

ATTACHMENT III

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Nebraska Public Media - BoardRoom
1800 N 33rd St, Lincoln, Nebraska
Friday, March 13, 2025, 10:00 a.m. CT

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Matthew McCarville, Chief Information Officer, Chair
Phillip Doerr, Doerr Farms
Jim Ediger, Hamilton Telecommunications
Nate Watson, Contemporary Analysis
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Leah Barrett, Northeast Community College
Katie Niemoller, Children's Nebraska
Zach Mellender, Omaha Zoological Society
Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature

STAFF PRESENT:

Marcus Rechtenbach, NITC Executive Administrator and Legal Counsel
Bryce Bailey, State Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer
Joe Beer, IT Supervisor, Planning and Project Management
Callie Richards, Education IT Manager
Vanessa Castro, Community IT Manager
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II
Vicki McElroy, Office Specialist

ROLL CALL; MEETING NOTICE; OPEN MEETINGS ACT INFORMATION

Commissioner McCarville called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. A quorum was present. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC website and the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on February 14, 2025. The agenda was posted to the NITC website on March 6, 2025. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was in the meeting room and a link to the act was included with the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 8, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Watson moved to approve the November 11, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Langer seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes,

Ediger-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer-Yes, Doerr-Yes, and Watson-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

REPORTS

EDUCATION COUNCIL

Callie Richards, NITC Manager, reported that the Nebraska Network RFP is in the contract negotiation phase. The RFP bid was for 19 schools along with the Stuhr Museum. Allo Communications and Viaero Wireless, along with other vendors, had a big impact. Viaero's costs were more affordable for the ESU schools. There are no build-out costs for the customers. Randolph Schools did not receive a bid in this RFP. Schools are happy about saving \$700 a month. The Stuhr Museum is eligible for eRate due to having a library at their location. The Stuhr Museum has not fully committed yet. They have a relationship with Hamilton Tech. If they do not participate this year, they can be part of next year's RFP. There are lots of existing fiber in the area and residential areas. Bill out time on Stuhr – Stuhr has not committed yet. Stuhr needs to register and is eligible for ERate reimbursement. They haven't fully committed and if we need to put them on next year's RFP that would be okay. Stuhr has a relationship with Hamilton Tech support. It is very possible that they will purchase off this year's RFP if not for sure next year's RFP.

Ms. Richards entertained questions from the Commissioners

GIS COUNCIL

Ryan Werner, Interim GIS Coordinator, provided a review of the report. The Official membership appointments and renewals continue to be of concern, as we have had difficulty communicating with the Governor's Office to update their records. There are many positions that are either vacant or awaiting confirmation/renewal. Mr. Werner will continue to work with the Governor's office regarding council appointments.

Future action items include the appointment of a new Vice Chair for 2026, and Chair for 2027. Mike Schonlau with Douglas County GIS has announced his decision to retire from the County in March. His current seat has a representative of the Nebraska League of Municipalities. His new position will likely prevent him from serving on the council unless an At-Large position becomes vacant.

The Council continues to discuss efforts to determine the State of Nebraska's GIS licensing needs and infrastructure support with the reduction in OCIO staffing and budget. Council members continue to express concerns regarding the State's ability to maintain and deliver GIS data and services to citizens and local governments. Currently, all Nebraska State Government GIS licensing is contracted through a single ESRI License Agreement, which lasts 3 years, expiring in July of 2027. The current agreement costs the State \$583,000/year and utilizes ESRI's previous "Concurrent Use" licensing model. The Enterprise must begin planning for a new agreement beginning

August 2027 immediately as the License Agreement process takes nearly a year for completion. State biennium budgets requirements also force the process to move swiftly. The next agreement, or any licensing thereafter July 2027 will require a change to “Named User” licensing. This licensing model will drastically increase the statewide licensing contract if all current users are converted according to current usage.

Considerations and options are being discussed to reduce agency licensing costs, decrease dependency on OCIO/GIO staffing, decrease infrastructure costs, and allow agencies to effectively manage GIS applications and data.

Mr. Werner entertained questions from the Commissioners.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Vanessa Castro, NITC Administrative Manager, presented three membership nominations for the Commissions review and approval.

- Jonathan Jank, President/CEO for Seward County Chamber
- TinaMaria Fernandez, Founder/Executive Director for HOPE
- Esperanza Jillian Linster, Chief of Programs for Center for Rural Affairs TBA

Their professional backgrounds and community leadership will not only broaden the expertise represented at the table but also expand the reach and impact of projects and initiatives across the State of Nebraska. Their biographies were included in the meeting materials.

Commissioner Doerr moved to approve three new members to serve on the NITC Community Council. Commissioner Ediger seconded. Roll call vote: McCarville-Yes, Ediger-Yes, Blackman-Yes, Langer-Yes, Doerr-Yes, and Watson-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

The Council’s first meeting will be in Lincoln on the March 26th. During this meeting, members will vote on Council Chairs, reviewing and revising the charter as needed to ensure alignment with current priorities, and begin establishing our key goals for the year ahead. This meeting will lay the foundation for the Council’s direction, structure, and strategic focus moving forward.

