan agreements, Deeds of Trust and Notes are currently being drafted. While developments have eligible expenses, NIFA will not accept expenditure requests until the agreements are finalized.
- This program includes a capital expenditure, as the project activities include creating low-income affordable housing through new construction, renovation, remediation, or conversion activities.
- Of the \$21,500,000 million program budget, the total expected capital expenditure is \$20,502,000. The remaining \$998,000, approximately 4.64 percent of the total program budget, will be used for administration costs and has been subtracted from the total expected capital expenditures.
- Output measures: Number and amount of awards made to date.
- Outcome measures: Number affordable housing units created or rehabilitated.

Project [Identification Number]: Refugee Job Training and Placement Grant

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10, Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Project Overview

- The purpose of the Refugee Job Training and Placement Grant program is to provide job training and placements grants to nonprofit organizations for employment and employability services for refugees as defined in 8 USC § 1101(a)(42) and Neb. Admin. Code § 470-1-004.09.

Job training can include English Language training, driver education, classroom and work-based learning opportunities, certificate programs, apprenticeship programs, technical or professional programs. The job training provided may be provided by the nonprofit or they may partner with a college or job training provider.

Job placement services are provided after the job training is complete. The awardee may provide inhouse services or partner with an outside job placement service to ensure the trainee has the necessary tools and resources needed to find a job in their community.

- Link to the website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/recovery/refugee-job-training-and-placement/>

Use of Evidence

The Department will measure success by how many refugees receive job placement at the end of the job training. These SLFRF funds are not being used for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Each funded project requires a formal agreement with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Agreements will contain terms and conditions, eligible expenses and reporting requirements. The Department will request the following key performance indicators from awardees: number of trainees that completed the job training program, including any course completions, certifications, and graduation diplomas credentialed; total number of employment placements of trainees that completed the program, statistical data of wage rates for new employment placements that completed the program, and cost of each course provided by the program.

State of Nebraska

**Nebraska Department of Environment
and Energy**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The State of Nebraska was allocated \$1.04 billion of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds. In the final rule adopted for implementation of these funds, the U.S. Department of the Treasury aligned the eligible uses of these funds with the wide range of types or categories of projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), as well as aid to impacted industries including Tourism. In Nebraska, the SRF programs are administered by Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE).

On April 13, 2022, Former Governor Pete Ricketts, signed into law Legislative Bill No. 1014e, which “...appropriated...funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021...” By accepting these funds, Nebraska is required by ARPA to prepare this Recovery Plan Performance Report by July 31st every year, until all Federal and state funding requirements are met.

Uses of Funds

The NDEE will implement \$31 million of ARPA funding assistance to address Negative Economic Impacts (e.g., Aid to Impacted Industry - Tourism) or to make necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure. Sections 51, 52, and 53 of the Legislative Bill No. 1014e detail the infrastructure funding allocations appropriated to the NDEE.

Section 51 of Legislative Bill No. 1014e allocates \$4 million of federal funds to be used “...for grants for reverse osmosis systems, which shall only be used for such purpose”. The narrative of the legislation further clarified that the NDEE “...shall provide grants for villages and cities of the second class to install reverse osmosis systems in community water systems where drinking water test levels are above ten parts per million of nitrate and, if appropriate, provide grant funds for use to install reverse osmosis systems if test levels for nitrate in drinking water pumped from private wells are above ten parts per million.” Reverse Osmosis treatment to remove nitrates from drinking water is eligible for assistance under the DWSRF, and therefore under ARPA as a necessary investment in water infrastructure. The ARPA final rule also states that eligible projects can include rehabilitation of private wells, testing initiatives to identify contaminants in wells, and treatment activities and remediation strategies that address (nitrate) contamination.

Section 52 of Legislative Bill No. 1014e allots for \$20 million of federal funds to be used “...for wastewater and drainage system updates at the state fair grounds, which shall only be used for such purpose.” Wastewater and drainage system updates are eligible for assistance under the CWSRF, and therefore under ARPA, when a project provides a water quality benefit or for measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water. Paving improvements, which also are necessary drainage system updates, are eligible under the aid to impacted industries ARPA use category, which includes tourism. The state fair grounds is the location of the Nebraska State Fair, the state’s showcase tourism event. The negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the Nebraska State Fair missing out on

potential revenues, thus this project is eligible for assistance through two ARPA use categories, negative economic impacts and necessary investments in sewer infrastructure.

Section 53 of Legislative Bill No. 1014e allocates \$7 million over two fiscal years and states that these funds are “...to provide grant assistance for a rural drinking water project that serves rural water connections and at least four communities in two contiguous counties in order to convert to ground water sources and to provide for water system infrastructure and distribution, which shall only be used for such purpose”. Development of new sources to replace a contaminated drinking water sources and water system infrastructure and distribution are eligible for assistance under the DWSRF, and therefore under ARPA as a necessary investment in water infrastructure.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The ARPA funding to be implemented by the NDEE was appropriated based on two ARPA use categories, negative economic impacts and necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure. As such, the promotion of equitable outcomes was met as:

- For both of the necessary investments in water infrastructure community projects, each of the public water systems awarded ARPA funding also meet Nebraska’s long established Disadvantaged Community Definition, approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as required under the DWSRF and section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The state fair grounds project is located in the City of Grand Island, NE. The City of Grand Island is home to approximately 53,130 people, the fourth largest city in Nebraska, with 39.5% of the population in Grand Island being minorities, primarily people of Hispanic origin. The overall poverty rate of Grand Island is 12.7%, which is higher than the federal of 11.6% and state of Nebraska level of 10.8%. Hall County is the only county in Nebraska that scored an overall score of 1 on the Social Vulnerability Index (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 2022). This is the highest score possible and indicates the highest levels of vulnerability within Nebraska exist in Hall County.

Community Engagement

For each of the public entities receiving ARPA funding through the NDEE, public meetings and/or hearings have been or will be held for comment or input on the proposed projects under Nebraska’s Open Meetings Act. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act guarantees that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies.

Labor Practices

The Agreements signed between the participant and NDEE outlines requirements that coincide with the noted labor practices. The following are descriptions of those program and state requirements:

- Professional Engineer Contract
 - To ensure the quality of a community project the participant agrees to hire a professional engineer for the design, oversight, and inspection of the activities

detailed in the Workplan, as necessary for the preparation, submittal and construction oversight of the project.

- Workplan Approval
 - To ensure project eligibility, a Workplan is submitted for approval and can only be amended with approval from the NDEE prior to the disbursement of funds.
- Contract Approvals
 - To ensure eligibility, the participant agrees that any contract, interagency agreement or subagreement under the primary Agreement must receive written approval by the NDEE Project Manager prior to expenditure of funds and will only be expended for eligible activities. Copies of all contracts, subagreements and interagency agreements must be provided to the NDEE.
- Information Collection
 - To ensure transparency, the participant agrees that all information collected under the Agreement shall be provided to the NDEE.
- Procurements
 - To ensure fairness, the participant will use the Agreement to acquire, construct, and equip the Project, in accordance with LB1014e, with the procurement standards set forth in the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327, and any applicable federal law that includes, but is not limited to, the ARPA, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Final Rule and the U.S. Department of the Treasury Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Award Terms and Conditions. This does not apply to architectural and engineering services, so long as those services are solely paid or reimbursed through SRF funding. For public water system projects, the Participants will maintain and operate the Project in accordance with LB 1014e and Title 179, Public Water Systems – Chapter 22.
- Davis-Bacon labor standards
 - When coupled with SRF financing, the participant agrees that all work and labor will comply with the prevailing wage provisions under the Davis-Bacon Act. For activities related to private well rehabilitations, Davis-Bacon wages being paid were confirmed for the treatment system installers. A hyperlink was provided in the Agreements for reference. The state fair grounds projects is evaluating whether to comply with *page 37 of the Reporting Guidance* or the prevailing wage provisions under the Davis-Bacon Act.
- Nondiscrimination
 - The Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act prohibits contractors to the State of Nebraska and their subcontractors from discriminating against any employee, or applicant for employment in the performance of such contracts, with respect to hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. The Participant's signature is a guarantee of compliance with the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, and breach of this provision shall be regarded as a material breach of this Agreement. The Participant shall insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services to be covered by any contract resulting from this Agreement.
- Drug Free Workplace

- The Participant, by executing these ARPA Agreements, certifies and assures that it operates a drug free workplace as addressed in the State of Nebraska Drug Free Workplace Policy of July 7, 1989.
- Employment Eligibility Verification
 - The Contractors are required and hereby agree to use, and require subcontractors to use, a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of a newly hired employee. If the Contractor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:
 - The Contractor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website.
 - If the Contractor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the contractor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Contractor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.
 - The Contractor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required, and the Contractor may be disqualified, or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 4-108.

Use of Evidence

For the vast majority of the funding being implemented by the NDEE, this is not applicable as LB1014e simply determined funding eligibilities. Then for the “...grants for villages and cities of the second class to install reverse osmosis systems in community water systems where drinking water test levels are above ten parts per million of nitrate”, given the eligibility and period of availability, four communities replied to the NDEE’s survey request. A NDEE internal committee comprised of staff in the Engineering, Field Services, Monitoring & Compliance and SRF Sections reviewed the applicants’ information and recommended a path of award. The key measures evaluated were feasibility to repay, public health risks, and other alternatives available to the community. Based on the assessment of the limited pool of potentially eligible applicants, the recommendations were made for awarding these ARPA funds in a manner to guard against unreasonably growing government expenses. The selection committee determined that the cost for the Operation and Maintenance of a Reverse Osmosis treatment plant is not sustainable for two of the small Villages that applied. That if provided to those communities, the ARPA funds over time would unreasonably increase their system operating expenses.

Performance Report

The Agreements signed between the Participants and NDEE states that the projects must meet the requirements of ARPA noted in the U.S. Department of Treasury Coronavirus State and

Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule, notably the Compliance and Reporting guidance. The corresponding hyperlinks for those requirements are available for the participant to click on and reference those materials. Progress reporting is also a requirement within the Agreement, such that when requested on a quarterly and/or annual basis the participant agrees to submit written progress updates within 5 business days in order for the NDEE to complete the reporting elements required.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District

NDEE Reference #2022-124293604: Cedar Knox Rural Water Project

Funding Amount: \$7,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1 *Drinking Water: Treatment*;
5.11 *Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution*;
5.13 *Drinking Water: Source*; and
5.14 *Drinking Water: Storage*

Project Overview

The Cedar Knox Rural Water Project (CKRWP) provides drinking water to approximately 3,000 residents in northern Cedar and Knox Counties of northeast Nebraska. CKRWP is a regional system that treats surface water drawn from Lewis and Clark Lake (Lake) impounded by Gavins Point Dam. Customers include 4 communities Crofton, Fordyce, St. Helena, and Obert; more than 900 rural connections; several campgrounds; and several Sanitary Improvement Districts and housing developments.

CKRWP experiences several issues related to the water source in the Lake that negatively impact the system and the ability of CKRWP to continue providing drinking water without making significant system changes. CKRWP and Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) have identified converting to a local groundwater source, new water treatment plant, and distribution system additions/upgrades as the most viable option to address these concerns for the long-term.

There are three primary impacts that must be addressed by CKRWP when securing long-term service. First, the intake structure located in the Lake is expected to be inundated by sediment in approximately 20 years or less. The advancing sediment concern is compounded by the impacts of flood events similar to those of 2011 and 2019, which represents sediment advancement in Lewis and Clark Lake. When the sediment reaches and covers the intake it will no longer be a viable structure to supply water to the treatment plant in the amount needed to produce drinking water for current CKRWP customers. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provided a letter to LCNRD in 2018 indicating, in part, USACE's understanding that sedimentation is a chronic concern, however; Gavins Point dam and the Lake are meeting their designed purpose and no action is planned to address sedimentation. LCNRD does not have the financial or technical ability to address the sediment and is forced to identify an alternative to the Lake to meet the source water needs for CKRWP. Secondly, as the sediment approaches the intake structure there is an increase in organic material carried by the flowing water and drawn into the intake that must

be treated and removed. Increased organic material requires additional chlorination. The impact of elevated chlorination is the production of Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulated disinfection byproducts. CKRWP is under Administrative Order (AO) to address one of these byproducts, Total-Trihalomethanes. Finally, production capacity of the treatment plant and capacity in portions of the distribution system are at or near their maximum sustainable levels. In addition, areas of the distribution system infrastructure require updates or additions including line replacement, upsizing and improvements, water tower replacement, and other needs.

Several options to address the above concerns were evaluated in a Preliminary Engineering Report completed by CKRWP engineer Bartlett and West in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Conservation and Survey Division (UNL-CSD) and engineering firm, LRE Water. The lowest initial project construction cost option was identified as purchasing finished water from Yankton, SD which ultimately results in the highest cost to customers over time. Other options have also been considered and were detailed in the application. After full deliberation the CKRWP Advisory Committee determined development of a well field, construction of a new treatment plant, and construction of distribution system upgrades offers the lowest cost to customers over the life of the facilities and is the best alternative to secure long-term service of a safe, reliable drinking water source.

Converting to a groundwater source will address concerns that exist with the Lake intake. Locating a groundwater source of sufficient quantity with desirable quality in northeast Nebraska has been challenging due to geologic/hydrogeologic variability. Following stakeholder input, the proposed collector well field near Aten, NE in Cedar County has been identified through an intensive, detailed aquifer investigation conducted in partnership with UNL-CSD, Eastern Nebraska Resources Assessment, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Additional testing is required for final development and is included in the design phase of the project. Treatment of the groundwater source(s) will be required due to hardness, iron, and manganese. The water served from the existing water treatment plant is softened due to the treatment process in place. Treatment of the identified groundwater source will ensure a similar product is delivered to customers without the need to purchase a water softener.

The federal SDWA recognizes the people served by CKRWP are entitled to safe drinking water. Nebraska Title 179 regulations establish drinking water standards for public water systems as authorized in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§71-5301 to 71-5313. These programs provide for the protection of human health and prevent drinking water health hazards through the control and regulation of public water systems and drinking water testing. The CKRWP supports strong state leadership and involvement on a state concern to effectively meet drinking water needs for residents.

LCNRD requested financial support for the design, permitting, and construction of a long-term water supply system for CKRWP. It is anticipated that the water supply system will be completed and fully functional by the end of 2026. The timeline corresponds to the required project completion requirements of ARPA funding.

