



Building **PARTNERSHIPS**

2025
ANNUAL REPORT
Nebraska Department of
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Opportunity.



ABOUT US

Since 1967, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) has been focused on growing and diversifying the state’s economic base, pursuing a good life with great opportunities on behalf of the people of Nebraska. As the state’s lead economic development agency, the vision to grow Nebraska is what inspires us each and every day.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

We endeavor to be efficient, effective, and customer-focused as we operate programs and administer state and federal funding for economic development. This document fulfills our promise to our Governor, the Nebraska State Legislature, and the taxpayers we serve to remain transparent, accountable, and proactive in the way we report program data and expenditures. Questions about this report? Contact us using the information provided.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We want you to know more about our mission, programs and achievements on behalf of the citizens of Nebraska! For additional information about our agency and what we do — including our entire portfolio of legislative programs and a library of our previous annual reports — visit:

[***opportunity.nebraska.gov***](https://opportunity.nebraska.gov)

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on our latest news and activities!

[***www.facebook.com/DevelopNebraska***](https://www.facebook.com/DevelopNebraska)

[***X \(Twitter\): @DevelopNebraska***](https://twitter.com/DevelopNebraska)



MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MAUREEN LARSEN



Governor Pillen, State Senators, and Fellow Nebraskans:

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) presents this 2025 Annual Report to the Legislature in fulfillment of the agency's statutory reporting obligations. DED is honored to work on behalf of Nebraskans to promote industry and enhance quality of life in our communities.

We are encouraged by the evidence of economic growth we have seen over the past year.

Nebraska experienced **strong population and workforce growth** in 2025. As of December 2025, the Cornhusker State ranked #1 nationally in labor force participation. From January through September of 2025, Nebraska set a record-high for employment every single month. Nebraska's state's population growth continued to outpace the national average in 2025, ranking among the best in the Midwest.

In 2025, Nebraska saw **major progress on key projects in value-added agriculture**. Sustainable Beef started processing cattle in North Platte, soy crush facilities opened in David City and Norfolk, and DARI Processing broke ground in Seward on the state's first new dairy processing facility in more than 60 years.

Nebraska startups raised a record amount of venture capital funds in 2025, led by recipients of state Business Innovation Act (BIA) funding. In January 2025, an economic impact study by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Bureau of Business Research confirmed the strong return on investment from the State's BIA programs. Businesses participating in BIA programs generate \$15.90 of revenue per dollar of State investment.

Nebraska also stands out nationally in quality-of-life assessments.

- In January 2025, WalletHub ranked Nebraska as the #4 best state to raise a family.
- In April 2025, a Realtor.com study scored Nebraska #7 among states for building homes and encouraging housing affordability.
- In May 2025, U.S. News ranked Nebraska #5 overall on its list of Best States.
- In June 2025, the Annie E. Casey Foundation rated Nebraska #3 for children's economic well-being.
- In September 2025, WalletHub ranked Nebraska as the third-happiest state in America.

DED is grateful to work alongside dedicated partners to achieve these successes. We're thankful for the strong relationships we enjoy with local governments, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, utility providers, housing agencies, and educational institutions. Together, we're growing the Good Life for our neighbors, friends, families, and future generations.

Sincerely,

Maureen Larsen
Director



CONTENTS

Part 1: The Nebraska Business Innovation Act.....8

Part 2: The Nebraska Operational Assistance Program.....16

Part 3: The Civic and Community Center Financing Fund.....18

Part 4: The Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund.....28

Part 5: The Rural Workforce Housing Fund.....36

Part 6: The Middle Income Workforce Housing Fund.....40

Part 7: The Customized Job Training Program.....42

Part 8: Intern Nebraska (InternNE).....44

Part 9: The Site and Building Development Fund.....52

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Opportunity.
DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PART 1:
THE NEBRASKA BUSINESS INNOVATION ACT

From ag robotics to logistics technology, Nebraska startups are at the forefront of inventive product breakthroughs. The ingenuity of the state’s entrepreneurs is helping to create jobs and draw investment to the Good Life.

The Business Innovation Act (BIA) of 2011 authorized a suite of grant and investment programs for Nebraska-based startups and small businesses. BIA programs are a valuable tool for the State to support high-potential, high-tech small businesses at every stage of growth. In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, DED received 177 requests for funding under BIA programs, in the combined amount of \$24,353,754. DED awarded \$13,150,572 as detailed in the tables below. DED administers the following BIA programs:

Microenterprise Assistance Program

The Microenterprise Assistance Program awards funding to nonprofits in Nebraska that specialize in providing technical assistance and loans to small businesses. DED received five

applications for Microenterprise Lending Assistance funding in FY 2024-2025, requesting \$3,627,000. DED awarded all applicants a total of \$1,477,000 (Table 1.1).