Ms. Castro entertained questions from the Commissioners

TECHNICAL PANEL

Joe Beer, IT Supervisor, Planning and Project Management, reported that the projects set up in the Fall have all been completed except for one project. There will be a new project added on the next report. By statute, the NITC is responsible for monitoring all enterprise IT projects. Mr. Rechtenbach, OCIO Legal Counsel, informed the Commission that the OCIO plans to hire a Contract Attorney to help with all procurement and contracts within the next month or two.

Mr. Beer entertained questions from the Commissioners.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER UPDATE

New Chief Information Security Officer, Bryce Bailey . Mr. Bailey introduced himself, shared his background and work experience. In his new position, he has been in contact with other states, learning and evaluating how the programs and monies are being used for cybersecurity. In one to three years, his vision is to have ISAC set up for the State of Nebraska. He plans to partner with the State Patrol to work with their NIAC program. It becomes critical to introduce Cybersecurity at an early stage in K-12. In addition to schools, Nebraska counties need cybersecurity assistance. The Office of the CIO needs to communicate and let these entities know what we do and what we can if we collaborate.

AI/Innovation Hub. With budget cuts, all states are dealing with how they can collaborate services, costs, etc. and still provide quality services. The Innovation Hub could be a lot of things through AI, dashboard, KPIs and OnBase. Vendors can approach the state whether within the state or from another state. Vendors would get access to Nebraska data only and then it would become public sector ready. Nebraska will pay for the platform, as well as build in a pilot. The public sectors have AI/Innovation Hubs and get calls from vendors. The trail end income would come from these vendors. This would provide a revenue source that will go into an income or perpetual fund. LB is a bill in the Legislature. We can offer our services to Nebraska counties

State IT Intern and Apprenticeship Program. The Office of the CIO has initiated an Internship and Apprenticeship Program. This also includes the involvement of military personnel. Participants would be hired for 12 months to get experience. The OCIO has been discussing this concept with private companies within the state to build a public/private eco system for the interns and apprentices. The companies will hopefully hire these interns. The goal is to keep our young people here in Nebraska. Many companies are very interested in being involved with these interns and apprentices. Pitching hard on this and it's not only open just to the military.

Chief Data Officer; Chief Technology Officer Positions. The Office of the CIO will be hiring two positions: Chief Data Office and State Deputy Chief Information Security Officer. Interviews are currently underway for the Chief Data Officer. There is no central data house. The Office of the CIO is implementing Microsoft Copilot but are having issues due to cybersecurity breaches. The Cybersecurity Team will be working on this issue. The team is also working on AI policies and standards.

Outreach and Engagement: Data Summit, Fireside Chats, and Tech Roadshow.

Commissioner McCarville reported that OCIO will be conducting IT Roadshows across Nebraska to inform communities about the Office of the CIO's services. The plans are to travel to 13 Nebraska cities. These will be half-day sessions working with local state senators and the Governor, cattle association, sheriffs, agriculture, etc. Fundraisers will

be held using a non-profit such as a state college to use their campus and then donate the funds to the colleges.

In addition, the OCIO is creating and filming Fireside Chats to post on social media. These will be ½ hour interview with different speakers and topics. Commissioners will be contacted when these are launched.

Second Annual Data and AI Summit, August 19, 2026. Please mark your calendars to attend August 19th. The morning sessions will be 15 minutes in length. It will be held in the State Office Buildings in Omaha. The vendors will show how they can impact our state. Governor Pillen will be there. Commissioners were asked to send any ideas for the summit to Commissioner McCarville.

Commissioners provided the following recommendations:

- Involved the NITC Commission members to participate in the Roadshow and inform attendee about the NITC and its importance.
- Have an NITC booth
- Invite the Senators representing those communities. Commissioner McCarville stated that the Governor plans to attend as many as he can.
- Tech Nebraska was suggested as a participant.
- Participate in the Cattlemen's Ball, which will be held in Cozad, Nebraska this year
- Interview NITC Commissioners for the Fireside Chats

OTHER BUSINESS:

Statewide Technology Plan and Biannual Progress Report. Mr. Rechtenbach informed the Commission that these plans need to be updated and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature November 15, 2026.

Recommended Technology Investments. Per statute, the NITC has the authorization to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding IT investments. The Commission has not recently been involved in this process. The importance and value of the NITC needs to be communicated to state senators.

Technical Standards and Guidelines. The NITC Technical Panel recommends standards and guidelines to the NITC. The current standards and guidelines need to be reviewed. The AI policy guidance is minimal. Mr. Rechtenbach suggested that the NITC will need to develop a continual standard and that would not need to be updated every year. Some standards use sensitivity issues and some use impact issues.

In prior years, there was a Community Technology Fund and the State Government Collaboration Fund. Community groups and state agencies could apply for monies to complete smaller I.T. projects. The Office of the CIO determined the grantees and administered the funds.

Technical Panel Dissolving. The Technical Panel was a vital group to the NITC. The panel would recommend standards and guidelines, approve exemptions to the standards/guidelines; reviewed, rated, prioritized and recommended IT budget requests to the Governor and Legislature. With this panel being dissolved, the Technical Panel's responsibilities will be under the NITC. The Commission may want to consider meeting more frequently. In addition, the NITC may want to consider the creation of a Technical Panel and Cybersecurity Ad Hoc committees.

It was decided to hold further discussions until after the legislative session.

Request for public records. The OCIO is developing an official request form that would be completed by a designated agency representative. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) does not apply to subpoenas and audits.