Nebraska State Fair

[NDEE Reference #2023-131428593: State Fair Grounds Project](#)

Funding Amount: \$20,000,000 (\$14,705,610 to 5.5/5.6 & \$5,294,390 to 2.35)

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 *Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality;*
5.5 *Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure;* and
5.6 *Clean Water: Stormwater*

Project Overview

The Fonner Park Campus, the location of the State Fair Grounds, is an important community asset for the City of Grand Island. The grounds are in use an average of 300 plus days per year with over 500,000 annual visitors, vendors, exhibitors and participants in the many events that take place on the Campus. The Campus is a 220+ acre complex situated just off Interstate 80 in the City of Grand Island. It currently includes a 5/8th-mile Thoroughbred racetrack, world class livestock and exhibition facilities, consisting of seven buildings and more than 600,000 square feet of exhibition space, that are home to the Nebraska State Fair, the Hall County Fair and year round livestock shows and exhibitions, the Heartland Events Center, (which is comprised of the 6,000 seat Eihusen Arena and the 8,000 square foot Bosselman Conference Center; the two buildings offer a combined 38,000 square feet complex for entertainment, conventions and other events), and an RV park with 130 improved pads. The process for developing a Master Plan was thorough and collaborative, providing a holistic investigation and vision for the campus. Site and existing inventory analysis, combined with a diverse neighborhood and public engagement plan, laid the foundation for a data driven exploration of enhancements to ensure sustainable development of the site.

The Master Plan for the campus concluded that critical infrastructure improvements were necessary, including but not limited to: Concrete paving, earthwork and grading integral to the construction of bioswales, detention basins, drainage ditches, permeable or porous pavement with underdrains, rain gardens and storm sewers. The majority of the proposed improvements will improve water quality in the Wood River by reducing the amount of and direct stormwater runoff, to help remove sediments or debris before reaching the river. The project will also include the purchase of a street sweeper, and utility improvements for sanitary wastes and a water service loop for maintaining the bioswales.

City of Wisner

NDEE Reference #2023-131344956: Wisner Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Project

Funding Amount: \$2,775,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.10 *Drinking Water: Treatment; and*
5.11 *Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution*

Project Overview

A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was completed by Olsson Associates, dated March 2022, evaluating the City of Wisner, Nebraska's water system. In recent years, increasing nitrate levels have been observed in the system exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of 10 mg/L. The purpose of this project is to add a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water treatment facility to mitigate nitrate levels. In 2019, the community constructed a new water well based on recommendations from a 2017 PER. A test hole was constructed in June 2016, and the water quality was acceptable. However, 2 years later, when the production well (Well 2019-1) was drilled and tested,

nitrate levels detected were more than 10 mg/L. In addition, Well 1996-1 nitrate concentrations are increasing over time.

A water sample was taken from each of the municipal wells on July 2, 2021. The water results indicate that the water quality from Wells 1967-1 and 1996-1 have increased nitrate levels since the water quality tests taken for the previous PER in April 2017.

The RO treatment system will be designed to facilitate a 50:50 blend of treated to untreated water. The blend rate is based upon the desired nitrate level in the water, which is assumed to be around 5 – 6 mg/L. The system is designed to utilize (2) two trains of membranes rated for 200 gallons per minutes (gpm) of permeate each. The total permeate flow of 400 gpm will be blended with the 50% bypass, yielding a total capacity of 800 gpm for the system. The system is designed to meet the projected peak day demand of 435 gpm, if one train and the largest well is out of service, the system will adjust to approximately a 55:45 blend of untreated to treated water and produce a nitrate level below about 6 mg/L, providing inherent redundancy. The RO system reject water flow is approximately 30 gpm per train. For the projected average day demands of 0.277 MGD, the average amount of reject water will be approximately 19,800 gpd or 20% of the water demand. The amount of discharge will increase the daily average flows for the wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater treatment facility should be able to handle this additional flow.

Private Well Owners

NDEE Reference #s - Numerous: Reverse Osmosis Small Water Treatment Installations
Funding Amount: \$1,200,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.16 *Water and Sewer: Private Wells (Treatment)*

Project Overview

Funds are being awarded to Participants through rebates on reverse osmosis small treatment installations for drinking water provided from private wells. Those eligible must effectively remove nitrates to below 10 parts per million. The NDEE shall reimburse Participants in an amount not to exceed a total amount of \$4,000.00 for the Private Well Reverse Osmosis Small Water Treatment Installation. The private wells must be registered through the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and have Nitrate levels exceeding 10 parts per million through testing completed by the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory. In addition, Participants must contract a licensed plumber or successful certified installer for completion of the work for the reverse osmosis treatment systems certified by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) (e.g., National Sanitation Foundation, Water Quality Association, or Underwriters Laboratories). The installer of the reverse osmosis small treatment system must equip each with a Performance Indication Device. Before reimbursement is final, the Participant must submit a post-installation Nitrate sample through the Nebraska Public Health Environmental Laboratory to confirm levels are below 10 parts per million.

To Be Determined

NDEE Reference #TBD: Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment
Funding Amount: \$25,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.10 *Drinking Water: Treatment*

Project Overview

A final community was selected for the replacement of reverse osmosis membranes at their existing water treatment plant. They are evaluating whether they can comply with ARPA requirements, prior to an agreement with the NDEE. Should they not be able to meet all requirements, this remaining \$25,000 in ARPA funding designated to the NDEE will likely be amended into the City of Wisner Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment agreement.

State of Nebraska

Nebraska Department of Labor

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

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Grant applications for premium pay and workforce development programs will be available on the Department of Labor's website beginning Monday, October 3, 2022. The Nebraska State Legislature appropriated \$10 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the grants. Premium pay applies to teachers, childcare providers, and nurses in qualified settings, with the goal of improving recruitment and retention. Workforce development funding is available for activities that bring eligible individuals back into the workforce or facilitate their career advancement through job training, reskilling, and upskilling.

Uses of Funds

Program 1: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay (EC 4)

NDOL ARPA funds are allocated for grants to educational employers and childcare facilities to support the recruitment and retention of educators in math, science, and career and technical education, as well as childcare and early childhood education providers. Premium pay will range from \$1,250 to \$2,500 depending on length of employment.

Program 2: Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay (EC 4)

NDOL ARPA funds are allocated for grants to healthcare employers to support the recruitment and retention of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants who work in eligible practice settings. These settings include hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation centers, residential treatment centers, primary care offices, and urgent care clinics. Premium pay will range from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Program 3: Workforce Development Grants Negative Economic Impact: (EC 2)

NDOL ARPA funds are allocated for grants to businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and other entities to provide eligible employment-related services to unemployed workers, underemployed workers, and other populations who suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible employment-related services include but are not limited to job training, vocational or job skill-focused education, career services and job coaching, job fairs, employer recruitment, hiring incentives, apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs, combined education and on-the-job training programs, assistance with starting a small business, and incentives for newly employed workers.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Grants are based on Recruitment and Retention, and Training

Community Engagement

NA

Labor Practices

NA

Use of Evidence

Program 1: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants

Funds received through a TRRG award will be used to provide premium pay to eligible employees. The following criteria govern the eligibility for premium pay:

1. The individual must provide eligible services in-person as an employee of a recipient school, school district, licensed childcare center, or licensed preschool program.
2. The individual's total pay from the recipient employer for 2023 must not be more than \$78,165.00 (150 percent of Nebraska's state average annual wage for all occupations as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Survey).
3. The individual must satisfy applicable retention requirements:
 - a. The individual must be working in a PP Eligible Position no later than September 1, 2023.
 - b. The individual must continue working in (or be on approved leave from) a PP Eligible Position at the same recipient employer on the PP Certification date of January 9, 2024.
 - c. As of the PP Certification Date, the individual must be under contract to teach in the PP Eligible position at the same recipient employer through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This requirement does not apply to any PP Eligible Position which the recipient employer does not treat as a contract position.
4. If all eligibility requirements are satisfied, the amount of premium pay shall be:
 - a. \$2,500 if the individual started a PP Eligible position on or before December 31, 2022.
 - b. \$1,250 if the individual started a PP Eligible position between January 1, 2023, and September 1, 2023.
 - c. An educator who moves from one PP Eligible position at a recipient employer to another PP Eligible position at the same recipient employer shall be deemed to have occupied the latter position continuously for the time in both positions.

Program 2: Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grants

Eligibility requirements for healthcare workers receiving premium pay

1. Funds distributed under an NRRG award shall be used solely to support premium pay for eligible healthcare workers employed by recipient healthcare employers.¹ To be eligible for premium pay, a healthcare worker must be a licensed RN, LPN, or CNA and must:

¹ Pursuant to guidance from the United States Department of Treasury, NDOL has determined that awarding premium pay to RNs, LPNs, and CNAs in all PP Eligible Positions will respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, without regard to income level or exemption status under the Fair Labor Standards Act of the premium pay recipient, because of the significant workplace risks these healthcare workers have encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic and because of the corresponding difficulties healthcare employers have faced when recruiting and retaining healthcare workers in these positions.

- a. Provide in-person patient care in a PP Eligible Position as an employee of a recipient healthcare employer.
 - b. Satisfy the following retention requirements:
 - i. Be in a PP Eligible Position no later than September 1, 2023.
 - ii. Continuously remain in the PP Eligible Position through the PP Certification Date (January 9, 2024) except for any period during which the healthcare worker is on approved leave.
2. If all eligibility requirements are satisfied, the amount of premium pay shall be:
- a. \$2,500.00 for an RN in a PP Eligible Position.
 - b. \$1500.00 for an LPN in a PP Eligible Position.
 - c. \$1,000.00 for a CNA in a PP Eligible Position.

Program 3: Workforce Development Grants

If a WDG project proposes use of funds to recruit eligible employees to a particular business or subsidize employment at that business, the following restrictions apply:

1. No WDG funds shall be used for recruitment of an employee who is employed full-time by a Nebraska business.
2. Any allowable hiring or retention bonus shall not exceed \$2,500.00 per eligible employee.
3. Recruitment and retention expenses are allowed only for the hire of permanent employees. Recruitment and retention expenses will be reimbursed only after the new hire has maintained employment with the applicant for 6 months.
4. Allowable recruitment-related expenses shall not include:
 - a. Housing down payments
 - b. Non- Economy Class air travel expenses
 - c. Temporary housing expenses, other than authorized travel related lodging costs
 - d. Lodging expenses that are not reasonable and comparable to the United States General Services Administration and in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations as of the date of travel
 - e. Room service or other lodging incidental expenses
 - f. Customs and immigration fees

Performance Report

Quarterly Report

Employers must submit a report to NDOL within 15 days of the end of each calendar quarter using a form and method prescribed by the Department. Quarterly reports identify whether the PP eligible position was filled or vacant. For filled positions, employers will provide information about the worker in the position (as specified by NDOL). Recipients who do not submit quarterly reports in a timely fashion may be subject initial award deobligation or decertification

PROJECT INVENTORY

Program 1: Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: Premium Pay, (EC 4)

- *Number of Grantees:* 76
- *Number of Position filled before 12/31/22:* 1455
- *Number of Position Filled between 1/1/23 and 9/1/23:* 287

Company Name	Total Grant Amount	Total Grant Positions	Position Filled before 12/31/22 (\$2500 per)	Position Filled b/tw 1/1/23 to 9/1/23 (\$1250 per)
<i>Busy Feet Childcare</i>	\$21,250	10	7	3
<i>Primrose School of Lincoln at Wilderness Hills</i>	\$81,250	41	24	17
<i>May Kids Thrive LLC</i>	\$281,250	130	95	35
<i>Educational Service Unit 2</i>	\$135,000	54	54	0
<i>*Educare Lincoln</i>	\$120,000	48	48	0
<i>Northeast Family Center</i>	\$47,500	19	19	0
<i>*Elite Childcare Academy</i>	\$80,000	40	24	16
<i>Little Learners Preschool and Academy</i>	\$30,000	14	10	4
<i>Educational Service Unit 2</i>	\$45,000	18	18	0
<i>Highlands Academy</i>	\$32,500	13	13	0
<i>Building Blocks Learning Center Inc.</i>	\$70,000	34	22	12
<i>*Father Flanagan's Boys' Home</i>	\$8,750	5	2	3
<i>Litchfield Public Schools</i>	\$7,500	4	2	2
<i>Cuddles And Imaginations</i>	\$62,500	30	20	10
<i>Lincoln Children's Academy</i>	\$65,000	28	24	4
<i>Cedar Bluffs Public School</i>	\$32,500	13	13	0
<i>Cheyenne County Child Development Center-Here Wee Grow</i>	\$30,000	12	12	0
<i>Bancroft-Rosalie Comm School</i>	\$40,000	16	16	0
<i>Teach me Childcare and Learning Center L.L.C</i>	\$22,500	12	6	6
<i>*Father Flanagan's Boys Home</i>	\$72,500	30	28	2
<i>*Father Flanagan's Boys Home</i>	\$15,000	7	5	2
<i>*Father Flanagan's Boys Home</i>	\$5,000	2	2	0
<i>*First Step Daycare</i>	\$22,500	9	9	0
<i>Raymond Central Public Schools</i>	\$10,000	4	4	0
<i>Learning Adventures Child Care Center-Lexington</i>	\$30,000	13	11	2
<i>Wrangler Babies Childcare</i>	\$28,750	12	11	1
<i>KidLogic Child Care & Preschool, Inc</i>	\$55,000	27	17	10
<i>The Children's Place</i>	\$17,500	7	7	0
<i>Noah's Ark Christian Daycare and Preschool</i>	\$35,000	14	14	0
<i>Bright From the Start Child Development Center LLC</i>	\$67,500	28	26	2

<i>Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties</i>	\$110,000	44	44	0
<i>The Child Care Center of Madison</i>	\$25,000	15	5	10
<i>Project Future Highlands</i>	\$53,750	24	19	5
<i>Inspiring Minds LLC</i>	\$50,000	20	20	0
<i>Project Future</i>	\$63,750	29	22	7
<i>16th Street Child Development Center DBA Ivy League of Lincoln</i>	\$20,000	8	8	0
<i>Bubbles and Blocks Child Development Center</i>	\$175,000	75	65	10
<i>Foundations Progressive Learning Center, Inc</i>	\$12,500	5	5	0
<i>Our Savior's King's Kids</i>	\$52,500	21	21	0
<i>Little Cubs Daycare, LLC</i>	\$30,000	12	12	0
<i>Callaway Public Schools</i>	\$15,000	6	6	0
<i>Montessori School for Young Children Inc.</i>	\$31,250	13	12	1
<i>Nebraska Children's Home Society</i>	\$22,500	9	9	0
<i>CW Ventures Inc</i>	\$87,500	35	35	0
<i>Harrison Village Childcare Inc</i>	\$72,500	29	29	0
<i>Blondo Childcare and Preschool Inc</i>	\$65,000	26	26	0
<i>Minis Preschool and Childcare Center LLC</i>	\$60,000	32	16	16
<i>Wood River Vision 20/20 Inc. dba Stick Creek Kids Child Development Center</i>	\$61,250	27	22	5
<i>Kearney Public</i>	\$162,500	65	65	0
<i>University of Nebraska-Lincoln Children's Center</i>	\$72,500	32	26	6
<i>Miles of Smiles Child Development Center</i>	\$55,000	25	19	6
<i>Clarkson Christian Daycare Foundation</i>	\$16,250	8	5	3
<i>ESU 9</i>	\$7,500	3	3	0
<i>St. Paul United Methodist Church, Son-shine Child Care Center</i>	\$20,000	10	6	4
<i>Primrose School at Falling Waters</i>	\$100,000	48	32	16
<i>ESU 9</i>	\$7,500	3	3	0
<i>Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital (Child Development Center)</i>	\$45,000	18	18	0
<i>ESU 9</i>	\$16,250	7	6	1
<i>ESU 9</i>	\$17,500	7	7	0
<i>Kids Connection</i>	\$52,500	22	20	2
<i>Zacs Place Child Care Center</i>	\$28,750	13	10	3
<i>ESU 9</i>	\$12,500	5	5	0
<i>Merrick County Child Development Center</i>	\$63,750	30	21	9
<i>Educational Service Unit #9</i>	\$41,250	20	13	7
<i>ESU 9</i>	\$36,250	15	14	1
<i>Boone Central Schools</i>	\$132,500	53	53	0
<i>Alpine Village Community Daycare</i>	\$17,500	8	6	2
<i>Trinity Child Care at Village Gardens</i>	\$37,500	15	15	0
<i>Trinity Infant & Child Care Center</i>	\$72,500	29	29	0