Nebraska Seed Investment Program

The Nebraska Seed Investment Program is an equity investment program that supports early-stage startups in their commercialization of a product, service, or technology. DED contracts with Invest Nebraska, a nonprofit 501(c)3 venture capital firm, to operate the program. Invest Nebraska conducts due diligence on all applicants and places and holds the equity investments made through the program. In FY 2024-2025, DED and Invest Nebraska received 44 requests for seed funding in

the amount of \$8,286,061. Of these requests, \$4,142,780 of investments were made to 19 applicants (Table 1.2).

Nebraska Innovation Fund Prototype Grant Program

The Nebraska Innovation Fund Prototype Grant Program assists companies with initial product development. Applicants must show the proposed product has high growth potential and must demonstrate that it innovatively answers a market need. In FY 2024-2025, DED received 80 requests for funding through the program totaling \$8,557,376. The Department awarded \$4,459,670 of prototype grants to 62 applicants (Table 1.3).

Table 1.1 Microenterprise Assistance Program Awards, FY 2024-2025

Award Type	Recipient	Award Amount	Location
Microenterprise Lending Assistance	Center for Rural Affairs	\$319,250	Lyons
Microenterprise Lending Assistance	Economic Empowerment Center DBA Lending Link	\$319,250	Omaha
Microenterprise Lending Assistance	Invest Nebraska	\$200,000	Lincoln
Microenterprise Lending Assistance	Nebraska Enterprise Fund	\$319,250	Oakland
Microenterprise Lending Assistance	Northeast Economic Development Inc.	\$319,250	Norfolk
Total		\$1,477,000	

Table 1.2 Nebraska Seed Investment Program Awards, FY 2024-2025

Recipient	Award Amount	Location	Special Designation
Capstone Technologies	\$277,780	Lincoln	
CodeBuddy (KeyboardCat)	\$250,000	Lincoln	
Driive	\$250,000	Lincoln	
Funl	\$250,000	Lincoln	
Guardify (Vindanyx)	\$250,000	Lincoln	
HomeCare Advocacy Network	\$250,000	Omaha	
ImpactED (With Purpose Consulting)	\$250,000	Oakland	
Innovative Long Term Care Solutions	\$150,000	Omaha	
Major Talent	\$165,000	Papillion	
Nightfox Audio	\$250,000	Lincoln	
Performance Mindset (Neurofuel)	\$250,000	Omaha	
PetFriendly	\$250,000	Omaha	
Precision Syringe	\$100,000	Omaha	
Quantum Qool	\$250,000	Omaha	
RespirAI	\$250,000	Omaha	
Set Your Sites	\$125,000	Lincoln	
Summer Athletes	\$125,000	Kearney	
Tiiga	\$100,000	Lincoln	
Upwell	\$350,000	Omaha	
Total	\$4,142,780		

Table 1.3 Nebraska Innovation Fund Prototype Grant Program Awards, FY 2024-2025

Recipient	Award	Location	Special Designation
Accelerant	\$8,000	Alvo	
Adore MOM Senior Living Experts LLC	\$75,000	Omaha	
AeQuitas Invest	\$75,000	Gretna	
AgHand Technologies LLC	\$30,500	Valley	Value-Added Ag
AGsolaire LLC	\$36,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
AllHands iOs	\$40,000	Omaha	
Aprendo Cardiovascular Solutions	\$75,000	Omaha	
Aqualytics	\$110,000	Elkhorn	
Arkiro	\$75,000	Omaha	
Assembli Inc.	\$50,000	Omaha	
AtTheYards LLC	\$100,000	Potter	Value-Added Ag
Automated Assessments LLC	\$75,000	Omaha	
Build Mas Inc.	\$100,000	Omaha	
Corporate Athlete Consulting LLC	\$72,000	Gretna	