Commissioners Appointment Terms: Commissioners can serve two (s) appointment terms. The following five (5) commissioners are nearing the 1st appointment terms: Katie Niemoller, Kirk Langer, James Ediger, Zach Mellender, and Dr. Leah Barrett. Commissioners were informed that if they would like to serve another term, they will need to be recommissioned and complete the online application.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission is July 10, 2026.

Mr. Watson moved to adjourn. Mr. Doerr second. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by the NITC staff.

ATTACHMENT

IV-A



Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Education Council, Digital Education, and Network Nebraska

Since the February 2026 NITC meeting, the Education Council has continued advancing statewide collaboration to strengthen educational technology, cybersecurity, and digital learning opportunities across Nebraska. The Council met in June, August, and October, bringing together representatives from K-12, higher education, Educational Service Units (ESUs), state agencies, and education partners to discuss emerging initiatives and strategic priorities. The Council also continued work through its standing task groups to support long-term planning and statewide collaboration.

Program Highlights

- Supported consortium members through the FY2026 E-Rate application cycle.
- Nebraska schools submitted **801 E-Rate funding requests** totaling approximately **\$18.1 million** in requested federal funding.
- Continued implementation of **25 new and/or upgraded circuits** with installations progressing on schedule for summer completion.
- Continued modernization of the Network Nebraska backbone through deployment of new Cisco infrastructure and replacement of aging network management systems.
- **69% of Nebraska public school districts** now participate in **eduroam**, providing secure wireless access for students, faculty, and staff across participating educational institutions.
- Network Nebraska continues to provide reliable, high-speed connectivity to **99.9% of Nebraska public school districts**, supporting education, research, and collaboration statewide.

Education Council Activities

A significant focus of the June meeting was Nebraska's continued investment in K-12 cybersecurity. The Nebraska Department of Education provided an update on implementation of LB937 and the Big Red Cyber Shield initiative, including development of a statewide cybersecurity assessment in partnership with the Office of the Chief Information Officer and ESUs. These efforts will help evaluate cybersecurity readiness across Nebraska schools and guide future investments in cybersecurity resources and support.

The Council also continued discussions on digital education priorities, including opportunities to improve collaboration around dual-credit education, expand participation from higher education partners, and update Nebraska's Statewide Technology Plan. Current planning efforts include recommendations to strengthen AI literacy, promote equitable access to digital learning resources, and advance statewide cybersecurity best practices throughout Nebraska's K-20 education community.

Task groups remain actively engaged in advancing initiatives related to Digital Education, Network Nebraska Services, Security, and Communications. Current efforts include expanding stakeholder participation, improving

communication through newsletters and surveys, and supporting implementation of strategic technology initiatives.

The Council met on August 19, 2026. The meeting included continued discussion around the Council's strategic priorities and task group work, including Network Nebraska, cybersecurity, digital education, and communications. The Council also continued efforts to better align task group activities with the NITC Statewide Technology Plan and identify actionable next steps for each group.

Since the August meeting, task groups have continued working on their respective action items, with updates and recommendations expected to be brought back to the Council today.

Network Nebraska Update

Network Nebraska successfully completed another E-Rate funding cycle (April), providing application guidance, review, and support to consortium members while helping maximize available federal funding for Nebraska schools and libraries.

The FY2026 circuit implementation project is complete and it was successful and we are preparing for the upcoming RFP. The current RFP planning includes approximately 12 sites. This includes library locations with an expiring contract, ESU sites currently utilizing contract renewal options, the State of Nebraska backbone, Centennial Public Schools, and higher education locations exploring direct Network Nebraska connectivity. Bandwidth needs and future growth options are also being reviewed with participating members before the RFP is finalized.

Network Nebraska has invested in next-generation Cisco infrastructure and updated network management platforms to improve network resiliency, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

ATTACHMENT IV-B

Nebraska GIS Coordinator Report, July 2026

The council has met once since the previous NITC meeting, on June 10. Official membership appointments and renewals continue to be of concern, as we have had difficulty communicating with the Governor's Office to update their records. Another member has left County Government so there is a vacancy for "One representative of the municipalities nominated by the League of Nebraska Municipalities and appointed by the Governor" (6.2.16). Mike Schonlau, Douglas County, will then apply for one of two "members at large appointed by the Governor" (6.2.17).

Action Items:

There were no relevant action items at the June meeting. Only approval of previous minutes.

Working Group Updates:

~~The Boundary Working Group~~ has completed reviewing Nebraska Revised Statutes for all references to Geospatial data. After reviewing all Chapters, the group is now identifying the goals and outcomes of the review process and will report findings to the Council at the August meeting. The group will make a recommendation on revisions that would benefit the State of Nebraska. Tim Erickson, with the Nebraska Legislature's office will meet and discuss the path to introducing any changes to data or Statute language. County/State boundaries and descriptions continue to be of high importance, as they have direct effects on other layers defined in statute, i.e. NRD Boundaries.

Discussion, Concerns:

During the Coordinator's report, Ryan Werner provided an update on continued efforts to determine the State of Nebraska's GIS licensing needs and infrastructure support with the reduction in OCIO staffing and budget.