<i>The Valley Child Development Center</i>	\$75,000	40	20	20
<i>The Hearth Academy Preschool, Inc.</i>	\$8,750	4	3	1
<i>Education Services Unit 9</i>	\$23,750	10	9	1
<i>Bere's Child Care LLC</i>	\$93,750	40	35	5
<i>Stepping Stones Child Academy</i>	\$67,500	27	27	0
<i>Kid's Korner-The Community Center For Child Developmen</i>	\$47,500	21	17	4
<i>David City Public Schools</i>	\$35,000	14	14	0
<i>East Butler Public School District</i>	\$37,500	20	10	10
TOTAL	\$3,996,250	1742	1455	287
<i>Positions before 12/31/2022</i>	\$3,637,500			
<i>Positions b/tw 1/1/2023-9/1/2023</i>	\$358,750			
Total	\$3,982,500			

Program 2: Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grants

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: *Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay (EC 4)*

- *Number of Grantees: 8*
- *Number of Positions Requested: 1653*

Company Name	Total Grant Amount	Total Grant Positions	RN (\$2500 per)	LPN (\$1500 per)	CNA (\$1000 per)
<i>Butler County Health Care Center</i>	\$103,500	49	34	7	8
<i>Henderson Health Care Services, Inc.</i>	\$86,500	51	20	11	20
<i>Bryan Medical Center-East</i>	\$1,825,000	730	730	0	0
<i>Bryan Medical Center-West</i>	\$1,236,000	498	489	9	0
<i>Platte Valley Medical Group</i>	\$141,500	65	44	21	0
<i>Kearney Regional Medical Center</i>	\$478,500	204	183	0	21
<i>Merrick Medical Center</i>	\$64,000	30	22	2	6
<i>Grand Island Regional Medical Center</i>	\$65,000	26	26	0	0
TOTAL	\$4,000,000		1548	50	55
<i>RN</i>	\$3,870,000				
<i>LPN</i>	\$75,000				
<i>CNA</i>	\$55,000				
Total	\$4,000,000				

Program 3: Workforce Development Grants

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impact: (EC 2)

Company Name	Grant Amount	Workers	Project	Training Provider
Avenue Scholars	\$50,000	50	Omaha North STEM	<i>Metro Community College</i>
Behlen Manufacturing	\$40,800	50	Welder Training Program	<i>In-House</i>
Behlen Manufacturing	\$72,472	10	Behlen Apprenticeship Program	<i>In-House</i>
Chicano Awareness Center	\$342,144	60	Siembra NE: Internships	<i>In-House</i>
City of Sidney	\$8,000	6	Hiring Bonus Program	<i>GI Police Academy/ OED</i>
Lincoln Literacy	\$160,000	850	Bridgeway to a Better Life	<i>In-House</i>
Nonprofit Hub Foundation	\$65,000	50	Stop the NE Brain-Drain	<i>UNL Honors Program</i>
S2 Rolloffs LLC	\$25,000	6	S2 Welding Academy-On-the Job Training	<i>In-House</i>
Tabitha	\$139,950	90	LPN Student Stipends	<i>In-House</i>
Tabitha	\$299,520	225	CNA Stipends	<i>NE Health Care Learning Center</i>
The Applied Information Management	\$199,999	600	Strengthening NE Tech Ecosystem	<i>AIM Institute</i>
The Nebraska Medical Center	\$294,850	85	The Network	<i>Various Health Training Vendors</i>
Lincoln Littles	\$300,000	50	Recruitment & On-the-Job Training	<i>In-House</i>
Totals	\$1,997,735	2,132		

State of Nebraska

**Nebraska Department of Veterans
Affairs**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

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Executive Summary

In this section, provide a high-level overview of the jurisdiction's intended and actual uses of funding including, but not limited to: the jurisdiction's plan for use of funds to respond to the pandemic and promote economic recovery, key outcome goals, progress to date on those outcomes, and any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.

Federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) appropriated to the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs in LB 1014 (sec. 7) will be used for premium pay increases which were implemented for essential front-line workers in 24-hour facilities. These increases were made in an effort to retain staff and fill staff vacancies during the Covid-19 pandemic. The increases ensure the NDVA is competitive in pay in the future for positions that support public health and safety.

ARPA GUIDANCE PROVIDES UNDER SLFRP Final Rule FAQs 2.15 PAGE 11: "The Final Rule includes as an eligible use hiring up to a pre-pandemic baseline that is adjusted for historic underinvestment in the public sector, providing additional funds for employees who experienced pay cuts or were furloughed, avoiding layoffs, providing worker retention incentives, including reasonable increases in compensation, and paying for ancillary administrative costs related to hiring, support, and retention. "Public sector staff' would not include individuals participating in a job training or subsidized employment program administered by the recipient."

ARPA GUIDANCE ALSO PROVIDES UNDER SLFRP Final Rule FAQs 5.1 PAGES 33 and 34: "Eligible workers are those in critical infrastructure sectors who regularly perform in person work, interact with others at work, or physically handle items handled by others."

Uses of Funds

Describe in further detail the strategy and goals of the jurisdiction's SLFRF program, such as how your jurisdiction's approach would help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. Describe how their intended and actual uses of funds will achieve their goals. Given the broad eligible uses of funds and the specific needs of the jurisdiction, explain how the funds would support the communities, populations, or individuals in your jurisdiction. Address how the use of funds supports the overall strategy and goals in the following areas, to the extent they apply:

- a. *Public Health (EC 1)*
- b. *Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*
- c. *Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)*
- d. *Premium Pay (EC 4)*
- e. *Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)*
- f. *Revenue Replacement EC 6)*

If appropriate, include information on your jurisdiction's use (or planned use) of other federal recovery funds including other programs under the American Rescue Plan such as Emergency Rental Assistance, the Homeowner Assistance Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, the State Small

Business Credit Initiative, and so forth, to provide broader context on the overall approach for pandemic recovery.

Federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) in the amount of \$3,546,602.00 were appropriated to the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs in LB 1014 (sec. 7) and will be used for premium pay increases which were implemented for essential front-line workers in 24-hour facilities. These increases were made in an effort to retain staff and fill staff vacancies during the Covid-19 pandemic. The increases ensure the NDVA is competitive in pay in the future for positions that support public health and safety.

Promoting equitable outcomes

In this section, describe, as applicable, efforts to promote equitable outcomes, including economic and racial equity.

In describing efforts to design their SLFRF program and projects with equity in mind, recipients may consider the following:

- a. Goals: Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that recipients intend to serve within their jurisdiction?*
- b. Awareness: How equitable and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?*
- c. Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?*
- d. Outcomes: How are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps and/or reaching universal levels of service? How is the jurisdiction disaggregating outcomes by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?*

In describing efforts to implement their SLFRF program and projects with equity in mind, recipients may consider the following:

- a. Goals and Targets: Please describe how planned or current use of funds prioritize economic and racial equity as a goal, name specific targets intended to produce meaningful equity results at scale, and include initiatives to achieve those targets.*
- b. Project Implementation: Explain how the jurisdiction's overall equity strategy translates into focus areas for SLFRF projects and the specific services or programs offered by your jurisdiction in the following Expenditure Category, as indicated in the final rule:*

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits to address impacts of the pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income populations. This includes assistance with food, housing, and other needs; employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities); services to provide long-term housing security and housing supports, address educational disparities, or provide child care and early learning

services; and other strategies that provide impacted and disproportionately impacted communities with services to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic

The first annual Recovery Plan, due in 2021, was required to describe initial efforts and intended outcomes to promote equity, as applicable. Beginning in 2022, each annual Recovery Plan must provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on how the jurisdiction's approach achieved or promoted equitable outcomes or progressed against equity goals. Describe any constraints or challenges that impacted project success in terms of increasing equity. Describe the geographic and demographic distribution of funding, including whether it is targeted toward traditionally marginalized communities.

Goals: To increase and maintain staff levels at the Veteran Home facilities and reduce teammate turnover. These funds have helped to stabilize the workforce, reduce training costs, as well as overtime expenditures and ultimately provides better care to our members.

Awareness: The Nebraska State Legislature apportioned the funding to NDVA. Legislative sessions were open to the public for hearings and questions.

Access & Distribution: Premium Pay has allowed us to maintain and attract new teammates across the state.

Outcomes: We have been able to fill vacancies in a short amount of time and continue to grow our staffing.

Community Engagement

Describe how your jurisdiction's planned or current use of funds incorporates community engagement strategies including written feedback through surveys, project proposals, and related documents, oral feedback through community meetings, issue-specific listening sessions, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and additional public engagement, as well as other forms of input, such as steering committees, taskforces, and digital campaigns that capture diverse feedback from the community. Recipients should also describe how community engagement strategies support their equity goals, including engagement with communities that have historically faced significant barriers to services, such as people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

Labor Practices

Describe workforce practices on any infrastructure projects or capital expenditures being pursued. How are projects using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers? For example, report whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring.

NA

Use of Evidence

Describe whether and how evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluation are incorporated into their SLFRF program. Recipients may include links to evidence standards, evidence dashboards, evaluation policies, and other public facing tools that are used to track and communicate the use of evidence and evaluation for Fiscal Recovery Funds. Recipients are encouraged to consider how a Learning Agenda, either narrowly focused on SLFRF or broadly focused on the recipient's broader policy agenda, could support their overarching evaluation efforts in order to create an evidence-building strategy for their jurisdiction. In the Project Inventory section of the Recovery Plan, recipients should identify whether SLFRF funds are being used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. (See details in the Project Inventory section below).

The program will monitor retention and hiring rates

Performance Report

Describe how performance management is incorporated into their SLFRF program, including how they are tracking their overarching jurisdictional goals for these funds as well as measuring results for individual projects. The recipient has flexibility in terms of how this information is presented in the Recovery Plan, and may report key performance indicators for each project, or may group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. In some cases, the recipient may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting indicators. Recipients may include links to performance management dashboards, performance management policies, and other public facing tools that are used to track and communicate the performance of Fiscal Recovery Funds. In addition to outlining in this section their high-level approach to performance management, recipients must also include key performance indicators for each SLFRF project in the Project Inventory section (more details below).

The program will utilize retention and hiring data.

PROJECT INVENTORY

In this section, jurisdictions should provide a description of each project undertaken. See Section C(8) on page 39 and 40 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information. Below is an example of how to present the information noted in the Reporting Guidance, which incorporates project details as well as evidence and performance measure information outlined in the relevant sections above. This information should be replicated for all of the jurisdiction's projects.

Recipients have flexibility in the presentation and format of their Project Inventory, provided it includes the minimum required information. Recipients have the option of downloading a spreadsheet of the information entered into their Project and Expenditure Report to assist them

in creating the Project Inventory in their Recovery Plan. However, recipients must ensure that their Project Inventory contains the additional information required by this guidance, including but not limited to information about performance measures and evidence/evaluation for each project. In all cases, recipients must post publicly (and submit to Treasury) a single PDF file of their Recovery Plan, which includes the Project Inventory.

[Project 28028415, 28028416, 28028417, 28028418: Agency 28 Premium Pay](#)
[Funding amount: \\$3,546,602](#)
[Project Expenditure Category:4.1, Public Sector Employees](#)

Project Overview

- Pursuant to LB 1014 Section 7, federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) will be used for premium pay increases which were implemented for essential workers.

Link to the website: [Public Guidance Documents | Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)

Performance Report

- Performance will be measured by retention and hiring data

State of Nebraska

**Nebraska Game and Parks
Commission**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is charged to serve as the designated authority for management of compliant wastewater facilities on our park areas and have identified at various park areas across the state, wastewater treatment projects in most critical need of attention and actions necessary to continue the proper operation of park infrastructure and to remain in service to the general public. The listed projects are intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and gain efficiency through centralization of services and elimination of individualized treatment facilities.

Uses of Funds

The appropriated funds are assigned to agency identified wastewater treatment projects that are necessary to properly handle wastewater, protect the public and natural groundwater, and allow for continuing proper operation of park infrastructure and remain in service to the general public. Such infrastructure includes cabins, campgrounds, shower facilities, trailer dump stations and other related public facilities. The park areas are public facilities that are accessible to the general public and serve as critical economic drivers for the various nearby communities, offering recreational services, tourism revenue, and employment opportunities for those communities.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

- a. Goals: The projects are intended to enhance services at the park areas that are open and available to all populations.
- b. Awareness: The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission plans to use its communications channels by providing news releases, marketing, signage, etc. to provide awareness to the public of the projects and how SLFRF funding is being used for the projects.
- c. Access and Distribution: There is no difference in levels of access to the services provided at the park areas managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and there are no administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria.
- d. Outcomes: The intended outcome of the wastewater treatment upgrade projects is to provide enhanced universal levels of service and proper operation of park infrastructure that is accessible to all. The projects are intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and gain efficiency through centralization of services and elimination of individualized treatment facilities.

Community Engagement

The Nebraska Game and Park Commission has worked with community representatives in the legislature and other state agencies to determine eligible projects and has provided guidance documents and reports to the State Legislature's Executive Board. When applicable, outreach

efforts are used, and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission may reach out to local communities for collaboration on projects. The upgrades to the wastewater treatment facilities at the identified areas will positively impact the nearby communities that rely on the economic benefit that the park areas provide to those various communities as well as providing opportunities for increased to social wellbeing benefits to not only the nearby communities but the general public as well.

