

NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Service.
DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 31, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT:

Eric Maher, 531-289-0060, Eric.Maher@Nebraska.gov

DAS Announces New Investments in State Building Accessibility



University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Richards Hall before ADA accessibility upgrades.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Richards Hall after ADA accessibility upgrades.

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announces close to \$1 million in new investments in accessible building improvements over the current fiscal biennium. The announcement comes during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), as part of DAS' strategy to highlight Disability Awareness and efforts underway to make state government more accessible for Nebraska teammates and citizens.

These investments will be managed by the Nebraska 309 Task Force, or the Task Force for Building Renewal. A division within DAS, this task force is charged with administering investments in deferred repairs, energy conservation, building safety systems, and Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. These projects can vary in size and location around the state, but all aim to better state buildings and make them more usable for citizens.

“It is truly a pleasure to be involved in furthering the objectives of the American with Disabilities Act – a federal civil rights law that benefits so many citizens,” said 309 Task Force Administrator Doug Hanson. “The Task Force for Building Renewal works with state agencies for ADA compliance and over the past five years has funded \$5.78 million for ADA improvements in state owned buildings.”

During the current biennium, roughly \$940,000 has been allocated for eight ADA compliancy purposed projects in communities throughout the state. These projects range from door upgrades to dining hall modifications to restroom upgrades in various agencies from the Military Department to the Historical Society to the Game & Parks Commission. The Task Force also provides ADA training opportunities to state building officials across Nebraska. During the remainder of the fiscal year, which goes until June 30, 2020, the Task Force will be facilitating hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional ADA focused upgrades to facilities throughout the state.

“Making state government accessible is part of our priority to be more customer focused,” said DAS Director Jason Jackson. “We continue to emphasize the importance of accessibility for our team and the community we serve.”

The 309 Task Force’s mission is to address the state’s sizable need for deferred building repairs and improvements to the

extent possible with available funding, while utilizing those funds wisely and efficiently. With the upcoming thirty year celebration of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Nebraska continues to make state buildings accessible and usable for all citizens.

###