The following determinations have been made in order to reduce agency licensing costs, decrease dependency on OCIO/GIO staffing, decrease infrastructure costs, and allow agencies to effectively manage GIS applications and data:

- NDOT, DWEE, and DHHS will deploy their own GIS web Portal, ArcGIS Online, or hybrid Cloud/on Premise deployments.
 - o These agencies have the expertise and staff to manage and deploy their own GIS systems and infrastructure
- The new decentralized GIS plan for FY28/29 introduces a tiered chargeback system to align services with agency needs. Tiers support GIS data sharing initiatives and

hub site for Nebraska's Geospatial Clearinghouse (NebraskaMAP), as well as a continued, collaborative Enterprise Portal environment.

- Shared Enterprise Portal environment will be developed and maintained by a 3rd Party Managed Service provider. This will allow OCIO GIS Staff to focus on application development and maintenance of NebraskaMAP geospatial clearinghouse.
 - Managed service provider will be selected through RFP and will provide SLA for guaranteed up-time, software updates, server maintenance and reporting, etc.
- A central State of Nebraska ArcGIS Online site can also be utilized for smaller agencies with few users that rely on application development from OCIO/GIO.
- A Collaborative effort between NDOT, DWEE, and OCIO to distribute GIS Plan for FY28/29 is underway. Will review plan and address feedback from enterprise agencies and identify agency tier participation.
- Former roles of the GIS Coordinator will be coordinated by a Governance and Standards committee. Shared responsibilities for the enterprise will consist of alternating members from one or more of the member agencies currently serving on the GIS Council.

Transitioning to a decentralized GIS model enables agencies to tailor GIS capabilities to their operational needs while preserving statewide coordination and data sharing. This approach balances autonomy with standardization, ensuring the continued success and sustainability of Nebraska's Enterprise GIS ecosystem.

Next Steps:

- a) Review and provide feedback on the proposed model
- b) Identify agency tier participation
- c) Coordinate transition planning with OCIO staff

ATTACHMENT IV-C

To: NITC Commissioners

From: Vanessa Castro

Date: October 16, 2026

Subject: Community Council Report

The Community Council has had three meetings since its inception and is expected to have a total of ten members following today's meeting. During these initial meetings, Council members have discussed Charter changes, reviewed the history and potential future of the Community Technology Fund, elected and vote on Co-Chairs, and considered the Council's structure and long-term direction. Minutes from the second meeting are attached for your review.

I am requesting approval of the following new Community Council members:

- Oliver Borchers-Williams, Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Deb Robertson, Southeast Library System and York County Commissioner
- Dr. Zainab Rida, Nebraska Department of Education
- Jamdan Clang, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Erick Carrillo, Nebraska Department of Labor

These individuals bring diverse professional expertise and demonstrated leadership within their respective fields and communities. Their participation will strengthen the Council's capacity to address digital access challenges, foster cross-sector collaboration, and expand the reach and impact of initiatives benefiting communities across Nebraska. Biographical information for each nominee is included below for your review.

The Council's next meeting is anticipated to take place on October 29th. At that meeting, members are expected to vote on proposed amendments to the Community Council Charter.

Vanessa Castro
Community IT Manager

Regards,

COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
NEW
MEMBERSHIP

ABOUT

OLIVER BORCHERS- WILLIAMS



BIOGRAPHY

Oliver Borchers-Williams served as the Broadband Director for the Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D), where he led regional broadband planning and digital inclusion efforts aimed at expanding access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet. He worked with local governments, internet service providers, economic development organizations, and community stakeholders to identify connectivity needs, develop broadband strategies, and pursue state and federal funding opportunities that supported infrastructure expansion in rural and underserved communities. He will soon be starting a role at the Nebraska Association of County Officials.

Prior to becoming Broadband Director, Borchers-Williams served as a broadband fellow through the American Connection Corps, working directly with Nebraska communities to advance broadband access and digital equity initiatives. He has played a key role in broadband mapping, community engagement, and the development of local Broadband Action Teams across the state. His work supports economic development, education, healthcare access, and workforce opportunities by helping ensure Nebraska communities have the connectivity needed to thrive in a digital economy. Borchers-Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Political Science and a Master of Public Administration.



ABOUT DEB ROBERTSON



BIOGRAPHY

Deb Robertson serves as the District 2 Commissioner for the York County Board of Commissioners and is the Executive Director of the Southeast Library System, which supports libraries across a 20-county region of southeast Nebraska. Appointed to the York County Commission in 2026, she brings decades of experience in public service, education, library leadership, and community engagement.

With more than 25 years of leadership experience, Robertson has held positions across public, academic, tribal, and community college libraries. Prior to her current role, she served as Director of Kilgore Memorial Library in York for more than a decade. Her previous experience includes serving as Director of Library and Information Services at Briar Cliff University, Director of Library and Instructional Services at Virginia Highlands Community College, Director of Library Services at Northeast Community College, Library Director for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, and Elementary Media Center Coordinator for Norfolk Public Schools. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with educators, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to expand access to information, technology, educational resources, and lifelong learning opportunities.



ABOUT

ZAINAB RIDA, PH.D.



BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Zainab Rida is the Administrator and Officer for the Nebraska Department of Education's Office of Coordinated Student Support Services, where she leads statewide initiatives focused on student wellness, mental health, school safety, nutrition programs, and whole-child supports. In this role, she collaborates with educators, health professionals, community organizations, and state agencies to develop and implement programs that promote healthy, safe, and supportive learning environments for Nebraska students.