Labor Practices

State approved processes for selection of qualified and professional engineering firms will ensure that project designs comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities. Game and Parks will follow State of Nebraska procurement processes for selection of qualified contractual services for construction.

Use of Evidence

All projects are designed to comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

Performance Report

The wastewater collection upgrades at the identified park areas a necessary to properly handle wastewater at those areas and is intended to meet federal and state requirements. The projects will provide enhanced services made available to the public. The majority of the construction work has been completed for the identified projects. Project specific updates are outlined in the below project inventory.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project 33209901: Niobrara State Park Wastewater Treatment

Funding amount: \$690,868.50

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- Wastewater collection upgrades necessary to properly handle wastewater at Niobrara State Park. This project is intended to enhance services made available to the public and to meet code requirements. The project is intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and achieve efficiency through centralization of services.

Use of Evidence

- This project is designed to comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

Performance Report

- Construction work was completed on 4/28/2023. Project closeout documentation is being worked on. The lagoon is being monitored for wastewater inflow and for water loss. Construction work was performed by Rutjens Construction of Tilden, NE.

Project 33209902: Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment

Funding amount: \$918,688.91

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- Wastewater collection upgrades necessary to properly handle wastewater at Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area. This project is intended to enhance services made available to the public and to meet code requirements. The project is intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and achieve efficiency through centralization of services.

Use of Evidence

- This project is designed to comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

Performance Report

- Work is being performed by Nelson Construction. The force main is completed. The gravity sewer, and the tanks for the pre-treatment system are in place. Grading is complete on both Cell No. 1 and Cell No. 2. Rework of the liner in Cell No. 1 is complete and is meeting infiltration requirements. The Burback Cabin lift station is installed and has been started. The pre-fill system is laid out and the electrical work and completion of the lagoon lift station is scheduled for July/August 2023. Construction of the liner on cell No. 2 is underway. Placement of interior rip rap for Cell no. 2 is scheduled for August 2023. Substantial completion is anticipated for early fall of 2023.

Project 33209903: Two Rivers State Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment

Funding amount: \$3,721,085.97

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- Wastewater collection upgrades necessary to properly handle wastewater at Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area. This project is intended to enhance services made available to the public and to meet code requirements. The project is intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and achieve efficiency through centralization of services.

Use of Evidence

- This project is designed to comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

Performance Report

- Valley Corp has installed the 3" force main and have completed installation and startup of the dump station lift station. The liner system and fencing are complete at the lagoon site and waste is being sent to the lagoon. The dump station paving, and roadways have been restored. The sewer system is installed at the Fawn Meadows campground. Installation of the remaining lift stations are being phased to accommodate summer park visitation and lodging. Work is anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2023.

Project 33209904: Branched Oak State Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment

Funding amount: \$563,041.02

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- Wastewater collection upgrades necessary to properly handle wastewater at Branched Oak State Recreation Area. This project is intended to enhance services made available to the public and to meet code requirements. The project is intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and achieve efficiency through centralization of services.

Use of Evidence

- This project is designed to comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

Performance Report

- Work is being performed by K2 Construction. Substantial Completion was reached in May 2023. The lagoon and force main are in operation. The contractor is completing punch list items. Project closeout documentation is being worked on.

Project 33209905: Mormon Island State Recreation Area Wastewater Treatment

Funding amount: \$1,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1, Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Project Overview

- Wastewater collection upgrades necessary to properly handle wastewater at Mormon Island State Recreation Area. This project is intended to enhance services made available to the public and to meet code requirements. The project is intended to maintain adequate minimum levels of service and achieve efficiency through centralization of services.

Use of Evidence

- This project is designed to comply with all federal and state, (Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy), regulations requiring proper operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities.

Performance Report

- Midlands Contracting is performing work for the Mormon Island Wastewater Improvements. Contractor is waiting to remove the sludge once standing water dries out. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023.

State of Nebraska
State Colleges

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**
2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

CSC

The primary focus of the equipment project for Chadron State College is to better prepare students to become health professionals in underserved areas of rural Nebraska by obtaining modern equipment. As Covid-19 has exacerbated the health professional shortage in Nebraska, leading to the resignations and early retirements of thousands of health care workers, our well-prepared students are needed to help overcome the looming health care shortage. These pieces of equipment will greatly enhance our ability to train the next generation of health care providers. The equipment that has been purchased to-date and installed is already making an impact on our students learning experience.

In addition, Chadron State College has a project to upgrade and replace water main infrastructure. The campus water mains are original to the college and some sections are over 100 years old. The water main line sizes are inadequate to support the campus water needs and there aren't an adequate number of isolation valves. This project will ensure campus has not only clean water but also would provide appropriate water volume and pressure. We are still in the planning stages of this project but have committed \$36,800.

PSC

Peru State College equipment project focuses on the procurement of modern STEM equipment to that will be utilized by pre-professional students (medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc.) in the classroom to better prepare them for future employment in healthcare and associate STEM fields. This project is applicable to funding purposes for several reasons. Advances in science lead to improved and novel instrumentation. Exposing and training students on these devices teaches them important fundamental science concepts and prepares students to use these devices in the workforce. This project is progressing well with most of the equipment now purchased.

Peru State College also has a water/sewer project that will install replacement water mains. This project ensures that the campus has fresh, clean water both for drinking and sanitation needs. This project has one contract for design work, but the actual work has not started as it takes additional time to organize a project of this nature.

WSC

Wayne State College equipment project focuses on the procurement of modern STEM equipment to that will be utilized by pre-professional students (medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc.) in the classroom to better prepare them for future employment in healthcare and associate STEM fields. This project is applicable to funding purposes for several reasons. Advances in science lead to improved and novel instrumentation. Exposing and training students on these devices teaches them important fundamental science concepts and prepares students to use these devices in the workforce. This project is progressing well with much of the equipment now purchased.

Wayne State College also has a water/sewer project that will install replacement water mains. This project ensures that the campus has fresh, clean water both for drinking and sanitation needs. This project has not started as it takes additional time to organize a project of this nature.

In this section, provide a high-level overview of the jurisdiction's intended and actual uses of funding including, but not limited to: the jurisdiction's plan for use of funds to respond to the pandemic and promote economic recovery, key outcome goals, progress to date on those outcomes, and any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.

See Section C(1) on page 35 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Uses of Funds

CSC

Our equipment project at Chadron State College directly supports strategy and goals in Public Health (EC 1) and Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2). Reiterating from above, there is a huge health professional shortage in Nebraska and worldwide due to the Covid-19 pandemic and economic downturn. We have focused on equipment that will modernize programs, add practical hands-on training, enhance our students' ability to visualize scientific processes and living systems, and develop scientific thought processes. These focal points will help our students become successful in making a difference in healthcare.

The water main infrastructure project at Chadron State College directly supports strategy and Goals in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5). This project serves a very basic need for reliable delivery of clean water, in addition to providing the volume and pressure required if there is an emergency fire situation. This project serves everyone within the campus community and the community at large who often utilize campus facilities.

PSC

Peru State College equipment purchases would be considered an EC1 project. As noted in the executive summary, this equipment is for educational purposes in educating the next generation of health care professionals. These individuals will be supporting our communities in health care. Additionally, this promotes an equitable outcome by providing additional funds for a State College which may have otherwise not been able to acquire some of this equipment.

Peru State College water/sewer project would be considered an EC5 project. As noted in the executive summary, this project serves a very basic need for reliable delivery of clean water. This project serves everyone within the campus community and the community at large who often utilize campus facilities.

WSC

Wayne State College equipment purchases would be considered an EC1 project. As noted in the executive summary, this equipment is for educational purposes in educating the next generation of health care professionals. These individuals will be supporting our communities in

health care. Additionally, this promotes an equitable outcome by providing additional funds for a State College which may have otherwise not been able to acquire some of this equipment.

Wayne State College water/sewer project would be considered an EC5 project. As noted in the executive summary, this project serves a very basic need for reliable delivery of clean water. This project serves everyone within the campus community and the community at large who often utilize campus facilities.

Describe in further detail the strategy and goals of the jurisdiction's SLFRF program, such as how your jurisdiction's approach would help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. Describe how their intended and actual uses of funds will achieve their goals. Given the broad eligible uses of funds and the specific needs of the jurisdiction, explain how the funds would support the communities, populations, or individuals in your jurisdiction. Address how the use of funds supports the overall strategy and goals in the following areas, to the extent they apply:

- a. Public Health (EC 1)
- b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)
- c. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)
- d. Premium Pay (EC 4)
- e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)
- f. Revenue Replacement EC 6)

If appropriate, include information on your jurisdiction's use (or planned use) of other federal recovery funds including other programs under the American Rescue Plan such as Emergency Rental Assistance, the Homeowner Assistance Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, the State Small Business Credit Initiative, and so forth, to provide broader context on the overall approach for pandemic recovery.

See Section C(2) on page 35 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Promoting equitable outcomes

CSC

The equipment this funding made possible allows our students the resources necessary to succeed and works in conjunction with our highly successful Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP). The RHOP's focus is preparing students for professional school in health sciences while also encouraging these students to return to rural Nebraska to practice in underserved area, like Chadron, promoting economic equity.

The upgrade and replacement of water main infrastructure will promote equity within the community and region providing clean drinking water to all that utilize our campus facilities. The additional resources CSC could provide in a fire emergency with the increased water volume and pressure could have a huge impact on the community and surrounding region.

PSC

Peru State College is in the small rural town of Peru, NE. Residents in rural areas are often underserved. These projects help our small State College to provide additional resources. Students educated at Peru State College often go on to serve many of the small surrounding communities. Giving these students the resources to succeed promotes equitable outcomes for these students as well as the entire region.

WSC

Wayne State College is in the small rural town of Wayne, NE. Residents in rural areas are often underserved. These projects help our small State College to provide additional resources. Students educated at Wayne State College often go on to serve many of the small surrounding communities. Giving these students the resources to succeed promotes equitable outcomes for these students as well as the entire region.

In this section, describe, as applicable, efforts to promote equitable outcomes, including economic and racial equity.

In describing efforts to design their SLFRF program and projects with equity in mind, recipients may consider the following:

- a. Goals: Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that recipients intend to serve within their jurisdiction?*
- b. Awareness: How equitable and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?*
- c. Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?*
- d. Outcomes: How are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps and/or reaching universal levels of service? How is the jurisdiction disaggregating outcomes by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?*

In describing efforts to implement their SLFRF program and projects with equity in mind, recipients may consider the following:

- a. Goals and Targets: Please describe how planned or current use of funds prioritize economic and racial equity as a goal, name specific targets intended to produce meaningful equity results at scale, and include initiatives to achieve those targets.*
- b. Project Implementation: Explain how the jurisdiction's overall equity strategy translates into focus areas for SLFRF projects and the specific services or programs offered by your jurisdiction in the following Expenditure Category, as indicated in the final rule:*

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits to address impacts of the pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income populations. This includes assistance with food, housing, and other needs;

employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities); services to provide long-term housing security and housing supports, address educational disparities, or provide child care and early learning services; and other strategies that provide impacted and disproportionately impacted communities with services to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic

The first annual Recovery Plan, due in 2021, was required to describe initial efforts and intended outcomes to promote equity, as applicable. Beginning in 2022, each annual Recovery Plan must provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on how the jurisdiction's approach achieved or promoted equitable outcomes or progressed against equity goals. Describe any constraints or challenges that impacted project success in terms of increasing equity. Describe the geographic and demographic distribution of funding, including whether it is targeted toward traditionally marginalized communities.

See Section C(3) on pages 36 and 37 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Community Engagement

CSC/PSC/WSC

While projects at the state colleges did not require incorporating community engagement for implementation the outcomes will positively impact the community and region directly.

Describe how your jurisdiction's planned or current use of funds incorporates community engagement strategies including written feedback through surveys, project proposals, and related documents, oral feedback through community meetings, issue-specific listening sessions, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and additional public engagement, as well as other forms of input, such as steering committees, taskforces, and digital campaigns that capture diverse feedback from the community. Recipients should also describe how community engagement strategies support their equity goals, including engagement with communities that have historically faced significant barriers to services, such as people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

See Section C(4) on page 37 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Labor Practices

CSC/PSC/WSC

Any contracted labor provided by an outside contractor would require an NSCS issued contract. These contracts include language about labor practices. All employees of the NSCS are covered by union agreements or Board Policies. Contracted services may also require bidding as appropriate according to Board Policies.

Describe workforce practices on any infrastructure projects or capital expenditures being pursued. How are projects using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers? For example, report whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring.

See Section C(5) on page 37 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Use of Evidence

CSC/PSC/WSC

The projects undertaken by the state college using these funds do not require use of evidence. The projects serve students, the campus, and community in general in way identified earlier in this report.

Describe whether and how evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluation are incorporated into their SLFRF program. Recipients may include links to evidence standards, evidence dashboards, evaluation policies, and other public facing tools that are used to track and communicate the use of evidence and evaluation for Fiscal Recovery Funds. Recipients are encouraged to consider how a Learning Agenda, either narrowly focused on SLFRF or broadly focused on the recipient's broader policy agenda, could support their overarching evaluation efforts in order to create an evidence-building strategy for their jurisdiction. In the Project Inventory section of the Recovery Plan, recipients should identify whether SLFRF funds are being used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. (See details in the Project Inventory section below).

See Section C(6) on page 37 and 38 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

Performance Report

CSC/PSC/WSC

The projects undertaken by the state colleges are not necessarily performance driven. The health equipment being purchased will be installed and used in the classroom. These classes already exist. The new technology simply gives our students better educational opportunities. The water/sewer project likewise will be considered successful when it is completed.

Describe how performance management is incorporated into their SLFRF program, including how they are tracking their overarching jurisdictional goals for these funds as well as measuring results for individual projects. The recipient has flexibility in terms of how this information is presented in the Recovery Plan, and may report key performance indicators for each project, or may group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. In some cases, the recipient may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting indicators. Recipients may include links to performance management dashboards, performance management policies, and other public facing tools that are used to track and

communicate the performance of Fiscal Recovery Funds. In addition to outlining in this section their high-level approach to performance management, recipients must also include key performance indicators for each SLFRF project in the Project Inventory section (more details below).

See Section C(7) on page 38 and 39 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

PROJECT INVENTORY

In this section, jurisdictions should provide a description of each project undertaken. See Section C(8) on page 39 and 40 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information. Below is an example of how to present the information noted in the Reporting Guidance, which incorporates project details as well as evidence and performance measure information outlined in the relevant sections above. This information should be replicated for all of the jurisdiction's projects.