Recipient	Award	Location	Special Designation
Crop Tech Solutions LLC	\$70,000	Gothenburg	Value-Added Ag
Data Chimp Labs	\$75,000	Elkhorn	
DevObsessed	\$75,000	Omaha	
Docology LLC	\$100,000	Omaha	
Dream Money LLC	\$75,000	Bellevue	
Dwellr Inc.	\$75,000	Lincoln	
Elman and Company Inc.	\$75,000	Omaha	
EZ Grazer	\$79,100	Firth	Value-Added Ag
Flat Water Solutions LLC	\$56,000	Kearney	Value-Added Ag
Fun! Events Inc.	\$50,000	Lincoln	
FuturHerd Solutions LLC	\$150,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
GearLocker	\$58,500	Lincoln	
Horizon Spine Rehabilitation	\$75,000	Omaha	
JOB LASSO Co.	\$75,000	Omaha	
JOB LASSO Co.	\$75,000	Omaha	
Kaius	\$75,000	Lincoln	
Keyboard Cat Interactive	\$76,000	Lincoln	
KinnanFAB	\$64,500	Cozad	Value-Added Ag
Kinney Manufacturing LLC	\$100,000	Lincoln	
LeadFoot Analytics	\$80,000	Omaha	
LNK Pharmacy Solutions LLC	\$100,000	Omaha	
Major Talent	\$50,000	Papillion	
Mission Accomplished	\$43,200	Hemingford	
NCP Industries	\$50,000	Norfolk	
Neurosound LLC	\$82,000	Lincoln	
OMEDUS	\$90,000	Omaha	
Oncology Review	\$75,000	Aurora	
OT Potential	\$32,000	Aurora	
Pawlytics	\$90,000	Lincoln	
Quotamation	\$50,000	Omaha	
Radioposter	\$50,000	Omaha	
RelyAi	\$65,000	Bennington	
Roepsch Ranch	\$47,300	Cozad	Value-Added Ag
Seismi Inc.	\$75,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Sentinel Fertigation Inc.	\$50,000	Wahoo	Value-Added Ag
Set Your Sites LLC	\$80,000	Lincoln	
Silicon Frontier LLC	\$100,000	Chadron	Value-Added Ag
SitterSync Inc.	\$75,000	Lincoln	
Soter Inc.	\$150,000	Lincoln	
SpaceVibes	\$100,000	Omaha	

Recipient	Award	Location	Special Designation
Stereo West Autotoys	\$75,000	Omaha	
StraightEdge Innovations LLC	\$75,000	Omaha	
StripesFinder	\$56,000	Bennington	
Traffic Data Group	\$75,000	Firth	
TriCity Research Center	\$55,000	Grand Island	
University Medical Devices	\$63,570	Omaha	
ValidVoice LLC	\$50,000	Omaha	
XStaffing LLC	\$75,000	Lincoln	
Total	\$4,459,670		



EZ Grazer received BIA prototype funding to develop an innovative hay feeder that regulates the speed at which horses feed to optimize their health and safety.

Table 1.4 Nebraska Academic R&D Grant Program Awards, FY 2024-2025

Award Type (Phase I,II)	Recipient	Award Amount	Location	Special Designation
Phase I	ATTAG Bio Inc.	\$100,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Phase I	BioPocrates	\$100,000	Omaha	Value-Added Ag
Phase I	Bullseye Gx	\$100,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Phase I	Cover Crop Terminator	\$31,800	Arlington	Value-Added Ag
Phase II	Daro LLC	\$400,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Phase I	Empower Independence Company	\$62,600	Omaha	
Phase I	Farm Credit Services of America	\$39,000	Omaha	
Phase I	Golden Rose Homestead	\$1,500	Springfield	
Phase I	HerdDogg Inc.	\$79,695	Seward	Value-Added Ag
Phase II	Impacted LLC	\$135,000	Oakland	
Phase I	Impacted LLC	\$100,000	Oakland	
Phase II	KZValve LLC	\$338,400	Greenwood	Value-Added Ag
Phase I	L.U.C.A. Coaching by tj	\$11,500	Valparaiso	
Phase II	Molecular Trait Evolution	\$400,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Phase II	Original Equipment Co. dba Aulick Industries	\$141,300	Scottsbluff	Value-Added Ag
Phase I	RespirAI	\$100,000	Omaha	
Phase I	SanoCardio	\$10,827	Omaha	
Phase I	Shabri LLC	\$34,000	Hastings	Bioscience
Phase I	Vireo Resources	\$60,000	Plattsmouth	Bioscience
Total		\$2,245,622		

Nebraska Academic R&D Grant Program

The Nebraska Academic R&D Grant Program supports companies who engage with an institution of higher education in Nebraska on activities that lead to new or improved products. These activities include applied research, the licensure of intellectual property, or use of core facilities.

R&D awards are available during two phases. Phase I grants are typically awarded to first-time recipients and often support proof-of-concept activities. Phase II grants are awarded to companies who have successfully completed the first phase, and typically represent

technical assistance for product design and development. For FY 2024-2025, DED received 22 applications for Academic R&D grants requesting \$2,904,196. The Department issued 19 awards totaling \$2,245,622 (Table 1.4).