Dr. Rida brings extensive experience in public health, nutrition, research, and educational leadership. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where her research focused on childhood obesity prevention, school nutrition programs, and strategies to improve health outcomes for children and families. Throughout her career, she has contributed to numerous statewide initiatives related to school and childcare nutrition, physical activity, wellness policy, and student support services.



ABOUT JAMDAN CLANG



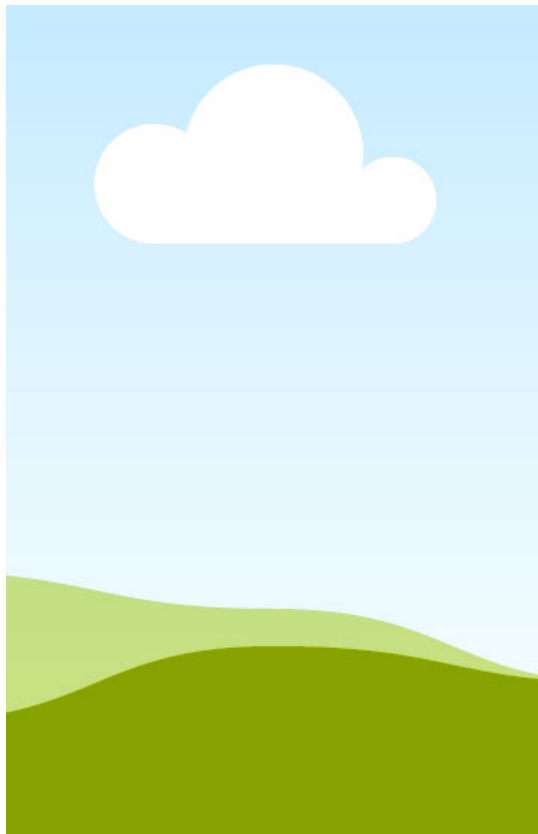
BIOGRAPHY

Jamdan Clang is the Data and Technology Manager for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), where he oversees technology systems, data management initiatives, and digital platforms that support economic development programs throughout the state. In this role, he helps improve agency operations, enhances public access to information and services, and leads efforts to modernize technology solutions that support communities, businesses, and local governments across Nebraska.

In addition to his work with DED, Clang serves as a lecturer in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from the university and brings a unique blend of expertise in technology, communications, and public service. Throughout his career, he has led website modernization projects, improved data and workflow systems, and supported initiatives that strengthen government efficiency and community engagement. His work focuses on leveraging technology and innovation to improve service delivery and support economic growth throughout Nebraska.

ABOUT

ERICK CARRILLO



BIOGRAPHY

Erick Carrillo serves as Director of the Reemployment Services Division at the Nebraska Department of Labor, where he oversees programs and initiatives that connect Nebraskans with employment, training, and workforce development opportunities. In this role, he works closely with state and local partners to strengthen workforce participation, support job seekers, and address the evolving needs of Nebraska employers.

Throughout his tenure with the Nebraska Department of Labor, Erick has held several leadership positions within the Reemployment Services Division, contributing to workforce policy implementation, program administration, and strategic planning efforts. His experience spans workforce development, employment services, and interagency collaboration aimed at improving economic opportunity for Nebraska communities.

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Connections.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Nebraska Public Media

1800 N 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bryan Seck, Lincoln Literacy

Deb Robertson, Nebraska Libraries

Jamdan Clang, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Jonathan Jank, Nebraska Public Power District

Oliver Borchart-Williams, Southeast Nebraska Development District

Tina Maria Fernandez, Hope Esperanza

Val Ankeny, Delegate for Jillian Linster, Center for Rural Affairs

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dekow Sagar, International Council for Refugees and Immigrants

OCIO STAFF PRESENT:

Vanessa Castro, Community IT Manager

INTRODUCTIONS:

Vanessa Castro called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Members introduced themselves by providing their professional background and recent achievements.

BEAD UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes, the guest speaker, provided background on the creation of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) and the Community Council. He discussed the importance of participatory governance and the role each Council member plays in expanding digital access to the communities they serve. He noted that Nebraska is currently more vulnerable than many neighboring states with respect to digital access.

Mr. Rolfes also discussed the relationship between digital access and Multi-Dwelling Units (MDUs). Residents living in MDUs are often considered “served” because the building is counted as a single service location. However, multiple families may reside within one building, and not all residents have adequate internet access. As a result, many individuals remain underserved despite their location being classified as served.

Council members asked what initial steps could be taken to address challenges related to MDUs. Mr. Rolfes emphasized the importance of conducting assessments to better understand broadband needs and service gaps. Once those needs are identified, potential solutions could include bringing a circuit directly to the property or utilizing Ethernet-based infrastructure. Mr.

Rolfes also recommended [EducationSuperHighway.org](https://www.education-superhighway.org) as a resource for learning more about broadband access in MDUs.

Council Member TinaMaria Fernandez highlighted the importance of establishing a shared understanding of what constitutes “access” so that all stakeholders can work from the same definitions and expectations.

In the meantime, while we wait to hear federal guidance on the BEAD non-deployment funds, we can be effective by assessing the needs on digital access across the state. Council Member TinaMaria Fernandez suggested partnering with Central Navigators to assist in developing assessment tools.

COMMUNITY TECH FUND

Following the completion of assessments, the Council could engage philanthropic organizations, such as the Lincoln Community Foundation, to explore potential funding opportunities and matching contributions.