Recipients have flexibility in the presentation and format of their Project Inventory, provided it includes the minimum required information. Recipients have the option of downloading a spreadsheet of the information entered into their Project and Expenditure Report to assist them in creating the Project Inventory in their Recovery Plan. However, recipients must ensure that their Project Inventory contains the additional information required by this guidance, including but not limited to information about performance measures and evidence/evaluation for each project. In all cases, recipients must post publicly (and submit to Treasury) a single PDF file of their Recovery Plan, which includes the Project Inventory.

Example Project

Project [Identification Number]: [Project Name]

Funding amount: [Funding amount]

Project Expenditure Category: [Category number, Category Name]

Project Overview

- A description of the project that includes an overview of the main activities of the project, the approximate timeline, primary delivery mechanisms and partners, if applicable, and intended outcomes.
- Link to the website of the project if available
- Describe how the project contributes to addressing climate change and/or advances the Justice40 initiative, which sets a target of providing 40 of the benefits of certain federal investments, including climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities (for infrastructure projects under EC 5)

Use of Evidence

- Briefly describe the goals of the project, and whether SLFRF funds are being used for evidence-based interventions, the evidence base for the interventions, and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. If a recipient is conducting a program evaluation in lieu of reporting the amount of spending on evidence-based interventions, they must describe the evaluation design (see Reporting Guidance for additional details that should be included).

- *Identify the dollar amount of the total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions for each project in the Expenditure Categories noted with an asterisk in Appendix 1 of the Reporting Guidance.*

Performance Report

- *For the Project Inventories, include key performance indicators for your jurisdiction's major SLFRF funded projects. Report key performance indicators for each project, or group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. Jurisdictions may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting indicators. Include both output and outcome measures. Provide data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors, if possible.*
- *In addition, include the mandatory performance indicators if your jurisdiction has projects in the relevant areas (this information may be included in each recipient's Recovery Plan as they determine most appropriate). This information should be included in the Project Inventory, but this data will also need to be entered directly into the Treasury reporting portal as part of the Project and Expenditure report, as Treasury has added these fields (for Tier 1 recipients only) to the Project and Expenditure report. Below is a list of required data for each Expenditure Category, where relevant.*
 - Household Assistance (EC 2.2), Long-term Housing Security (EC 2.15-2.16) and Housing Support (EC 2.17-2.18):*
 - *Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)*
 - *Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed*
 - Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2.10) and Community Violence Interventions (EC 1.11):*
 - *Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs*
 - *Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs*
 - *Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs*
 - Addressing Educational Disparities (EC 2.24-2.26) and Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time (EC 2.27):*
 - *Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs¹*
 - Healthy Childhood Environments (EC 2.11-2.14):*
 - *Number of children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3- 5)*
 - *Number of families served by home visiting*

¹ For more information on evidence-based tutoring programs, refer to the U.S. Department of Education's [2021 ED COVID-19 Handbook \(Volume 2\)](#), which summarizes research on evidence-based tutoring programs (see the bottom of page 20).

CSC

Project 1: Health Education Equipment – Chadron State College

Funding amount: \$600,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC1.14 – Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

- *Funds will be used to purchase equipment to improve STEM and human anatomy education. Equipment will be utilized by pre-professional students (medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc.) in the classroom to better prepare them for future employment in health care and associated STEM fields.*

Use of Evidence

- *Goals of the project are to improve education opportunities for students in areas presumed to be disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Exposing and training students on these new devices teaches them important fundamental science concepts and prepares student to use these devices in the workforce. This is not an evidence-based intervention project.*

Performance Report

- *As of the date of report, \$5,733.68 of allocated funds have been spent with an additional \$76,931.92 of funds committed. These funds were allocated to purchased equipment, so progress on acquiring the equipment is the only applicable performance measure.*

Project 2: Campus Water Main Line Replacement – Chadron State College

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC5.15 – Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure

Project Overview

- *The project will install replacement water mains in areas of concern on campus. Aging lines present a risk to deliver water as needed. Safe drinking-water, sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being.*
- *Timeline is to move forward as soon as planning can be completed as minimal interruptions to the existing water supply are necessary to not impact areas that depend on it daily.*

Use of Evidence

- *Goals of the project are to provide a reliable source of safe water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene, and needs of the Energy Plant. This is not an evidence-based intervention project.*

Performance Report

- *This project is currently in the planning stages. \$36,800 has been committed with no funds spent.*

PSC

Project 1: Health Education Equipment – Peru State College

Funding amount: \$510,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC1.14 – Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

- *Funds will be used to purchase equipment to improve STEM and human anatomy education. Equipment will be utilized by pre-professional students (medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc.) in the classroom to better prepare them for future employment in health care and associated STEM fields.*

Use of Evidence

- *Goals of the project are to improve education opportunities for students in areas presumed to be disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Exposing and training students on these new devices teaches them important fundamental science concepts and prepares students to use these devices in the workforce. This is not an evidence-based intervention project.*

Performance Report

- *As of the date of report, 6.86% (\$35,010.76) of allocated funds have been spent with an additional 41.97% (\$214,057.71) of funds committed. These funds were allocated to purchased equipment, so progress on acquiring the equipment is the only applicable performance measure.*

Project 2: Campus Water Main Line Replacement – Peru State College

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC5.15 – Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure

Project Overview

- *The project will install replacement water mains in areas of concern on campus. Aging lines present a risk to deliver water as needed. Safe drinking-water, sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being.*
- *The timeline is to move forward as soon as planning can be completed as minimal interruptions to the existing water supply are necessary to not impact areas that depend on it daily.*

Use of Evidence

- *The goal of the project is to provide a reliable source of safe water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene, and the needs of the Energy Plant. This is not an evidence-based intervention project.*

Performance Report

- *This project is currently in the planning stages. As of the date of the report, 1.52% (\$30,432.50) of allocated funds have been spent with an additional 0.96% (\$19,267.50) of funds committed. These funds were allocated for completion of the main line water project, so project completion is the only applicable performance measure.*

WSC

Project 1: Health Education Equipment – Wayne State College

Funding amount: \$890,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC1.14 – Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

- *Funds will be used to purchase equipment to improve STEM and human anatomy education. Equipment will be utilized by pre-professional students (medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc.) in the classroom to better prepare them for future employment in health care and associated STEM fields.*

Use of Evidence

- *Goals of the project are to improve education opportunities for students in areas presumed to be disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Exposing and training students on these new devices teaches them important fundamental science concepts and prepares students to use these devices in the workforce. This is not an evidence-based intervention project.*

Performance Report

- *As of the date of report, 86% (\$767,295) of allocated funds have been spent with an additional 7% (\$66,044) of funds committed. These funds were allocated to purchased equipment, so progress on acquiring the equipment is the only applicable performance measure.*

Project 2: Campus Water Main Line Replacement – Wayne State College

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC5.15 – Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure

Project Overview

- *The project will install replacement water mains in areas of concern on campus. Aging lines present a risk to deliver water as needed. Safe drinking-water, sanitation, and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being.*
- *The timeline is to move forward as soon as planning can be completed as minimal interruptions to the existing water supply are necessary to not impact areas that depend on it daily.*

Use of Evidence

- *The goal of the project are to provide a reliable source of safe water for drinking, sanitation, hygiene, and needs of the Energy Plant. This is not an evidence-based intervention project.*

Performance Report

- *This project is currently in the planning stages. Funds have not yet been committed.*

State of Nebraska

**Nebraska Department of
Postsecondary Education**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

LB 1014 (2022), Sec. 35 requires a community college to make a grant application to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education for funding for a capital project or for offering a course or program that meets the criteria established by the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the Commission. The Legislature has appropriated \$60 million, not to exceed \$10 million for any one community college, for such purposes.

Two overarching project categories are job training assistance and workforce training center capital projects. Outcomes of each type of project are to provide trainees, including low- or moderate-income populations, underemployed workers, and unemployed workers, the time and support needed to train for higher wage occupations with career advancement opportunities.

Outcomes for job training assistance includes increased enrollment and graduation in high demand, high skill, and high wage (H³) jobs while the capital construction category outcomes provide the learning environment for these H³ jobs.

Progress on job training assistance and capital construction projects include increased enrollment, retention, and graduation rates and increased placement success in high demand, high skill, and high wage (H³) jobs. Progress on job assistance projects include number of clients served annually, number of clients that were retained or have completed their education/training programs, and number of clients that met their employment objective. However, most of the capital projects are in their infancy and progress won't be measurable until a few years after completion of the projects.

Uses of Funds

Uses of funds appropriated by the legislature under LB1014 (2022), Sec. 36 fall under one of two Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Households - 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed and Underemployed Workers categories - job training assistance or workforce training center capital projects.

Recognizing that the pandemic has generated broad workforce disruption, the Final Rule makes clear that recipients may provide job training to individuals that are currently employed but are seeking to move to a job that provides better opportunities for economic advancement, such as higher wages or more opportunities for career advancement. Consistent with this intent, the Final Rule also enumerates that job and workforce training centers are eligible capital expenditures for recipients of funds.

Projects will provide supplemental financial support, non-credit/credit scholarships, funding for books and other educational and training tools, connections to employment (business placement sponsorships for small businesses), career coaching, and basic skills support in the classroom to enable individuals who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, and are currently unemployed or underemployed, to receive short-term skills training and job placement services offered in cooperation with state and federal workforce funding systems. Equipped with flexible training stipends, scholarships, and linkages to employment, trainees, including low- or

moderate-income populations, underemployed workers, and unemployed workers will have the time and support needed to train for higher wage occupations with career advancement opportunities. Several of the projects include construction of training centers to house academic programs that lead to (H³) jobs.

Grant applications included testimonials from area businesses identifying shortage of skilled workers, several in H³ occupations, as a main concern. Supporting the workforce demand by producing a well-prepared labor pool is essential to helping businesses, industries, and communities recover from the labor disruptions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects will contribute to competitiveness and domestic business creation and sustainability in manufacturing, construction, and other sectors, and promote economic recovery and resiliency in a fast-changing workforce landscape.

Promoting equitable outcomes

For the non-capital construction projects, outreach will be conducted to raise awareness of the programs throughout the service area, particularly within highly distressed Opportunity Zone tracts and to populations most likely to benefit from the programs and its employment and training services. This will include dissemination of program information through existing network of partners. Programs may utilize an intake and orientation process to enroll students into the program, outline participation requirements, ensure eligibility, and set the stage for the education and training to occur during their time in the program. Intake may include a meeting to discuss each potential participant's employment goals, barriers to meeting these goals, and educational/career maps that guide students to achieve their employment goals.

Community Engagement

The State, as recipient of ARPA funds, appropriated \$60 million to community colleges to fund capital projects or for offering an academic course or program. Through communications with area businesses and/or internally identified needs of students/businesses, each community college will identify projects that best address these needs for their service area. This included seeking feedback of employers and students in advisory boards and work-based learning placement activities on modern practices and skills needed for successful employment in the service area.

Labor Practices

Subrecipients have been provided the following compliance requirements and will report compliance via annual reports: Final Rule, Compliance and Reporting Guidance, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards ("Uniform Guidance" or 2 CFR Part 200), Labor Standards Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction - Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR Part 5), and Civil Rights.

Use of Evidence

Projects will be evaluated based on program evaluations measuring effectiveness of the overall goals of providing job training and job opportunities to the general community, including low- or moderate-income populations, underemployed workers, and unemployed workers.

Performance Report

Each project will have its own performance measures as documented in the grant agreement with key measurements included in the project inventory for the project.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Central Community College

Project: 48697131 - ITS & Business Remodel Project

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed and Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

- The Central Community College ITS & Business remodel project aims to update 8,120 square feet of workforce training center space on the Grand Island campus to better facilitate learning and engaging educational opportunities for students in programs leading to H3 (high wage, high demand and/or high skill) occupations in central Nebraska, specifically information technology systems and business. The Final Rule explicitly identifies job and workforce training centers as an enumerated eligible use as assistance to unemployed or underemployed workers (page 117), specifically denoting "services like job training to accelerate rehiring of unemployed workers" (page 116). The project will accommodate classes and updated technology for essential business career opportunities for unemployed and underemployed workers. Improvements include, investing in infrastructure/equipment for student support in classrooms and computer labs, bringing the facility up to building and energy codes, and including new program space for entrepreneurial efforts. The project began after March 2023 with expected completion by the end of 2024. Outcomes include the design, public bid and completion of facilities and updated technology designed to assist students enter careers considered high wage, high demand and/or high skill in central Nebraska.
- No web link to the project has been created.
- This project is not applicable for addressing climate change and/or advancement of the Justice40 initiative. Central Community College is a 2023 Gold STAR Institution as recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education so energy conservation designs are a priority.

Use of Evidence

- Specific evidence-based interventions are not applicable to this project, but rather specific best practice procurement and accounting practices to ensure necessary, quality materials and services are used, and software, equipment and technology is being secured for use by students in order to provide high probability of career placement following completion of their program of study.
- No amount of SLFRF funding is designated for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Cooperative work for collection and reporting for this project will be completed by faculty, purchasing, accounting, institutional research and administration with the following performance measures:

1. Documentation of engagement from program faculty, business and ITS advisory boards to provide feedback on essential career skills and suggestions on facilities, software and equipment required to help develop those skills.
2. Documentation of engagement of professional services to design and prepare bid documents for availability and distribution to all contractors. Final bid results and record of approval of contract by the publicly elected Central Community College Board of Governors.
3. Documentation of regular update meetings, safety reviews and inspections occurring throughout the project.
4. Documentation of software and equipment procurement and results of the external fiscal audit of project expenditures.
5. Documentation of student completion numbers into select programs or courses using spaces. This will be completed each semester and annually with a goal of 80% completion of course and program. As available, collect student demographic characteristics including breakdown of race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic to examine success of students and graduates in programs utilizing the space. This will be completed and reported on an annual basis.

As required by b. Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2.10):

- Number of workers (students) enrolled in sectoral job training programs
- Number of workers (students) completing sectoral job training programs
- Number of people (students) participating in summer youth employment programs.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Central Community College

Project: 48697132: CTSN Equipment for H3 Jobs

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed and Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

- The Central Community College CTSN Equipment for H3 Jobs Project aims to update and modernize equipment in three career and technical programs to meet industry standards with thirteen new or leased pieces of equipment. This request will be used for equipment in the following programs: Heavy Equipment Operator Technician, Diesel Technology, Nursing Education. The equipment purchased will allow students to learn and practice on equipment that is used in industry. The simulators will provide state of the art immersive experiences for teaching and learning. Purchase and use of equipment will be completed throughout 2024 through 2026. Outcomes include the identification, purchase, curriculum implementation of equipment designed to assist students enter careers considered high wage, high demand and/or high skill in central Nebraska.
- No web link to the project has been created.
- This project is not applicable for addressing climate change and/or advancement of the Justice40 initiative. Central Community College is a 2023 Gold STAR Institution as recognized by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

Use of Evidence

- Specific evidence-based interventions are not applicable to this project, but rather specific best practice procurement and accounting practices to ensure necessary, quality equipment is being secured for use by students in order to provide high probability of career placement following completion of their program of study.
- No amount of SLFRF funding is designated for evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

Cooperative work for collection and reporting for this project will be completed by faculty, purchasing, accounting, institutional research and administration with the following performance measures:

1. 100% documentation of need from program faculty/program supervisor and/or business advisory boards of equipment required to help build essential career skills in these high wage, high demand and/or high skill occupations in central Nebraska. This will be completed prior to purchase or leasing of equipment.
2. 100% documentation of equipment bids and/or justified sole-source purchasing. This will be completed prior or at time of equipment purchasing.