Nebraska Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Tech Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Grant Program

The Nebraska SBIR/STTR Grant Program supports companies applying for or making use of funding through the federal Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer initiative. Awards are available in three phases:

- ▶ Phase 0 grants provide financial assistance to small businesses applying for federal SBIR/STTR funds.
- ▶ Phase I grants are state matching funds available to Nebraska small businesses who have won federal SBIR/STTR grants to research the feasibility of a proposed product or service.
- ▶ Phase II grants are state matching funds available to Nebraska small businesses who have successfully completed Phase I feasibility research and have received additional federal SBIR/STTR funding to turn their research into commercially viable innovations.

In FY 2024-2025, DED received 26 applications for funding totaling \$979,121. The agency issued SBIR/STTR grants to 20 applicants in the combined amount of \$825,500 (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5 Nebraska SBIR/STTR Grant Program Awards, FY 2024-2025

Award Type (Phase 0, I, II)	Recipient	Award Amount	Location	Special Designation
Phase 0	Advanced Packaging Inc. DBA Fremont Automation	\$5,000	Blair	Value-Added Ag
Phase 0	Aqualytics	\$5,000	Elkhorn	
Phase 0	Aulendur LLC	\$3,000	Lincoln	
Phase 0	Batteries Beyond Batteries	\$5,000	Lincoln	
Phase I	Bluestem Biosciences Inc.	\$150,000	Omaha	
Phase 0	Dinger Inc. DBA Landoption	\$5,000	Roca	Value-Added Ag
Phase II	Discovery Collective Inc.	\$300,000	Lincoln	
Phase 0	Family Room	\$5,000	Omaha	
Phase 0	Firework Media Studio LLC	\$5,000	Eagle	
Phase 0	FuturHerd Solutions LLC	\$5,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Phase 0	Hoof Track	\$5,000	Odell	Value-Added Ag
Phase 0	Kaizen Design LLC	\$2,500	Kearney	
Phase 0	Local Art Plug	\$5,000	Omaha	
Phase 0	Mission Accomplished	\$5,000	Hemingford	
Phase 0	NeuroServ LLC	\$5,000	Omaha	
Phase I	Schnackel Engineers Inc.	\$150,000	Omaha	
Phase 0	Shabri LLC	\$5,000	Hastings	
Phase I	Teucer Diagnostics Inc.	\$150,000	Omaha	
Phase 0	TF STEM ENERGIES LLC	\$5,000	Tekamah	
Phase 0	Viosimos Agriculture LLC	\$5,000	Lincoln	Value-Added Ag
Total		\$825,500		





The Business Innovation Act of 2011 specifically authorizes funds to encourage value-added agriculture (increasing the worth of ag products through innovative processing and practices). Companies funded through the Value-added Agriculture Program are listed in the BIA program award tables. In FY 2024-2025, DED awarded \$2,574,595 through the Value-added Agriculture Program.

The Unicameral passed legislation in 2017 to create the Bioscience Innovation Program under the BIA. The program supports small enterprises in the bioscience sector by providing financial assistance for research and development of products such as biofuels, biotechnologies, and biopharmaceuticals. Recipients of Bioscience Innovation Program funds are indicated in the BIA program award tables. In FY 2024-2025, DED awarded \$94,000 through the Bioscience Innovation Program.

In 2022, the Nebraska Legislature authorized DED to give preference to Business Innovation Act prototype applicants in “economic redevelopment areas.” The Unicameral prioritized these areas for funding due to their above-average unemployment and poverty rates. In FY 2024-2025, DED did not award any projects in economic redevelopment areas through BIA programs.



Every two years, DED engages an outside entity to evaluate the performance of BIA program activities. The most recent estimate of the economic impact of businesses that have been supported by Nebraska Business Innovation Act (BIA) program is available on DED’s website at opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/plans-reports (see 2025 Annual Report: Supplement A).

PART 2:
THE NEBRASKA OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Turning a promising idea into a profitable business is a major undertaking. Through the Nebraska Operational Assistance Program, the State helps provide the strategic guidance, access to capital, and other resources entrepreneurs need to succeed.

The Nebraska Operational Assistance Program was established in 2007 to serve as a support network for high-potential startups. DED collaborates with Invest Nebraska to strengthen the State's venture capital ecosystem. Invest Nebraska—a nonprofit 501(c)3—specializes in advising and investing in early-stage companies. It is governed by a 9-member volunteer board. Invest Nebraska's leadership team and board members have wide-ranging expertise in fields such as finance, management, intellectual property law, ag tech, private equity, entrepreneurship, university research, and commercialization.