The Council anticipates submitting funding requests through the Statewide Technology Plan; however, its immediate priority will be conducting assessments to better understand community needs.

CHARTER REVISION

The Council discussed regulations concerning membership in the Charter. Vanessa Castro recommended the Council discuss regulations around missing council meetings and council member conduct.

Council Member Jonathan Jank recommended that members be permitted to miss no more than three meetings per year without attending virtually or sending a delegate. Under this proposal, members could miss up to two meetings; however, upon missing a third meeting under those circumstances, they would be deemed to have automatically resigned from the Council.

Regarding member conduct, the Council discussed allowing the body to determine appropriate next steps on a case-by-case basis should a member act outside the expectations established by the Charter (the Council will need to decide on these expectations at the next Council meeting).

Due to time constraints, the Council agreed to postpone voting on Charter revisions and approval of the previous meeting's minutes until the next meeting.

CHAIR VOTING

Vanessa Castro announced that members should submit their top two chair preferences via email by the following Friday.

NEXT MEETING

The Community Council will meet again virtually in early July.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Ms. Castro adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Vanessa Castro of the Office of the CIO/NITC.

ATTACHMENT IV-D

Projects Status Dashboard

Enterprise Projects - Current

ProjectName	Sponsoring Government Entity	Manager	NITC Designated	Total Estimated Costs	Actual Costs to Date	Estimate to Complete
Workday Payroll, Time and Absence Statewide Implementation	65 Department of Administrative Services	Gierasch, Peter	4/1/2026	\$ 2,540,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 1,790,000.00
Mainframe Migration	65 Office of the	Pritchard, Sean	4/1/2026	\$ 627,000.00	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 565,000.00
Microsoft Teams Statewide Implementation	CIO 65 Office of	Kleinschmit, April	4/1/202	\$ TBD	\$ 52,000.00	\$ TB
AFIS Upgrade	the CIO 64 State	Neukirch, Chris	6	\$ 11,555,444.00	\$ T B D	\$ D
	Patrol		4/1/202			TB
			6			D

Note: Status is self-reported by the agency

Workday Payroll, Time and Absence Statewide Implementation

Report Date
Jun 24, 2026

Project Manager
Gierasch, Peter

Milestone Timeline

Start Jan 12, 2026

Finish Dec 11, 2026

Overall Status

→ On Track

Schedule Status

On Track

Scope Status

On Track

Cost and Effort Status

On Track

Key Accomplishments

Status Report Update

Overall Status: Green
Schedule & Scope: Green - 50% complete
Cost & Effort: Green - \$750K of \$2.54M

Key Activities & Updates

Discovery & Planning:
- Initial weeks focused on discovery, planning, and documenting current business processes with agencies.
Design Sessions:
- Design sessions and ongoing collaboration with agencies and Deloitte were completed in February/March.
Technical Progress:
- Approval of an additional test tenant to streamline testing.
- Middleware for legacy time clocks approved.
- Migration of Telestaff instances for DHHS and DCS to new host servers by UKG (completed June 2026)
- NDOT payroll aligned; asset and project tracking to remain in Kronos Dimensions until full transition away from UKG by March 2027.

Risks & Issues:
- No significant risks or issues

Current status:
- Scheduling configuration ready for testing July 6th.
- Main effort currently user storyboards, user guides, knowledge transfer to ongoing operations.

Upcoming Activities

Mainframe Phase 2 - Mainframe Migration

Report Date

Jun 25, 2026

Project Manager

Pritchard, Sean

Milestone Timeline

Start

Jan 26, 2026

Finish

Oct 21, 2026

Overall Status

→ Needs Help

Schedule Status

→ At Risk

Scope Status

→ On Track

Cost and Effort Status

On Track

Key Accomplishments

Status Report Update

Overall Status: Yellow

Schedule & Scope: Red/Green

Cost & Effort: Green

Key Activities & Updates

Phase 1 (Managed Services) go-live was completed on March 31, 2026.

Phase 2 (Hardware migration) began in April 2026.

Technical Progress:

Major technical work includes:

- IP discovery and mapping

- Firewall changes

- FCOE switch and cabling preparation

- Tape replication/storage planning

- Onsite environment discovery.

- Network circuits were purchased from Segra and Lumen. Hardware-related IP and firewall changes were completed, with installation scheduled for June 18.

Risks & Issues:

- The schedule and go-live date determination is dependent on several factors including:

- IP discovery

- Network circuit configuration

- Data replication/Data migration

- Hardware installation

- Coordination/alignment with affected agencies.

Current status:

Recent work

- Agency communications: Setup Bi-Weekly Mainframe Migration Communication meeting to communicate project objectives, reintroduce the FNTS technical team as a business partner and review technical questions.

- IP and Firewall changes to support FCOE and Tape hardware installation and cabling complete.

- Hardware installation at DOTCOM scheduled for 6/18

Pending items

- IP Discovery and assessment of the current state of the SoN Mainframe environment will enable FNTS to create a Low Level Design (Detailed Design)

- Next checkpoint on July 1

- Data replication via VPN - scheduled to begin week of 6/22

- Project schedule re-baseline - pending review of schedule with internal technical teams.

- Final review of Current State Mainframe IPs scheduled for 6/18.