3. 100% inventory of equipment purchased and results of annual fiscal audit. This will be completed within thirty days of receipt of equipment and annually by fiscal auditor.
4. Documentation of student completion numbers into select programs or courses using equipment. This will be completed each semester and annually with a goal of 80% completion of course and program.
5. As available, collect student demographic characteristics including breakdown of race, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic to examine success of students and graduates in programs utilizing equipment. This will be completed and reported on an annual basis.

As required by b. Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2.10) :

- Number of workers (students) enrolled in sectoral job training programs
- Number of workers (students) completing sectoral job training programs
- Number of people (students) participating in summer youth employment programs.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Metropolitan Community College

Project: 48697116 - Career Forward

Funding amount: \$9,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed and Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

MCC's proposed CAREER FORWARD program provides supplemental financial support, non-credit/credit scholarships, funding for books and other educational and training tools, connections to employment (business placement sponsorships for small businesses), career coaching, and basic skills support in the classroom to enable individuals who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, and are currently unemployed or underemployed, to receive short-term skills training and job placement services offered in cooperation with state and federal workforce funding systems.

Equipped with flexible training stipends, scholarships, and linkages to employment, trainees will have the time and support needed to train for higher wage occupations with career advancement opportunities. Paired with Skills Assessments using the National Career Readiness Certification, MCC career coaching, job placement services, transportation support, and other wrap-around supports, Career Forward helps to bridge the significant barriers these individuals face in jumpstarting their careers.

The project initiated on October 1, 2022 with recruitment efforts conducted by internal marketing and through existing channels to help quickly raise awareness of the program. The program also began contacting current students such as those in the college's HEERFS (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) and workforce support grant programs, transitioning eligible students in these programs into Career Forward.

The program offers training across a variety of career fields, including transportation, IT, healthcare, automotive, industrial maintenance, project management, insurance, manufacturing, fiber optics, and other high-demand careers. As described, throughout their time in the program, the students are provided a variety of supports to address existing barriers (such as tuition) and unexpected barriers that arise during their time in training. The program's overriding purpose is to provide those who have been negatively impacted by the COVID19 pandemic with the full support needed to enter and succeed in a training program that leads to gainful employment.

- ***Link to the website of the project if available***

<https://www.mccneb.edu/Community-Business/Workforce-Innovation-Division/Career-Skill-Advancement-Adult-Education/Career-Forward>

- **Describe how the project contributes to addressing climate change and/or advances the Justice40 initiative, which sets a target of providing 40 of the benefits of certain federal investments, including climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities (for infrastructure projects under EC 5)**

Not applicable.

Use of Evidence

- **Briefly describe the goals of the project, and whether SLFRF funds are being used for evidence-based interventions, the evidence base for the interventions, and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. If a recipient is conducting a program evaluation in lieu of reporting the amount of spending on evidence-based interventions, they must describe the evaluation design (see Reporting Guidance for additional details that should be included).**

The project is being supported by an external evaluation to help guide the project's impact study and provide data for internal and external reporting purposes. The evaluation is utilizing both formative and summative strategies to support continuous program improvement and to determine the extent to which the project was effective in achieving economic benefits for participants.

The program is collecting a variety of data on participants which include demographic and income data, gender, zip code of residence, number/nature of work-based learning experiences, education and training outcomes, number who are placed in employment, number who earn higher wages post-education/training, number who earn a degree or certification, and other pertinent data.

The program is guided by the following annual objectives: 1000 clients served annually; 75% of clients are retained or have successfully completed their education/training program; and 75% of clients meet their employment objective. Additionally, 80% of participating Career Forward business partners and employers will report high satisfaction with the program and newly hired employees.

The project evaluation is designed to help the College and its stakeholders determine whether the program is on track toward meeting its stated objectives, how/when to respond to negative trends that occur during the project's implementation (formative evaluation) and the extent to which objectives are met (summative evaluation).

- **Identify the dollar amount of the total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions for each project in the Expenditure Categories noted with an asterisk in Appendix 1 of the Reporting Guidance.**

100% of the funding allocated to date has been spent on evidence-based interventions.

Performance Report

- *For the Project Inventories, include key performance indicators for your jurisdiction's major SLFRF funded projects. Report key performance indicators for each project, or group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. Jurisdictions may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting*

indicators. Include both output and outcome measures. Provide data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors, if possible.

Program Outcomes:

Performance Measure	Progress
Program Goals (Annual)	
Participants Served (goal=1000)	427 (duplicated) 538 (duplicated)
Percent who are retained or completed their training program	82.30%
Percent who meet their employment objective	82.30%
Employer Satisfaction Rate	TBD - available Fall 2023
Participant Information	
Total Number of Participants Served (Unduplicated)	427
Percent of Participants: Low-Income (Pell-eligible)	100%
Percent of Participants: Racial/Ethnic Minority	70.5%
Percent Black/African American	52.4%
Percent American Indian or Alaska Native	1.6%
Percent Asian	5.3%
Percent Multi-Race	1.5%
Percent White or Caucasian	35.8%
Percent Hispanic	14.1%
Percent of Participants residing in low-income zip codes (i.e., zip codes with poverty levels that exceed Nebraska's poverty rate of 10.3%)	59.4%
Education/Training Data	
Average Hourly Wage of Participants (Pre-Program)	\$16.92
Average Hourly Wage of Completers (Post-Program)	\$20.01
Total Number of Certifications Earned	209
% Retained in Program	82.30%
Number Currently in Education/Training	190 (duplicated)
Total Drops/Withdrawals/Fails	79
Number of Completers	279

Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers (EC 2.10) and Community Violence Interventions (EC 1.11):

Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs – 427

Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs - 279

Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs (n/a)

PROJECT INVENTORY

Metropolitan Community College

Project: 48697216 - Powersports and Outdoor Power Equipment Technology Training Program

Funding amount: \$626,152

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed and Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

- Funding will be used to establish a Powersports and Outdoor Power Equipment Technology Training Program. The project will provide short-term training to earn high-skill, high-demand certifications that lead to sustainable wages in a variety of high-growth occupations within the Powersports/Small Engine industry for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. Students may enroll in one or more tracks (four total) to obtain multiple certificates or complete all four tracks and graduate with an associate degree. The project provides training and education to individuals negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, enabling them to earn nationally recognized credentials and obtain employment or advance their careers.
- Classes will begin in the Fall 2023 quarter.
- <https://www.mccneb.edu/Academics/Programs-of-Study/Industrial-Transportation-Utility-Line/Powersports-and-Outdoor-Power-Technology>

Use of Evidence

- The goals of the project are to provide valuable job training and education to workers who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the pandemic.
- The program's intervention is informed by discussions with area employers that indicated that there is a great need for skilled workers in the powersports industry.
- Learners receive hands-on instruction on shop practices and product maintenance using tried and proven methods of adult learning (Dustin, Emily, 12 July 2017, Challenges, Opportunities, and Growth: Understanding Adult Learners. Retrieved from <https://motivislearning.com/insights/supporting-adult-learners-through-challenges-and-opportunities/>)
- The Evaluation plan for the Powersports and Outdoor Power Equipment Technology Training Program will include formative and summative strategies in order to (1) measure the program's impact on students, and (2) provide data necessary to evaluate student learning (credentials/degrees awarded), and to fine-tune the program (continuous improvement). Should the data show a lack of progress toward the stated objectives, program staff and partners will conduct a focused analysis of the data to determine root causes of negative trends and to respond with a series of program modifications that mitigate these issues. In every sense, the program's evaluation will be continuous, collaborative and proactive, in order to ensure, at every stage of the project, adequate performance.
- Expenditure Category 2.10: Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers: \$626,152

Performance Report

- The program will collect a variety of data on participants, including impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, demographic and income data, gender, zip code of residence, education and training outcomes, number who are placed in employment, number who earn one or more certificates, number who earn an associate degree, and other pertinent data. The data will be collected throughout the duration of the project and stored within the College's information system. The Advisory Council will be utilized to assess staffing needs and collect information on trainees. Satisfaction surveys will be completed by Advisory Council members, and employers who hire Powersports graduates. Data collection will begin after the Fall 2023 start of classes.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Metropolitan Community College

Project: 48697163 - Building Information Modeling Technology Training Program

Funding amount: \$373,848

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed and Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

- Funding will be used to establish a Building Information Modeling Training Program within the Architectural Technology and Civil Engineering Technology programs at Metropolitan Community College. The project will provide short-term training to earn high-skill, high-demand certifications that lead to sustainable wages in a variety of high-growth occupations within the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering industries for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. Students may enroll in five possible programs to complete a career certificate. Each of the five programs may be continued on to complete an associate degree and if desired, transferred towards a four-year university. The project provides training and education to individuals negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic, enabling them to earn nationally recognized credentials and obtain employment or advance their careers.
- Classes will begin in the Fall 2023 quarter.
- See attached flyers

Use of Evidence

- The goals of the project are to provide valuable job training and education to workers who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the pandemic.
- The program's intervention is informed by discussions with area employers that indicated that there is a great need for skilled workers in the architecture, construction, and engineering industry.
- Learners receive hands-on instruction on shop practices and product maintenance using tried and proven methods of adult learning (Dustin, Emily, 12 July 2017, Challenges, Opportunities, and Growth: Understanding Adult Learners. Retrieved from <https://motivislearning.com/insights/supporting-adult-learners-through-challenges-and-opportunities/>)
- The Evaluation plan for the BIM Technology Training Program will include formative and summative strategies in order to (1) measure the program's impact on students, and (2) provide data necessary to evaluate student learning (credentials/degrees awarded), and to fine-tune the program (continuous improvement). Should the data show a lack of progress toward the stated objectives, program staff and partners will conduct a focused analysis of the data to determine root causes of negative trends and to respond with a series of program modifications that mitigate these issues. In every sense, the program's evaluation will be continuous, collaborative and proactive, in order to ensure, at every stage of the project, adequate performance.
- Expenditure Category 2.10: Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers: \$373,848

Performance Report

- The program will collect a variety of data on participants, including impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, demographic and income data, gender, zip code of residence, education and training outcomes, number who are placed in employment, number who earn one or more certificates, number who earn an associate degree, and other pertinent data. The data will be collected throughout the duration of the project and stored within the College's information system. The Advisory Council will be utilized to assess staffing needs and collect information on trainees. Satisfaction surveys will be completed by Advisory Council members, and employers who hire BIM graduates. Data collection will begin after the Fall 2023 start of classes.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Mid-Plains Community College

Project: 48697112 - Health and Science Center (HASC) Expansion Project

Funding Amount: \$995,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The HASC Expansion Project, with the expected completion date of July 1, 2023, will house a healthcare workforce training center that responds to the need for high-demand, high-skill, high-wage job training, helping to alleviate the pandemic's regional negative economic and public health impacts. The expanded structure adds approximately 11,800 square feet of learning space for health occupations training, with the capacity for sixteen potential students added to the nursing programs, eight of whom will be Registered Nurses, which on an annual basis meets 8.4% of the reported shortage of 95 Registered Nurses in the region. The HASC Expansion will also be home to advanced, state-of-the-art Emergency Medical Services training, the Medical Lab Technician program, and CPR/AED/Basic Life Support classes, as well as serving as the educational hub for community and regional health gatherings.

The current Mid-Plains Community College Health and Science Center (HASC) facility has reached its physical space threshold, and additional space is needed for students who endeavor to be a part of the remedy for the ever-growing healthcare needs created by the Covid-19 pandemic and an aging regional population. College administration has embarked on the HASC Expansion Project, a \$4,771,049 project, which will result in more classrooms to accommodate increased enrollment in nursing courses, additional lab space for nursing and emergency medical services, and a virtual innovation lab to complement existing programming. This new space was thoughtfully designed with the intent of engaging new learners from this high poverty, low median wage population, thus providing a broader population of educated, available healthcare professionals for a post-pandemic era and assistance to unemployed or underemployed workers.

Intended outcomes are as follows: The 3-year average of Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC) graduates from Registered Nursing (RN) program will demonstrate a National Council Licensure Examination (N-CLEX) pass rate increase from 66.42% to 90%, which based upon increased capacity for MPCC's RN students, increases the 3-year average of workforce-ready nurses from 17 to 36 from the fully staffed HASC facility by 2030. Using the same measure, MPCC anticipates that MPCC Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) graduate N-CLEX

pass rates will increase from 96.8% 3-year average to 97%, with the increased student numbers translating to a 3-year average of 31 workforce-ready LPNs.

The intended goals of the Health and Science Center Expansion Project, as referenced in Section 6, are met through MPCC's capital investment, with assistance from SLFRF funding and the subsequent addition of instructional staff and increased student population. Project evaluation will occur through annual reporting, data collection, and student learning outcomes; therefore, no specific allocation of SLFRF monies are applied to evidence-based interventions or evaluations.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Mid-Plains Community College

Project: 48697122 - East Campus Renovation Project

Funding Amount: \$9,005,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The East Campus Renovation Project, with the expected completion by December 2026, will house a healthcare workforce training center that responds to the need for high-demand, high-skill, high-wage job training, helping to alleviate the pandemic's regional negative economic and public health impacts. Through business and industry simulation and collaboration spaces, this Project will also serve community business needs during post-pandemic recovery. The expanded structure refurbishes—with state-of-the-art technology and design—approximately 29,178 square feet of learning space for health occupations training and business and community engagement programming, as well as serving as the educational hub for community and regional health and business gatherings.

The current paramedic facility on the McCook Campus have reached its physical space threshold, and additional space is needed for students who endeavor to be a part of the remedy for the ever-growing healthcare needs created by the Covid-19 pandemic and an aging regional population. College administration has embarked on the \$11.3 million East Campus Renovation Project, which will result in more classrooms to accommodate increased enrollment and certification in nursing courses, increased enrollment and certification of emergency medical services students, additional lab space for nursing and emergency medical services, an ambulance box to train future paramedics, and a virtual innovation lab to complement existing programming. This new space was thoughtfully designed with the intent of engaging new learners from this high poverty, low median wage population, thus providing a broader population of educated, available healthcare professionals for a post-pandemic era and assistance to unemployed or underemployed workers.