Since 2012, Invest Nebraska has invested \$61,927,066 in Nebraska-based startups through 357 unique fundraising rounds. Private investors have supplemented this investment with an additional



\$285,274,046. Invest Nebraska's investments have taken the form of loans, convertible debt, SAFE notes, and equity.

Preparing companies to raise funding requires a wide array of opportunities. Since 2012, Invest Nebraska has engaged over 2,218 entrepreneurs to discuss their new ventures; provided operational assistance to 2,930 businesses; and reviewed 1,505 business pitches, business models, and business plans.

- In 2025, Invest Nebraska:
- ▶ Reviewed 115 business plans, business pitches, and business models.
 - ▶ Engaged 176 entrepreneurs/innovators.
 - ▶ Provided \$7,981,061 in financial assistance to 44 Nebraska early-stage businesses.
 - ▶ Provided operational assistance to 273 businesses.



PART 3:
THE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CENTER FINANCING FUND

Nebraska’s welcoming communities are great places to put down roots, raise a family, and do business. They’re the reason why Nebraska is known as the Good Life. Through the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF), the State supports municipalities as they develop superb facilities to enhance the quality of life for their residents.

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development makes CCCFF awards to help municipalities develop cultural centers, recreation centers, auditoriums, libraries, and other inviting spaces for communities to gather and play. CCCFF also supports the redevelopment of historic buildings and districts.

Municipalities and tribal governments may apply for CCCFF funds on an annual basis. CCCFF is funded through a turnback of 30% of state sales tax generated by arenas and nearby retailers. DED plans the timing of award cycles to coincide with anticipated sufficient funds available for award, as well as the construction season. The CCCFF committee will hold an annual award cycle if the fund balance is sufficient, while also taking into

consideration the amount of unpaid funds designated to committed projects.

CCCFF grants can account for up to 50% of a project’s total costs. Recipients must match grant funds at least equally from other sources (1:1 local cost-share). Under the authorizing statutes, in-kind matching funds can account for no more than one-half of the required local cost-share.

Per statute, the cities of Omaha and Lincoln and certain facilities in Kearney and Ralston are ineligible since each has received assistance under the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act or the Sports Arena Facility Financial Assistance Act, respectively.

2025 Application Cycle

DED received 36 applications for award during the 2025 CCCFF program cycle. Applicants requested \$10.8 million in aid, supplemented by \$39.4 million in local matching funds. Based on the total aid available, DED awarded 21 applicants a combined \$5.4 million. As further detailed in Table 3.1, the 21 awarded applicants contributed more than \$23.3 million in combined local cash match. No applicants included in-kind match as part of their application. Per statute, cash match must account for no less than 50% of the total required match in an awarded project. Unless otherwise denoted and described in Table 3.1, all applications were awarded their full requested amount of CCCFF aid.



Generations Park in Blair, 2023 Construction Award

Table 3.1 Civic and Community Center Financing Fund, Awards, FY 2024-2025

Recipient	Award Type	Amount Awarded	Matching Funds	Total Project Budget
City of Ashland*	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
City of Auburn	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$562,000	\$1,124,000
Village of Bartlett	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
City of Battle Creek	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
City of Curtis	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$3,490,700	\$4,052,700
City of David City	Capital Construction	\$281,500	\$281,500	\$563,000
Village of Eustis	Planning	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
City of Gretna	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$562,000	\$1,124,000
City of Holdrege	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
City of Humboldt	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Village of Kenesaw	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$1,791,963	\$2,353,963
City of McCook**	Capital Construction	\$481,993	\$1,684,814	\$2,166,807
City of Minden	Planning	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Village of Nemaha	Capital Construction	\$37,000	\$37,000	\$74,000
City of Newman Grove	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Village of Oxford	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
City of Papillion	Capital Construction	\$1,125,000	\$10,428,770	\$11,553,770
Village of Salem	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Village of Shelton	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$3,340,300	\$3,902,300
City of Sidney	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$1,000,547	\$1,562,547
City of Tecumseh	Planning	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Total		\$5,449,993	\$23,332,094	\$28,782,087

* The City of Ashland declined its award.
**The City of McCook requested \$562,000 in its application and was awarded a lesser amount of \$481,993.

