NITC | Nebraska Information Technology Commission

2026

BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT



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NITC COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Matthew McCarville, Chair, CIO, State of Nebraska
Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature, Ex-officio member
Dr. Leah Barrett, President, Northeast Community College
Bret R. Blackman, Vice President for IT and CIO, University of Nebraska
James Ediger, General Counsel, Hamilton Telecommunications
Nathan Watson, CEO, Contemporary Analysis
Kirk Langer, Chief Technology Officer, Lincoln Public Schools
Zachary J. Mellender, Director of Enterprise Solutions, Omaha Zoological Society
Phillip Doerr, Owner and Manager, Doerr Farms
Katie Niemoller, Registered Nurse, Children's Nebraska

NITC FACILITATORS

Noah Finlan, NITC Executive Administrator
Callie Richards, Education Council Coordinator
Vanessa Castro, Community Council Coordinator
Ryan Werner, GIS Council Coordinator
Joe Beer, Technical Standards Coordinator
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Vicki McElroy, Office Specialist

INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) was established by the Legislature in 1997 to provide strategic direction, oversight, and accountability for information technology investments and initiatives across the state. Chief Information Officer Dr. Matthew McCarville serves as the Governor-designated chair of the NITC. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor, approved by the Legislature, and represent education, telecommunications, agriculture, healthcare, and the general public.

The NITC advances its mission through three advisory councils: the Community Council, Education Council, and Geographic Information Systems Council. Through these councils, the NITC engages stakeholders, develops recommendations, and provides guidance on statewide technology priorities.

Section 86-518 directs the NITC to submit a progress report to the Governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. This report fulfills that requirement and highlights the NITC's accomplishments over the past two years in advancing the seven criteria established by the Legislature in Section 86-524(2).

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission's vision is to promote the use of information technology in education, health care, economic development, and government services to improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans.

To advance this vision, the NITC has established four strategic goals:

- Support the development of a robust statewide telecommunications infrastructure that is scalable, reliable, and efficient.
- Promote the use of information technology to support community and economic development.
- Enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and delivery of government and educational services through the effective use of information technology, including support for homeland security efforts.
- Promote effective planning, management, and accountability for the state's investments in information technology.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past two years, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) has made significant progress in advancing statewide technology priorities and supporting initiatives that improve coordination, access, and outcomes for Nebraskans. The following section highlights significant initiatives undertaken by the NITC and its partners:



01 — Geospatial Nebraska

Geospatial Nebraska strengthens Nebraska's statewide geospatial capabilities by promoting collaboration, data sharing, and the effective use of GIS and location-based information. The initiative supports state and local agencies, communities, and other stakeholders in leveraging geospatial data to improve decision-making, public services, and resource planning.



02 — Network Nebraska

Network Nebraska continues to provide reliable, cost-effective connectivity for Nebraska's education communities through statewide collaboration and aggregated purchasing. The initiative continues to provide schools, educational service units, and colleges with scalable bandwidth, improved network efficiency, enhanced collaboration opportunities, and greater value from public technology investments.



03 — Community Digital Access

Community Digital Access advances digital equity across Nebraska by expanding access to reliable connectivity, devices, digital skills, and technology resources. The initiative brings together community, government, education, and other stakeholders to identify barriers to digital access, strengthen statewide resources, and support solutions that help Nebraskans fully participate in an increasingly digital society.

STRATEGIES

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) has identified strategic initiatives to advance statewide technology priorities. Each initiative includes measurable action items developed through collaboration with stakeholders across Nebraska. These initiatives serve as the foundation of the NITC's Statewide Technology Plan and guide coordinated efforts to improve technology infrastructure, services, and opportunities throughout the state.

