
Strategic Initiatives

The NITC has identified eight strategic initiatives, which address the NITC's goals of supporting the development of a robust telecommunications infrastructure; supporting community and economic development; promoting the efficient delivery of government and educational services; and ensuring the security of data and network resources and the continuity of business operations. These initiatives would materially advance the vision and statewide goals as identified by the NITC. By emphasizing selected strategic initiatives, the NITC hopes to encourage funding of these initiatives and to encourage state agencies to work together to advance these initiatives. This year's plan includes one new strategic initiative and an expanded initiative. Public Safety Communications was added this year in recognition of the Office of the CIO's expanded involvement in public safety communications. The eHealth strategic initiative builds on and expands the scope of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network initiative included in earlier plans. One strategic initiative from earlier editions of the statewide technology plan has been completed. With implementation of a statewide K-12 distance learning network underway as a result of the passage of LB 1208 by the Legislature in 2006, the Statewide Synchronous Video Network strategic initiative has been completed.

Supporting the Development of a Robust Telecommunications Infrastructure

Network Nebraska. In order to develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the state of Nebraska, the Office of the CIO and the University of Nebraska engaged in a collaborative partnership that used existing resources to aggregate disparate networks into a multipurpose core backbone extending from Norfolk, Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney and North Platte to the Panhandle. Benefits of Network Nebraska include lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, new educational opportunities, more affordable Internet access, and better use of public investments.

Supporting Community and Economic Development

Community IT Planning and Development. The primary objective of this initiative is to foster community and economic development in Nebraska communities through the effective use of information technology. The NITC Community Council has partnered with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and Rural Initiative to form the Technologies Across Nebraska partnership. Technologies Across Nebraska is a partnership of over 40 organizations working to help communities utilize information technology to enhance development opportunities. Through Technologies Across Nebraska's Podcasting Across Nebraska program, communities and regional groups are creating podcasts to promote local attractions and events and to provide information to citizens. Technologies Across Nebraska's quarterly newsletter, *TANGents*, reaches over 1,000 individuals with an interest in technology-related development.

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Promoting the Efficient Delivery of Services

eHealth. eHealth technologies include telehealth, electronic health records, e-prescribing, computerized physician order entry, and health information exchange. The State of Nebraska will build upon the success of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network as it begins to address issues related to the adoption of electronic health records and health information exchange. The widespread adoption of electronic health records is expected to reduce medical errors, improve quality of care, and reduce health care costs for payers.

Public Safety Communications System. The Regional Interoperability Advisory Board, Office of the CIO, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency have established strategic goals and grants guidance to improve state and local interoperable communications capabilities. The statewide telecommunications strategy integrates regional communications systems, the mutual aid frequency plan, and the state communications infrastructure. The Office of the CIO has developed a plan for a statewide interoperable communications network that consolidates a core of state agencies on a single system platform.

Digital Education. The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis. This initiative will involve the coordination and promotion of several major systems and applications that have either been developed mostly at the local level or have not been replicated statewide.

State Government Efficiency. The State Government Council will address multiple items improving efficiency in state government, including implementing shared services and adopting standards and guidelines. The council has identified and is working to implement six shared services for state government agencies. Also, the council will continue to develop standards and guidelines to better coordinate state agency technology efforts. Benefits of these activities include lower costs, easier interoperability among systems, greater data sharing, and improved services.

E-Government. Through the use of technology, state agencies can enhance information sharing, service delivery, and constituency and client participation. Benefits include improved services for citizens and businesses, and increased efficiency and effectiveness for agencies.

Ensuring the Security of Data and Network Resources and the Continuity of Business Operations

Security and Business Resumption. This initiative will define and clarify policies, standards and guidelines, and responsibilities related to the security of the State's information technology resources. Benefits include lower costs by addressing security from an enterprise perspective, cost avoidance, and protecting the public trust.