Table 3.2 CCCFF Revenue Generated for the Fund: FY 24-25, 23-24, 22-23, 21-22, 20-21

	FY 2024-2025	FY 2023-2024	FY 2022-2023	FY 2021-2022	FY 2020-2021
Interest Earned	\$58,430.96	\$155,956.87	\$94,447.66	\$52,953.71	\$55,144.60
Cancelled Funds	\$18,270.97	\$95,306.94	\$8,439.88	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sales Tax Revenue Generated	\$5,395,224.23	\$4,796,777.73	\$4,544,756.26	\$2,650,194.65	\$3,261,936.08
Operating Transfers Out	(\$4,343,900.00)	(\$343,900.00)	(\$348,097.85)	(\$343,900.00)	(\$343,900.00)
Total Receipts by Fiscal Year	\$1,128,026.16	\$4,704,141.54	\$4,299,545.95	\$2,359,248.36	\$2,973,180.68

Table 3.3 CCCFF Actual Expenditures, FY 2024-2025, Summary by Expense Type

Operating (Non-Aid)	\$74,549.44
Aid	\$5,074,830.21
Total Actual Expenditures	\$5,149,379.65

Table 3.4 CCCFF Current Budget, FY 2025-2026

Operating (Non-Aid)	\$129,983.69
Aid	\$9,363,271.65
Total Budgeted Expenditures (including Encumbrances)	\$9,493,255.34

Table 3.5 CCCFF Expenditures for FY 2025-2026 (through April 2026)

Operating (Non-Aid)	\$76,655.00
Aid	\$804,167.40
Total Projected Expenses	\$880,822.40

2025 CCCFF Awarded Projects, Narrative Descriptions

- ▶ **The City of Ashland** received a notice of award for its application for funding to support planning of a recreation/wellness facility. However, the city subsequently declined the award.
- ▶ **The City of Auburn** received a construction grant for renovations to the municipal swimming pool and sports courts facility. These projects are located in the city's historic Legion Memorial Park.
- ▶ **The Village of Bartlett** received a grant for the purpose of planning to construct a village community center. Pre-planning talks between the village and the school district propose the project to be located directly east of the high school building. In the early pre-planning stages, the village and school district have identified many possible uses for the community center. These include hosting various celebrations and gatherings, containing a weight room and workout facility, having an auxiliary gymnasium, and providing a community and school storm shelter.
- ▶ **The City of Battle Creek** received a grant to work with JEO Consulting to create a master plan for Battle Creek Park to guide improvements that enhance recreation and accessibility. The plan will focus on key amenities like the swimming pool, ball diamonds, tennis and basketball courts, soccer fields, and picnic areas. It will also assess the clubhouse, ensuring it remains a useful space for community events.
- ▶ **The City of Curtis** received funding to build a new swimming pool facility, replacing the original pool that had served the community since 1956. Guided by community input, the proposed facility will include five 25-meter swim lanes, a flume slide, zero-entry play features, park-access restrooms, a family changing room, and lighting for night swimming.
- ▶ **The City of David City** received a construction grant to rehabilitate and upgrade the David City Municipal Auditorium (DCMA) and adjacent track-and-field facilities to ensure their long-term functionality, accessibility, and historical preservation. The DCMA is

a significant Art Moderne-style structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It serves as a central gathering space for community events, school activities, cultural performances, and recreational programming. Planned improvements include upgrading the HVAC system to introduce cooling on the main level, expanding and modernizing the audio system for better event functionality, and replacing the stage curtain to improve usability for performances and presentations. The track-and-field facilities, located adjacent to the auditorium within the city's park system, are heavily used by David City schools and the general public for athletic competitions, training, and recreational activities. This project will resurface the track, repair the retaining wall, and upgrade the public restroom facilities to ensure continued safety and accessibility.

- ▶ **The Village of Eustis** received a planning grant to gather public input and assess the demand for an updated library. The village acquired a building in the downtown area with the idea of adding on to it to accommodate the village

library. Planning funds are being used to create site layouts, a preliminary design, and opinion of costs to prepare for project implementation.

- ▶ **The City of Gretna** received a grant to help construct the new Gretna Community Complex to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population. The city acquired a 35-acre site near Gretna Crossing Park to develop a state-of-the-art community complex. It will feature an outdoor event space, art installations, sculptures, retail areas, city hall, a centralized public library, city meeting rooms, council chambers, and rentable community spaces. Additionally, the site will maintain connections to parks and trails.
- ▶ **The City of Holdrege** received a grant to complete a planning study and public engagement process to better understand the needs and vision of the community for the Holdrege City Auditorium, which was

completed in 1919. The facility is owned and managed by the City of Holdrege and used primarily as a recreation center. The city intends to develop a proposal for the auditorium's renovation to meet the community's programming needs, while respecting the historic nature of the building.