Upcoming Activities

28

Migration of Chat and Meeting Services from Cisco WebEx to MS Teams

Report Date
Jun 25, 2026

Project Manager
Kleinschmitt, April

Milestone Timeline



Overall Status

→ On Track

Schedule Status

→ On Track

Scope Status

→ On Track

Cost and Effort Status

→ On Track

Key Accomplishments

Status Report Update

Overall Status: Green
Schedule & Scope: Green - 65% complete
Cost & Effort: Green

Migration Deadline: November 30th, 2026

Key Activities & Updates

Workstreams:
We have several different workstreams as part of this migration project.
- Microsoft Teams (chat and meetings)
- Microsoft Calling (phone)
- PowerBI (data and reporting)

Migration Progress:
- Approximately 65% complete overall
- Upcoming agency migrations:
- NDOT - 7/1
- NSP - 8/1
- PSC - 9/1
- DHHS - 10/30

Risks & Issues:
- No significant risks or issues

Upcoming Activities

NSP - AFIS Upgrade		Report Date Jun 25, 2026	Project Manager Neukirch, Chris
Milestone Timeline			
Start Nov 24, 2025		Finish Mar 31, 2027	
Overall Status → On Track	Schedule Status → On Track	Scope Status → On Track	Cost and Effort Status → On Track
Key Accomplishments			
Status Report Update			
Overall Status: Green Schedule & Scope: Green Cost & Effort: Green Purpose: AFIS, or the Automated Fingerprint Identification System, is the statewide technology used to electronically store, search, and compare fingerprint records to help law enforcement identify individuals and support investigations. This project will modernize NSP's existing AFIS by moving its back-end infrastructure from on-premises servers to the latest cloud-based Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS). In practical terms, the upgrade replaces the technology operating behind the scenes with a more current, scalable, and supportable platform while preserving the fingerprint identification services used across the state. Planned Completion Date: March 2027 Key Activities & Updates Technical Progress: - VPN tunnel approved to connect to the vendor's Azure instance - Initial traffic to be implemented soon will be to support data migration efforts Risks & Issues: - No significant risks or issues Current status: - Project discussions are ramping regarding the interface control documents to support the interfaces between AFIS and our State Criminal History Repository (PCH) and our records tracking system for processing background checks (RITS).			
Upcoming Activities			

ATTACHMENT VI-C

NOVEMBER 2026

Statewide Technology Plan

2026



Nebraska Information
Technology Commission

TABLE OF CONTENT



01 Letter from the
CEO

02 NITC
Commissioners
and Facilitators

03 Executive
Summary

04 Strategic
Initiatives

05 Community
Digital Access

07 Conclusion

08 Contact Us

LETTER FROM THE CIO

Dr. Matthew McCarville

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) has helped Nebraska harness technology to strengthen government, education, and communities. As technology continues to evolve, Nebraska has an opportunity to build on this foundation and advance a more connected, secure, and accessible future.

The 2026–2028 Statewide Technology Plan identifies six strategic initiatives that will guide Nebraska’s technology priorities over the next two years. These initiatives focus on strengthening cybersecurity, expanding reliable connectivity, advancing geospatial capabilities, and improving access to technology and digital resources across the state.

Together, Network Nebraska, Geospatial Nebraska, Cybersecurity, and Community Digital Access reflect Nebraska’s commitment to using technology to improve services, support economic opportunity, and ensure that communities across the state can fully participate in an increasingly digital world.

This Plan reflects the expertise and dedication of the NITC Commissioners, advisory group members, and facilitators who continue to move Nebraska forward. We look forward to building on this work and creating new opportunities for Nebraskans through technology in the years ahead.



Driving transformation in
government, education, and
communities for the future



NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE CIO

NITC COMMISSIONERS

- Dr. Mathew 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
- Bryce Bailey, Chief Information Security Officer
- Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The NITC advances its mission through three advisory councils: the Community Council, Education Council, and Geographic Information Systems Council. These councils engage stakeholders, develop recommendations, and help inform statewide technology priorities.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-516, which directs the NITC to “annually update a statewide technology plan,” the NITC, in collaboration with its advisory councils and key stakeholders, has identified six strategic focus areas. These priorities require a coordinated, enterprise-level approach and collaboration across state and local entities. Together, the strategic initiatives and supporting action items form the foundation of Nebraska’s Statewide Technology Plan. The current strategic initiatives include:

- Geospatial Nebraska
- Network Nebraska
- Community Digital Access

→ Vision

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.

→ Mission

The mission of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission is to make the State of Nebraska’s information technology infrastructure more accessible and responsive to the needs of its citizens, regardless of location, while making investments in government, education, health care and other services more efficient and cost effective.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To advance its vision and goals, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC), with input from its advisory councils and stakeholders, has identified three strategic initiatives that address key technology priorities across state government, education, and economic development.

The initiatives—Geospatial Nebraska, Network Nebraska, and Community Digital Access—focus on strengthening the state’s technology infrastructure, expanding access to reliable connectivity and digital resources, and building the skills needed to effectively use technology. Together, they provide a framework for statewide collaboration and coordinated action to address Nebraska’s evolving technology needs.

Geospatial Nebraska



ADVANCES STATEWIDE COLLABORATION AND USE OF GEOSPATIAL DATA TO SUPPORT INFORMED DECISION-MAKING.