NAME	ACTIVITY / PROJECT	DATA / OUTCOME
Geospatial Nebraska	Supporting statewide geospatial coordination, promoting data sharing and standards, and facilitating collaboration	• Increased access and use to geospatial data
Network Nebraska	**Coordinating statewide network services, partnerships, and infrastructure improvements**	• **Reliable and affordable connectivity for educational institutions**
Community Digital Access	Building community partnerships, identifying barriers to technology access, and developing resources	• Increased access to connectivity for underserved community members

ONGOING ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STATEWIDE IMPACT

In addition to advancing strategic initiatives, the NITC continues to strengthen statewide technology coordination, governance, and collaboration through the following efforts:

- Strategic Planning and Coordination. The NITC's vision, goals, and strategic initiatives continue to guide statewide technology priorities. The Statewide Technology Plan provides a framework for identifying key projects, coordinating efforts, building stakeholder support, and communicating technology priorities with policymakers.

- Technology Governance and Standards. The NITC promotes interoperability, efficiency, and responsible technology investments through the adoption of more than 100 technical standards and guidelines. The Commission's review and prioritization processes provide policymakers with information on proposed technology projects, including objectives, costs, risks, and statewide impacts.

- Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration. Through its advisory councils and collaborative processes, the NITC brings together stakeholders from across Nebraska to develop recommendations, share information, and encourage public participation in statewide technology efforts.

GEOSPATIAL NEBRASKA

The primary objective of this initiative is to establish and maintain guidelines and polices for statewide geospatial operations and management. Geospatial Nebraska works to optimize use of technology, data, and services to address a variety of spatial challenges in the state.

To help grow investment in Nebraska and its communities, the GIS Council continues to identify and make available authoritative, interoperable data and applications that inform policy and decision-making.

Ongoing Action Items:

- Facilitate the creation, maintenance, analysis, and publishing of quality and authoritative data and applications.
- Formalize data stewardship and encourage data sharing providing access to data, services, and applications through NebraskaMap.gov.
- Facilitate technical assistance and education outreach opportunities for furthering the adoption of Geospatial Nebraska and enabling the public with available authoritative data.
- Achieve sustainable and efficient allocation of resources to support the implementation and wise governance of GIS services and geospatial data.

Accomplishments:

- The boundary working group completed review of all Nebraska statutes that describe spatial boundaries, areas, or other subdivisions in Nebraska. This group has created a report on all datasets defined in statute and will present the findings to the GIS Council and the NITC. These datasets shall be authoritative and available for public consumption where applicable.

GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT 2025

Nebraska Report Card

Overall Grade: C+

COORDINATION	GRADE: D+

STATE-LED THEMES	GRADE
Address	A
Cadastre	C+
Elevation	F
Orthoimagery Leaf-Off	NA
Transportation	C+
NG9-1-1	A

FEDERAL-LED THEMES	GRADE
Geodetic Control	C+
Government Units	B
Orthoimagery Leaf-On	C+

METRICS:

A - Superior
B - Above average
C - Average
D - Below average
F - Failure
N/A - Not Applicable

The National States Geographic Information Council Geospatial Maturity Assessment provides NSGIC members and other partners with a summary of geospatial initiatives, capabilities, and issues within and across state governments. The NSGIC GMA now produce report cards for each state on central data themes and coordination topics. The assessment is performed every two years.

NSGIC

www.nsgic.org | info@nsgic.org | @nsgic

GIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Tod Wyrick, Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Jiyoung lee, Department of Health and Human Services
- Ryan Werner, Department of Water, Energy, and Environment
- Matt Joeckel, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Dusin Antonello, Governor's Policy Research Office
- Claire Inbody, Department of Transportation
- John Beran, State Surveyor's Office
- Tim Erickson, Legislative Research Office
- Spencer Trowbridge, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Barbara Oswald, Property Tax Administrator
- Isaac Remboldt, Federal Liaison
- Chuck Wingert, Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, Nemaha Natural Resources District
- Timothy Cielocha, Public Power Districts, Nebraska Public Power District
- Sean Kennedy, Nebraska Association of County Officials - Cass County GIS Coordinator
- Nancy Salmon, Nebraska Association of County Officials - Hamilton County Commissioner
- Vacant, League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Jeff McReynolds, Member at large
- Michael Schonlau, Member at large
- Vacant, Representative of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Michaela Johnson, Representative of the Nebraska Public Service Commission
- Lesli Rawlings, Nebraska Geospatial Professional Association
- Eric Herbert, Omaha Metro Area - SAM
- Adam Miller, Lincoln Metro Area, Lincoln Electric Systems
- Scott Peters, Member at large - Professional Surveyors, Hall County Surveyor
- Don Linquist, Member at large - Precision Agriculture Industry, Mitchell Implements
- Charlie Lucas, Representative of the Nebraska State Patrol
- Vacant, an Official Tribal Organization in Nebraska