Intended outcomes are as follows:

- The current 3-year average of work-ready paramedics will increase to 37 completers who pass the National Registry Exam by 2030, an increase of an average additional 15 work-ready paramedics annually
- With the usage of the renovated East Campus, MPCC's N-CLEX/LPN pass rate will increase to 97% of the total LPN graduates by 2030, an increase of 31 workforce-ready licensed practical nurses annually
- Business and Community Education programming hours will increase by 1%, or 260 hours annually, by 2030.

The intended goals of the East Campus Renovation Project, as referenced in Section 6, are met through MPCC's capital investment, with assistance from SLFRF funding. Project evaluation will occur through annual reporting, data collection, and student learning outcomes; therefore, no specific allocation of SLFRF monies will be applied to evidence-based interventions or evaluations.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Northeast Community College

Project: 48697114 - Fabrication Lab Renovation Project

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10–Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Project Overview

The Fabrication Lab Renovation consists of a complete renovation of a 17,785-square-foot building in downtown Norfolk. This space will benefit local and area manufacturers – especially those that serve agricultural clients – along with entrepreneurs interested in research and testing concepts that may lead to the development of new products or start up businesses. Another benefit of this space is for work upskilling for local companies to send their employees for customized training opportunities within the realms of manufacturing, automation, and fabrication.

This project, which also has opportunities for historic restoration, will provide renovated space to support a new robotics program, as well as entrepreneurial services that allow access to resources and equipment for citizens in Northeast Community Colleges 20-county service area.

New program space will consist of a Metal and Wood shop, Rapid Prototyping, and an Automation/Electro-mechanical lab, storage and receiving, and collaborative spaces. This project acts as an opportunity to partner with Invest Nebraska and Growing Together regional economic development initiative incubators and accelerators to support key industries in the High Wage, High Skill, and High Demand (H3) occupational areas. Improvements include bringing the facility up to building and energy codes, new program space for entrepreneurial efforts, and investing in infrastructure and equipment to support future community partnerships. [Northeast Nebraska Innovation Hub | Northeast Community College, Nebraska](#)

Use of Evidence

Currently, few fabrication labs serve both workforce development needs as well as entrepreneurial development within a community. The model being developed will provide a valuable contribution to evidence on the synergies that may exist with such co-location in rural communities. Program evaluation will be incorporated into the SLFRF program to build evidence on the impact of entrepreneurship ecosystem creation, as well as impact on employment in “H3” jobs. H3 jobs are those that are high skill, high wage, and high demand.

Performance Report

Project timeline and deliverables provide the dashboard of progress in this project.

- October 2023
 - o Grant Award Notification received
 - o Board of Governors approved purchase of building
 - o FabLab Planning Discussions begin
- November 2023
 - o FabLab Planning discussion continue
- December 2023
 - o Architect requests for proposals issued
 - o Planning discussion continue

- January 2024
 - o Architect proposals received
 - o Planning discussion continue

- February-March 2024
 - o Architectural agreement for services finalized and submitted to EDA.
 - o EDA determined selected architectural firm ineligible for Federal Funding
 - o Northeast assumes all A/E costs under separate agreement with architectural firm to keep project on track
 - o Planning discussions continue

- March-April 2024
 - o Building Infrastructure Analysis Begins
 - o Planning Continues

- May-June 2024
 - o Director hired
 - o Initial Floor Plans reviewed, and modifications requested

The project is resuming momentum with a full-time director in place finalizing equipment needs and working with the architects to complete floor p

PROJECT INVENTORY

Northeast Community College

Project: 48697142 - South Sioux City Workforce Development Expansion Project.

Funding amount: \$8,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10–Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Project Overview

Workforce Development Center at Northeast Community College's South Sioux City Extended Campus will serve eight counties in the South Sioux City region. The two-phase project will consist of constructing a truck driving training facility, shelter, and practice range; expanding the industrial training building to support additional upskilling for employment advancement; and development of training spaces and curriculum to provide high demand skills in areas such as construction trades, industrial robotics, heavy equipment operation and transportation technicians.

Phase one consists of constructing the truck driving facility, shelter and practice range as well as expanding the existing industrial training building. Architectural designs are complete, bidding process is complete, and construction has begun. Completion of the practice driving

Use of Evidence

Program selection has been based upon data on employment openings, historic trends and projected trends. The programs to be added via this project have proven a sustained demand within the region to be served. Program evaluation will be incorporated into to the SLFRF program to measure impact on employment in "H3" jobs. H3 jobs are those that are high skill, high wage, and high demand.

Performance Report

Project timeline and deliverables provide the dashboard of progress in this project. Architectural designs for the truck driver training facility and industrial training building expansion are finalized and contract awarded. Construction of the practice driving range has begun with anticipated completion by mid-August 2023. Remaining construction and renovation will begin as soon as possible with anticipated final completion by end of June 2024. A full-time instructor was hired prior to grant award and has completed onboarding and training. Multiple area employers have made soft commitments to provide in-kind donations of equipment; with efforts currently underway to solidify those details. Programming plans and architectural drawings are in development for the construction of the Workforce Training Center (phase two). Funds will continue to be expended as construction progresses. Major milestones include:

- April 2023 – Funding Award Notification
- March 2023 – Architectural Drawings Finalized
- April 2023 – Requests for Proposal Issued
- May 9, 2023 – Construction Bid Awarded
- June 5, 2023 – Construction Began

PROJECT INVENTORY

Southeast Community College

Project: 48697151 - SCC Welding Lab (Beatrice)

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

The Welding Lab construction project will fund construction of a new 4000-sq ft facility with 20 multi-process welding bays on Southeast Community College's (SCC) Beatrice Campus. The building will be adjacent to Agriculture Hall and will be instrumental in increasing SCC's capacity to upskill and retrain unemployed and underemployed residents in nearby communities. This new, dedicated welding training space will also have the flexibility to host day/evening/weekend courses in basic-to-advanced, reskill/upskill welding and fabrication, with the added option to confer welding certifications for local business and industry through SCC's Accredited Test Facility. Beatrice is home to a number of businesses that would support such a program, including Encore Manufacturing, Precise Fabrication, Neapco Components, Exmark Manufacturing, Worldlawn Power Equipment, LandMark Implement, and Gage County Equipment.

Use of Evidence

SCC uses evidence from Lightcast trend-analysis software to track both employment trends in the 15-county service area as well as labor market trends.

Performance Report

SCC tracks graduation trends in each program sector (the most current year [2020] can be viewed here: https://www.southeast.edu/about/files/2020_GradReport_web.pdf).

This data will be used to track graduation and employment rates of employees after completion of this capacity-building construction project.

Additional data will be collected on demographic data, including race/ethnicity and gender, which can be viewed in our factbook located on our public data web page which can be viewed here: <https://www.southeast.edu/about/other-scc-departments/institutional-research/fact-book.php>.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Southeast Community College

Project: 48697152 - SCC Construction Technology Center (Milford)

Funding amount: \$4,250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

The Construction Technologies Center (CTC) consists of a new 94,735 gross square foot building designed with the flexibility to meet the evolving needs of Southeast Community College's Construction Technology programs. The new CTC is envisioned as a two-story structure located in the north quadrant of the Milford campus near the main campus entrance off U.S. Highway 6. The new facility will provide program-specific instructional spaces focused on classrooms, class labs, and student/faculty collaboration in support of Diploma, Certificate and Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree programs. Class Labs provide hands-on learning to develop skills necessary for the workforce and are a critical piece of the instructional curriculum. These labs include large pieces of equipment related to heating, cooling, refrigeration, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, and concrete. Students receive direct hands-on instruction on a wide range of skills with content lectures and instructor demonstrations, followed by student performed projects. Most importantly, the new facility will bring together faculty and students from six Construction Technology programs currently located in three separate aging facilities. The programs targeted for relocation to the new CTC represent the primary construction trades needed for commercial and residential construction: Land Surveying/Civil Engineering; Design and Drafting Technology; Building Construction Technology; Electrical Technology; Plumbing Technology; and HVAC/Refrigeration Technology. The proposed construction represents the next phase in direct response to the need to increase SCC's capacity to upskill and retrain unemployed and underemployed residents in nearby communities.

Use of Evidence

SCC uses evidence from Lightcast trend-analysis software to track both employment trends in the 15-county service area as well as labor market trends.

Performance Report

SCC tracks graduation trends in each program sector (the most current year [2020] can be viewed here: https://www.southeast.edu/about/files/2020_GradReport_web.pdf).

This data will be used to track graduation and employment rates of employees after completion of this capacity-building construction project.

Additional data will be collected on demographic data, including race/ethnicity and gender, which can be viewed in our factbook located on our public data web page which can be viewed here: <https://www.southeast.edu/about/other-scc-departments/institutional-research/fact-book.php>.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Southeast Community College

Project: 48697153 - SCC Welding Technology Center (Lincoln)

Funding amount: \$4,250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers

Project Overview

The project will involve construction of approximately 80,000 square foot, stand-alone Welding Technology Center located north of the main building on Lincoln's 8800 O Street campus. The objective of this project is to create appropriate learning spaces for Welding Technology students seeking a Certificate, Diploma, or Associate of Applied Science degree, as well as industry-specific training. Additionally, we need to create appropriate spaces for the college's American Welding Society Certified Testing Center to certify welding skills for employment needs. The current spaces for Welding Technology and Testing are over-utilized, unsafe, and unable to meet current student and industry needs. The proposed project moves ignition sources out of the main campus building and thus makes the entire building safer. The proposed construction represents the next phase in direct response to this serious concern and to the need to increase SCC's capacity to upskill and retrain unemployed and underemployed residents in nearby communities.

Use of Evidence

SCC uses evidence from Lightcast trend-analysis software to track both employment trends in the 15-county service area as well as labor market trends.

Performance Report

SCC tracks graduation trends in each program sector (the most current year [2020] can be viewed here: https://www.southeast.edu/about/files/2020_GradReport_web.pdf).

This data will be used to track graduation and employment rates of employees after completion of this capacity-building construction project.

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State of Nebraska

**University of Nebraska Medical
Center/University of Nebraska
Kearney**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Rural areas of Nebraska have faced disparities in access to health care for decades, and in recent years the University of Nebraska Medical Center has documented shortages across the many health care professions:

[UNMC Rural Health in 2030 Report](#)

[The Status of the Nebraska Healthcare Workforce: Update 2020](#)

This situation existed pre-pandemic but was aggravated by COVID-19. During the pandemic, clinics and hospitals denied care to some patients and transferred others through a network of providers seeking to find beds for patients (<https://nebraskapublicmedia.org/en/news/news-articles/hundreds-of-nebraskans-couldnt-get-medical-care-during-latest-covid-surge/>). The limiting factor in most cases was not infrastructure, but staff.

Rural areas suffered a disparate impact from COVID-19 (<https://khn.org/news/article/covid-death-rate-rural-america/>). A major factor was the insufficient healthcare workforce at the start of the pandemic, a situation made worse by a high number of departures caused by the working conditions during the peaks of the pandemic. Research and reporting suggest that a high number of healthcare workers will leave their positions in the coming years (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackkelly/2022/04/19/new-survey-shows-that-up-to-47-of-us-healthcare-workers-plan-to-leave-their-positions-by-2025/?sh=77b6bb78395b>).

This situation, clearly made worse by the pandemic, will leave rural areas with fewer health care workers. This has a direct impact on the health and well-being of individuals, and it has a direct impact on local economies as people take their health care dollars and spend them in larger cities. Over the long term, this contributes to depopulation of rural areas.

Rural communities, in Nebraska and across the country, need more health care workers. This includes medical doctors, mental health practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, medical imaging professionals, and many more professions. Recruiting, educating, training, and placing well-prepared individuals will have immediate impacts on health and economic well-being.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University of Nebraska Medical Center will establish a facility—the Nebraska Rural Healthcare Education building—in Kearney, Nebraska that will recruit, educate, and train people to work in a broad range of health care professions including nursing, medicine, medical laboratory sciences, public health, and more. Training in rural areas will lead to Preceptorships in rural clinics and hospitals, which will lead to individuals establishing careers in rural areas. This model has been demonstrated for over 100 years in UNK’s teacher education program, and for the past 20 years in business professions such as industrial distribution and supply chain management. In 2015, UNK and UNMC opened the Health Science Education Complex that trains nurses, physician assistants, and allied health professions, and we know that over 80 percent move immediately into careers in rural areas. The concept works.

This project will add a second health science focused building on the University of Nebraska Kearney campus using \$50 million in SLFRF funds allocated by the Nebraska Legislature and another \$35 million in private funds raised by UNK and UNMC. The Phase II building will serve

as a companion to the Phase I project providing a cohesive interprofessional experience for all health science students. The building will include state-of-the-art classrooms, extensive simulation, and clinical skills laboratories for pre-clinical education and complex clinical scenarios and simulated primary care spaces, administrative and faculty and staff office space to accommodate current and expanded numbers of faculty and staff members, and secure storage space for research and academic records.

The project will break ground in September of 2023 with classes commencing Fall of 2025.

Uses of Funds

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and the University of Nebraska Medical Center use of SLFRF funding seek to address the expenditure categories in the following ways:

- a. *Public Health – Establish through construction the Nebraska Rural Health Education building – in Kearney, Nebraska that will recruit, educate, and train people to work in a broad range of health care professions in Rural areas which suffered a disparate impact from COVID-19.*
- b. *Negative Economic Impacts – Rural health care is different not only because of the patients, but also because the clinical setting is much different. This project will specifically prepare individuals in a broad array of high-need professions to work in rural areas. As such, it will attract students from across the Great Plains and in fact the entire United States who are seeking preparation for rural health careers. That is, the facility will respond to a significant need experienced in rural areas throughout the country. Furthermore, the faculty and professional staff at the Nebraska Rural Healthcare Education Building will support workforce retention by providing continuing professional development and engagement.*
- c. *Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity – The University of Nebraska at Kearney and University of Nebraska Medical Center plan will recruit students from rural areas who want to practice in rural areas, educate and train them in rural areas, and place them in rural clinics and hospitals for their preceptorships. This model will sustain and grow their interest in rural health care, prepare them for work in rural settings, and foster the linkages that will lead to fulfilling lives in rural communities. To be successful, we will have equivalent education and training in a setting where students intend to practice.*

Promoting equitable outcomes

- a. *Goals: Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that recipients intend to serve within their jurisdiction?*

Experts report that quality, accessible, in-person healthcare is essential to the survival of rural communities. But the outlook for health care in rural Nebraska is troubled in the near future with ongoing workforce shortages:

- *14 of 93 counties in Nebraska have no primary care physicians;*
- *All counties—except for Douglas and Lancaster—are designated as shortage areas for at least one type of primary care;*
- *The number of nurses is slightly up, but shortages persist in rural areas where they are important in mitigating the impact of declining physician numbers; and*
- *Allied health fields such as occupational therapy and audiology face continuing shortages.*

Source: The Status of the Nebraska Healthcare Workforce: Update 2020

Looming retirement numbers threaten the full range of health care professions, including nurses (22% are over 60 years old) , dentists (23% are over 60 years old), and physicians (18% are over 60 years old).