Network Nebraska



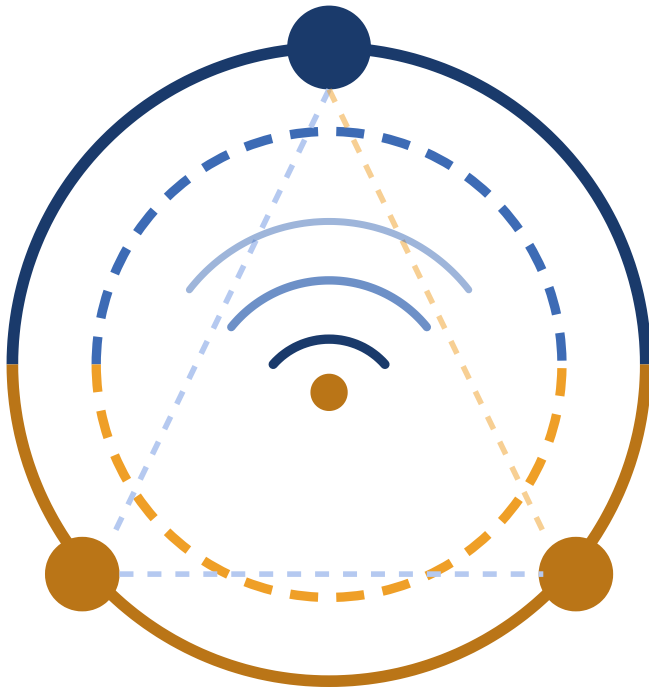
PROVIDES RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE CONNECTIVITY TO NEBRASKA’S EDUCATION COMMUNITIES THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE STATEWIDE NETWORK.

Community Digital Access



EXPANDS ACCESS TO CONNECTIVITY, DEVICES, DIGITAL SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES FOR NEBRASKANS.

COMMUNITY DIGITAL ACCESS



Pursue and Coordinate Funding Opportunities

- Use collected data and identified gaps to develop competitive proposals for federal, state, philanthropic, and other funding opportunities and establish a framework for distributing funding to community partners where appropriate.

Assess Digital Access Needs and Gaps

- Conduct statewide surveys and stakeholder outreach to collect quantitative and qualitative data on digital access barriers, existing resources, service gaps, and community priorities. Use the findings to establish measurable needs and strengthen future grant applications.

Develop a Statewide Digital Access Resource Inventory

- Identify and map existing technology resources, including digital skills programs, device programs, public computer/internet access, digital navigation, and other community technology services., to determine what already exists, where it exists, and where gaps remain.

Strengthening Nebraska's Digital Ecosystem

Behind the Community Digital Access initiative is the Community Council, whose overall goal for 2026-2027 is to strengthen Nebraska's digital access ecosystem. We will do so by identifying statewide needs and existing resources, building a data-driven foundation for investment, and securing funding to address gaps in connectivity, devices, digital skills, and technology access.

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

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Community Digital Access

Over the next two years, Community Digital Access will focus on strengthening Nebraska's ability to identify and address digital access needs through better data, stronger coordination, and strategic investment. Through continued collaboration with communities and stakeholders across the state, Nebraska will be better positioned to expand access to the technology Nebraskans need to participate in an increasingly digital society.

→ Assessing data

→ Developing Inventory

→ Applying to Funding Opportunities

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ATTACHMENT VI-D

BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

NITC Members and Facilitators

09

Geospatial Nebraska

04

Introduction

12

Network Nebraska

06

Executive Summary

14

Community Digital Access

07

Strategies

16

Conclusion

08

**Ongoing Accomplishments
and Statewide Impact**

17

Contact

NITC COMMISSIONERS

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Bryce Bailey, Chief Information Security Officer
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II

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 policies 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.

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 Linqvist, 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 receives 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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Digital Education Report

Education Council--October, 2026

Target 1.3: Connecting Constituencies to Promote Improvement in Nebraska Digital Education.

A core responsibility of the ESU Coordinating Council (ESUCC) is to maintain a repository of available distance education courses, and specifically, those that are eligible for high school credit. The system to accomplish this, NVIS (<https://nvis.esucc.org/>) has been recently re-vamped, and is better able to represent dual-credit courses offered by Nebraska postsecondary institutions than its predecessor.

The ESUCC did not have direct relationships to create the conversation, so the Digital Education Task Group of the Education Council coordinated the initial meeting. It has turned into a much richer conversation than initially anticipated, and a second meeting has already been held. Future progress is expected in these areas:

1. Nebraska postsecondary institutions can gain additional access to high school principals and guidance counselors through the NVIS platform. In certain ways, this platform can be more effective compared to maintaining email contact lists. A conversation has also started regarding the possibility of a student-focused area within NVIS.
2. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) has set significant dual enrollment (or similar terminology) goals in its own strategic plan, which will require greater connection between secondary and postsecondary institutions.
3. Because of the NDE goal, common terminology regarding enrollment has been recognized to be a challenge. DE Target 1.1 is already in place, and the Education Council recognizes a future role to help address this challenge.

We look forward to continuing this work within the 2026-2028 time frame.

Target 2.1: Establish recommendations for cybersecurity best practices within the K-20 community.

Because of the K-20 nature of the Education Council, we were able to correlate falsified requests for transcripts at Nebraska high schools with fraudulent attempts at admissions among Nebraska colleges and universities. While we have not fully determined how to best communicate amongst each other to better address the issues, it has created a unity of purpose around proper attention to processes and how that safeguards our important data.