NETWORK NEBRASKA

Network Nebraska provides secure, reliable, and cost-effective broadband connectivity to more than 300 participating organizations, including over 99% of Nebraska's public K–12 school districts, Educational Service Units (ESUs), higher education institutions, libraries, and other public entities. Network Nebraska recieves its guidance through the Education Council on how best to support digital learning, research, and government services. Network Nebraska is responsible for strategic procurement and providing the most effective services to its members.

Ongoing Action Items:

- Expand and strengthen Nebraska's statewide research and education network.
- Enhance cybersecurity through secure network services, monitoring, training, and best practices.
- Increase statewide adoption of eduroam to provide seamless, secure wireless access across participating educational institutions.
- Leverage collaborative purchasing and partnerships to deliver reliable, scalable, and cost-effective broadband services.

EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

(The Education Council is the advisory board for Network Nebraska).

Post Secondary

- Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
- Dr. Derek Bierman, Doane University
- Nick Muir, Wayne State College
- Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan
- Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Tom Peters, Central Community College
- Andrew Buker, Co-Chair University of Nebraska
- Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System

K-12

- Vacant, Teacher
- Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Secondary School
- Scott Isaacson, ESUCC
- Vacant, Private Parochial Education
- Cory Gearhart, Grand Island Public Schools
- Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools
- Elizabeth Kumru, Ralston Public Schools
- Gary Needham, Co-Chair, Educational Service Unit 9

Non-Voting Liaisons

- Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
- Chris Wlaschlin, Nebraska Department of Education
- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Office of the CIO, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services
- Vacant, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

COMMUNITY DIGITAL ACCESS

Community Digital Access (CDA) is a broad initiative focused on making sure Nebraskans can access the connectivity, devices, skills, and resources they need to participate fully in a digital society.

Ongoing Action Items:

- Develop a statewide digital access needs assessment that uses data to quantify barriers to connectivity, devices, digital skills, and affordability and provides an evidence base for future grant applications and funding requests.
- Develop and coordinate statewide resources that expand digital inclusion and community technology capacity.

Accomplishments:

- Reestablished the Community Council by relaunching the Council from having no active membership to a 10-member statewide council, creating a forum for community perspectives and collaboration on digital access.
- Established council leadership and governance through elected Co-Chairs and finished charter.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- TinaMaria Fernandez, Hope Esperanza, Co-Chair
- Bryan Seck, Lincoln Literacy, Co-Chair
- Deb Robertson, Nebraska Libraries
- Zainab Rida, Nebraska Department of Education
- Jamdan Clang, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Jonathan Jank, Nebraska Public Power District
- Oliver Borchart-Williams, Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Jillian Linster, Center for Rural Affairs
- Dekow Sagar, International Council for Refugees and Immigrants
- Erick Carrillo, Nebraska Department of Labor

CONCLUSION

Through strategic planning, coordinated initiatives, and stakeholder engagement, the NITC is helping build a more connected, secure, and innovative Nebraska.



STRENGTHENING STATEWIDE CONNECTIVITY

The NITC is advancing statewide connectivity by expanding digital access and supporting connectivity services through the Community Council and Network Nebraska.



ADVANCING STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PRIORITIES:

The NITC advances statewide technology priorities through strategic initiatives focused on digital education, geospatial coordination, digital access, and cybersecurity.



SUPPORTING COLLABORATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

Through strategic planning, advisory councils, and statewide partnerships, the NITC fosters collaboration, informs decision-making, and promotes responsible stewardship of Nebraska's technology investments.

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

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