- ▶ **The City of Humboldt** received planning funds for an engineering study to evaluate the condition of the public pool, assess the renovations necessary to repair the pool, and estimate costs of the needed repairs. Constructed in 1951, the public pool is in the Lake Park area on the south edge of Humboldt.
- ▶ **The Village of Kenesaw** received a grant to renovate the existing Kenesaw City Auditorium into a multipurpose civic center. It will address community needs for event space, a location for the city office, practice space for youth sports teams, and a classroom

for the high school's new Certified Nursing Assistant program.

- ▶ **The City of McCook** received a grant to support construction of a new recreational sports complex on the west side of town, located just east of Highway 83 and just north of Q Street in McCook. The sports complex is being completed in phases, and the city requested CCCFF funds to construct a full-size, state-of-the-art synthetic turf soccer field. This field will be used by athletes for soccer, flag football, and sports practices. Having turf will enable the field to be used year-round, in all kinds of weather.
- ▶ **The City of Minden** received a grant to conduct a planning study for a community wellness center. The study includes: (1) gathering data from primary and secondary sources; (2) conducting an online public input survey; (3) facilitating public input meetings to gauge opinions on the needs and wants of the community, including desired amenities and priorities; (4) conducting a site analysis of up to three possible locations; (5) providing facility programming and space planning; (6) completing site and building rendering; (7) developing a conceptual floor plan and associated preliminary opinion of probable construction costs; (8) compiling a final feasibility study.

- ▶ **The Village of Nemaha** received a construction grant to expand the existing Nemaha Memorial into the Community Building Memorial Park by converting the currently unused green space between the memorial and the



McCook Sports Complex, 2025 Construction Award



Shelton Pool (Groundbreaking), 2023 Planning and 2025 Construction Awards

newly constructed Nemaha Community Building into a landscaped community space. The project will incorporate a flagpole, sitting wall, paver walkway, stone patio area, floral and arboreal plantings, flagstone path, stone-raised planter beds, six picnic tables, and four benches for additional seating to create an inviting environment for residents and visitors.

► **The City of Newman Grove** received a planning grant to complete community engagement, programming, and planning activities that will prepare the city to move toward construction of a new community center.

► **The Village of Oxford** has ballfields in need of maintenance, improvements, and upgrades. The village received a grant to create a master plan for the village's park system that focuses on capital improvements that need to be made to the ballfields

to improve player safety and fan experience. At the same time, the village's other parks and recreational amenities are being included in the plan to determine which improvements can be covered with village resources and which ones will need to be funded through other sources.

► **The City of Papillion** received a construction grant to support the Papio Bay Aquatic Center Renovation and Modernization project. It is revitalizing the facility, which is more than 30 years old, to create a more inclusive, family-friendly, and sustainable space to meet growing community needs. Located in Halleck Park near downtown Papillion, the project includes renovating the bathhouse and check-in area, adding a 1,000-square-foot concession stand and mechanical building, and constructing a 540-foot lazy river. A new 50-meter lane area will accommodate competitive

and recreational swimmers, while an interactive splash pad replaces the underutilized wading pool and sand play area. Additional upgrades include ADA-compliant entries, expanded lounge areas, shaded seating, and a multi-slide complex designed for all ages.

► **The Village of Salem** received planning funds to develop engineering and architectural plans and specifications to lay the groundwork for sorely needed renovations to its community building. The building serves as the center of the community where friends, family, and neighbors gather for social interaction and to support each other and their village. Over a century old, the Salem Community Building is outdated and becoming an unsafe space to continue hosting town gatherings. To ensure repairs are lasting, the village is seeking to hire qualified engineers and architects to produce plans and specifications to inform construction work.

► **The Village of Shelton** received funding to assist with constructing a new swimming pool facility located adjacent to the existing facility within Veterans Memorial Park. The new pool will have zero-depth entry, which allows easy access to the water for young children, the elderly, and individuals with mobility challenges. With a surface area of approximately 4,750 square feet, the new pool will provide ample space for swimming, diving, or simply relaxing. Complementing the pool is a new bathhouse, which spans about 1,790 square feet. It includes a family changing room, ensuring privacy and convenience, as well as a mechanical room, ensuring smooth and efficient operation of the pool's systems.