- b. *Awareness: How equitable and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?*

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and University of Nebraska Medical Center have worked in partnership for over two decades on biomedical research, training of young researchers, high school outreach programs to develop new health care professionals, and post-secondary education for allied health and medical professions. UNMC is a regional and national power in the training of health care professionals, and UNK has a longstanding record of successfully matriculating students into UNMC programs. For example, the acceptance rate for UNK students to the UNMC College of Medicine averaged 73% over the past three years. The national average in the U.S. is routinely less than 10%. One of the significant collaborations is the Health Science Education Complex (HSEC), which opened in 2015. UNK long-ago proved through our teacher education program that educating students in a rural area will increase the likelihood that they will launch their careers here. The HSEC building has shown that this concept works in health care, with over 85% of the graduates from this partnership staying in Nebraska with the vast majority now working in rural communities. If students come to UNK, they tend to stay in rural Nebraska for their careers. The challenge now is to expand capacity and add more health care professional programs.

- c. *Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?*

The people most likely to start careers in rural areas are the ones who grow up, go to college, and get their professional training there. The University of Nebraska at Kearney offers Health Science Explorer opportunities from 7th grade through college graduation to help students get on track to success. Students with an interest in health science careers can participate in this pipeline program through on-campus field trips (7th-8th grade), summer day camps, special campus visits, week-long campus (high school) and eventually college-level collaboration (undergraduate and professional schools). Financial assistance is available.

UNMC runs a program of Area Health Education Centers, and UNK houses the central Nebraska regional office. The program builds awareness of health professions among students in grades 9-12 and provides opportunities for exploration and learning that lead to interest in health science education in college. Kearney has successfully used tuition remissions (scholarships) to aid students who qualify for the Kearney Rural Health Opportunities program.

- d. *Outcomes: How are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps and/or reaching universal levels of service? How is the jurisdiction disaggregating outcomes by race, ethnicity, and*

other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?

The health care needs of rural populations are different than urban populations, but there are access barriers that limit research targeting dispersed populations. UNMC faculty, with a physical base on the Kearney campus, will have a rare but valuable opportunity to target the medical and mental health priorities in rural Nebraska. They will also have potential collaborators among the UNK faculty in chemistry, biology, psychology, and other areas. An additional benefit of the medical faculty being in central Nebraska is the expanded, accessible, and consistent professional development opportunities that will accrue to health care professionals who are already practicing in rural Nebraska. Nebraska will become the national leader in interprofessional rural healthcare and research with this program. In many states rural health education is limited to having brief immersion programs in rural areas during the summer or lectures about rural life. Many states have students study a rural health track, but very few have them experience it throughout their preparation. Even fewer states are targeted in recruiting rural health students from a rural community and involving that community in attracting that individual to return. Our approach is comprehensive and will work for a wide range of needed health care professions. Significant change cannot occur without well prepared degreed students matriculating into UNMC's professional programs and having them then establishing careers in rural Nebraska. The combination of UNK's preparation and UNMC's professional education will ensure highly competent rural healthcare providers of every profession.

In describing efforts to implement their SLFRF program and projects with equity in mind, recipients may consider the following:

- a. *Goals and Targets: The University of Nebraska at Kearney and University of Nebraska Medical Center work to create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture that connects people, fosters collaboration, and develops community partnerships.*

UNMC students who self-identify as Black, Hispanic, native Hawaiian or multiple races increased by 11% fall 2022, while the number of UNMC international students increased by 5%.

The University of Nebraska system has a dashboard that can be utilized to understand the trends related to recruitment and retention of our faculty, staff, & student. UNMC's percentage of graduates practicing direct patient care in rural areas is tied for seventh in the nation.

- b. *Project Implementation: Health disparities in rural parts of the United States are largely a geographic problem. Dispersed populations and fewer amenities impact the ability to attract medical and healthcare professionals who do not have experience in or appreciation of life in such areas. The strategy is to provide education and training to future healthcare workers in a rural community, and with training tailored to the professional settings in which rural healthcare is practiced.*

The University of Nebraska at Kearney is the westernmost four-year campus of the University of Nebraska system, and the only one located in a rural setting. Further, it lies in

the middle of the state along Interstate 80, equally accessible from west and east. Using an established campus provides logistical and systemic advantages.

Community Engagement

The Nebraska Legislature approved startup, construction ([LB1014](#)) and operational costs LB721) for the Rural Health Education Building as part of the 2022 legislative session. In order to become successful legislation, both legislative bills passed through committee, which included public hearings, and three rounds of floor consideration by 49 senators.

UNK and UNMC also collaborated with expert stakeholders and partners from a variety of disciplines within UNMC and across Nebraska to enhance coordinated and interdisciplinary approaches that will shape a healthy rural future for Nebraska and beyond. Stakeholders included:

Rural health facilities, their partner organizations and networks

Public health

Healthcare professionals

Educators

Researchers

Foundations

Economic development associations

Health and human services organizations

Faith-based organizations

Health associations

State and federal agencies

Local, state, and federal policymakers

Rural-urban differences in access to health care continue to be an essential and challenging policy issue facing communities throughout Nebraska. The 2022 report, "[The Status of the Healthcare Workforce in the State of Nebraska: Update 2022](#)," addresses these concerns, showing the current distribution of the health care workforce throughout the state.

Labor Practices

This project will add a second health science focused building on the University of Nebraska Kearney campus. The Health Science Education Complex Phase II will serve as a companion to the Phase I project providing a cohesive interprofessional experience for all health science students.

Leveraging the proof of concept and successful outcomes of the initial UNMC and UNK collaboration, the proposed project aims to create a one-of-a-kind rural health-focused learning environment with a laser-like focus on meeting Nebraska's current and future rural health needs. The project will make it possible for UNMC to expand the presence of the Colleges of

Allied Health Professions and Nursing, and add the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Public Health to co-locate in a new building on the UNK campus.

The new Rural Health Education Building will create opportunities for enhanced inter-campus partnership between UNMC and UNK to help address current and future health workforce shortages in rural Nebraska.

The general contractor, MCL Construction, is committed to supporting an inclusive project. More than subcontractor involvement, a dedicated Economic Inclusion Coordinator, is committed to being a resource for small and emerging businesses. This includes hosting mentoring sessions, project overview discussions, and open houses to get to know experts in the industry offers opportunity for subcontractor relationships and advancement.

The Economic Inclusion Coordinator has a deep understanding of working in the community and drives success with business partners – responsible for developing plans and administering sourcing practices that promote diversity. This front facing contact supports Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), and Women Business Enterprise (WBE).

The UNK Health Science project is just one of the many projects ongoing in Kearney. This influx in construction could overwhelm the current local subcontractor market's manpower availability within some trades. MCL Construction has been successful in delivering projects of all sizes and complexity on schedule with qualified subcontractors on board. It starts with relationships and a thought-out master plan. Officed in Kearney, NE, MCL has a history and excellent working relationships with subcontractors. Getting those subcontractors on board early, in conjunction with a detailed schedule, guarantees reliability. The subcontracting teams are integrated into MCL's digital planning software and weekly subcontracting meetings. This gives them accountability in the process of achieving dates and makes them active in the plan and schedule strategy.

Work is awarded to each subcontracting firm deemed most responsive and qualified, meaning they have the resources and manpower to do the job, they understand the project, and past performance on facilities of this size and scope have been successful. The process includes due diligence of the company's strength in resources and current workload. Beyond strength in manpower and financial resources, a subcontractor is deemed a good fit when their technical expertise aligns with the project components.

The process includes due diligence of the company's strength in resources and current workload. Beyond strength in manpower and financial resources, a subcontractor is deemed a good fit when their technical expertise aligns with the project components.

Use of Evidence

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and University of Nebraska Medical Center has established significant experience in rural healthcare related programs due to implementation of the Rural Health Education Complex Phase I.

Performance Report

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and University of Nebraska Medical Center has established a budget for each area of the SLFRF funding. That budget along with justifications

for use are used to track performance against goals by monitoring the amount of funding distributed, to who, and for what purposes. The University has assigned a SLFRF and Executive Building Committees which meet regularly to reassess the budget and to ensure progress towards goal achievement, as well as compliance with reporting requirements. A Facilities Planning and Construction team is also assigned to the project to provide both support and oversight. This University based team will engage and pay for the services of independent agencies to perform inspections and tests to confirm quality control. A schedule of inspections is specified in contract documents. The team is also responsible for identifying project constraints and safety details, following cost management best practices both before and during the project, effectively communicating with the project team and stakeholders to follow resource management best practices. A key responsibility of the University project management team is to track project spend, confirm quality control standards, and course correct if it seems either budget or quality are veering off track.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project:

59-919712-11000: NE Rural Healthcare Education Building Construction

Funding amount: \$50,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.3-Public Sector Workforce

Project Overview

This project will add a second health science focused building on the University of Nebraska Kearney campus using \$50 million of SLFRF funding allocated by the Nebraska Legislature and another \$35 million in private funds raised by UNK. The new building, expected to open January 2026, will house the University of Nebraska Medical Center Colleges of Allied Health Professions, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy and Public Health. The HSEC Phase II will serve as a companion to the Phase I project providing a cohesive interprofessional experience for all health science students.

Use of Evidence

The University of Nebraska at Kearney and University of Nebraska Medical Center has established significant experience in rural healthcare related programs due to implementation of the Rural Health Education Complex Phase I.

Performance Report

The University has assigned a SLFRF and Executive Building Committees which meet regularly to reassess the budget and to ensure progress towards goal achievement, as well as compliance with reporting requirements.

State of Nebraska

University of Nebraska Lincoln

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Funds were awarded to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources to develop an update to the Understanding and Assessing Climate Change, Implications for Nebraska, published in 2014 by the University of Nebraska Lincoln (<https://snr.unl.edu/research/projects/climateimpacts/report2014.aspx>).

This project will bring together a development team, review pertinent scientific literature since the 2014 report was published, assess utility of the 2014 report, determine gaps and incorporate lessons learned, work with a design team to maximize accessibility and usability, and develop and implement an engagement and communications plan.

To date, the development team has been assembled, literature review is underway, a survey of usability for the 2014 report was developed and published, and engagement with communications and engagements specialists are ongoing.

Uses of Funds

Outcomes of the updated Nebraska climate assessment will serve to increase awareness and capacity of communities and agencies to the implications of climate change.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Aspects of social environmental justice as it relates to climate change implications will be studied in detail. Furthermore, urban, rural and Indigenous communities will be analyzed in this context.

Community Engagement

Engagement at the local level is being systematically integrated with the climate report update. Expertise of communications and outreach professionals are being utilized throughout the process.

Professional surveys are an integral part of the project to gather feedback and assist with overall project direction and improve outcomes.

Labor Practices

N/A.

Use of Evidence

The update of scientific information is being conducted through the use of traceable accounts. Peer-reviewed published literature forms the basis of the material in this Nebraska climate update.

Performance Report

Performance management is being done with development of a project timeline, outline of specific project deliverables and contributions by team member, and regular check-ins with team members by the project lead.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Climate Report Update

Project [Identification Number]: [Climate Report Update]

Funding amount: [\$150,000]

Project Expenditure Category: [Category number, Category Name]

Project Overview

- *This project includes a scientific update of information relevant to the implications of climate change for Nebraska. A team of authors across educational institutions will develop the content, which will be peer-reviewed. The update will be posted online and presented to the Nebraska Legislature in December of 2024.*
- *The climate report update will provide Nebraska agencies, local jurisdictions, communities and the public with an assessment of the implications of climate change. Sector-based information will be provided, along with adaptation and mitigation strategies. Furthermore, climate-related resources will be included. There will be specific sections on environmental justice issues as well as indigenous communities.*

Use of Evidence

- *Evidence-based content of the report will come from peer-reviewed literature and science-based surveys. All information will be appropriately documented in references.*

Performance Report

- *A timeline of deliverables has been developed by the project team. Quarterly meetings are conducted by team members to ensure tracking of progress.*

State of Nebraska

**Nebraska Department of
Administrative Services**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary:

The State Legislature directed management of this project to Department of Administrative Services – State Building Division to develop and construct sediment control and stormwater management projects for Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska. A study completed December 2021, detailed how seasonal storms deliver a tremendous amount of gravel, sand, yard waste and trash into the cemetery from the upstream urban watershed. This project will protect the park and cemetery ponds from this sediment by providing a bypass route the will move runoff flow around the park.

Use of Funds:

This appropriated funding will be used to design and construct a bypass pipe with flow control structure to route stormwater containing high loads of heavy sediment around the pond. This will ensure water quality and quantity. This project will greatly benefit the public by creating a better drainage flow from the 255 acres south of Wyuka Cemetery and help reestablish the beauty of Lincoln's first park.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

- a. Goals: This project is intended to protect and enhance the water quality of the cemetery pond and reestablish the beauty of Lincoln's first park which is open to all populations
- b. Awareness: The Department of Administrative Services intends to use its communications channels to provide press releases and signage to provide public awareness of the project status and how SLFRF funding are being used.
- c. Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels of access to the cemetery
- d. Outcomes: The project will greatly benefit the public by creating a better drainage flow from the 255 acres south of Wyuka Cemetery, protect and enhance the water quality of the pond, and help reestablish the beauty of Lincoln's first park.

Community Engagement:

When applicable, outreach efforts will be used to share information, plans, and intent for the project with the general public.

Labor Practices:

The State Building Division will follow State approved processes for selection of a qualified architect and engineering firm to ensure project design will comply with all federal and state regulations. Additionally, the Building Division will follow State of Nebraska procurement processes for selection of a qualified contractor for construction.

Use of Evidence:

This project is designed to comply with all federal and state regulations.

Performance Report:

The stormwater runoff bypass is necessary to handle the heavy sediment from seasonal upstream urban watershed. The project will build an appropriately sized bypass pipe with flow control that will either divert stormwater and heavy sediment away from the pond or into a forebay and then into the pond to maintain water levels. As part of the initial study, stream analysis was conducted with recommendations for corrective action and stabilization that will be incorporated into the final design.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project #: 65041505 Wyuka Cemetery Stormwater Project

Funding Amount: \$1,800,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview: To design and construct a bypass pipe with flow control structure and forebay to route stormwater containing high loads of heavy sediment around the pond. This will ensure water quality and quantity.

Use of Evidence: This project is designed to comply with all federal and state regulations.

Performance Report: Project design is complete and construction bids will be received July 27, 2023 with completion of the project expected May 25, 2024.