► **The City of Sidney** received a construction grant to transform Sidney Northside Park into an all-inclusive space for community members to utilize. The revitalization project is bringing several new features to the park, including inclusive playground equipment; a large 1,200-square-foot pavilion with lighting; and a moderately sized, multi-feature splash pad. As part of the project, the city is also constructing new sidewalks and ADA egress ramps around all sides of the park—and several interconnecting rec paths through the park—to provide access to each amenity.

► **The City of Tecumseh** received funds for a feasibility study to serve as a roadmap for building a new, multipurpose community facility with more space. The study includes site specifications, utility needs, street development, building concepts, and a detailed cost estimate for the project.

CCCFF Non-Selected Projects, 2025

Each year, CCCFF is a highly competitive program. DED received outstanding applications during the 2025 Application Cycle. A review committee scored all applications using the statutory review criteria, selecting awardees based on each applicant's potential to benefit their community's economic and civic vitality. As with prior application cycles, the requested amount of funding exceeded the amount available for award (see Table 3.6 for a list of non-selected applications).

The CCCFF committee values creativity, resourcefulness, and collaborative local leadership in communities' development planning. While the non-selected projects listed in Table 3.6 scored lower than awarded projects, the committee encourages applicants to continue strengthening public-private partnerships and prioritizing community development projects. All applications are reviewed for compliance with the statutory thresholds for project location, project ownership, project operation, local match, and—where the project involves a historic property—documentation of approval from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

Projects with a higher level of local matching funds are preferred over those with a lower level of matching funds. At least fifty percent of the local match must be in cash.

In accordance with statute, applications for planning projects are scored for financial support; assistance from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund shall be matched at least equally from local sources.

Applications for capital construction projects are scored for five criteria, set in statute, as described below.

1. **Retention Impact:** Funding decisions by DED are based on the likelihood of the project retaining existing residents in the community where the project is located; developing, sustaining, and fostering community connections; and enhancing the potential for economic growth in a manner that will sustain the quality of life and promote long-term economic development.
2. **New Resident Impact:** Funding decisions by DED are based on the likelihood of the project attracting new residents to the community where the project is located.
3. **Visitor Impact:** Funding decisions by DED are based on the likelihood of the project enhancing or creating an attraction that would increase the potential of visitors to the community where the project is located.
4. **Readiness and Local Public Support:** Funding decisions by DED are based on the fiscal, economic, and operational capacity of the applicant—and of any political subdivision that owns the eligible facility jointly with the applicant—to finance and manage the project, and to operate the eligible facility.
5. **Project Planning:** In making funding decisions, DED gives preference to projects with completed technical assistance and feasibility studies over those with no prior planning. The narratives on pages 24-26 provide the CCCFF review committee's scoring rationale for applicants not selected to receive funding during the 2025 Application Cycle.

- **The City of Albion** applied for a construction grant for the Albion Recreation Center project, a community-driven initiative to enhance the existing sports facilities at the Albion Sports Complex.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Albion's application was not as competitive in the areas of retention impact, new resident impact, and readiness and local public support. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in those areas, including examples of events and activities at the new facility and how it will serve all physical activities and age groups within the community. Finally, adding a maintenance sustainability plan for the facility as well as further consideration of "volunteer entity" coordination of facility operations may have improved scores.

- **The City of Crete** applied for a construction grant to add new restrooms, more playground equipment, and an ADA-accessible shade/picnic structure near the bandstand at Crete City Park.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Crete's application was not as competitive in the areas of readiness and local public support and visitor impact. The CCCFF scoring committee noted a desire for more details on operations and timeframe of the project, additional planning information, and a stronger case for how the project will impact new residents and

visitors. Additionally, evidence of management, timeline, partnerships, and volunteers—along with more community engagement on the specific features of the park—would have strengthened the application.

- **The City of Crofton** applied for funds to construct the Crofton Aquatic Center, a facility that the city would develop, own, and operate.

Reason for Non-selection: Crofton's application did not meet threshold for scoring. The project involved historic properties/facilities, and the application did not include the required State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) notification and approval.

- **The Village of DeWitt** applied for capital construction funds to undertake improvements to its existing community center, which was constructed in 1985.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Dewitt's application was not as competitive in the areas of new resident impact and project planning. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in those areas describing how the facility improvements would impact potential new residents, and more formal community input through a feasibility study or public survey to confirm the greatest needs for facility improvement.

- **The Village of Dodge** applied for construction funds for a community recreation center. The existing auditorium in Dodge has fallen into disrepair - it does not have a currently working HVAC unit; it requires upgrades to plumbing, electrical, and insulation; and the facility is not handicap accessible. The auditorium will be demolished, and the village plans to construct Dodge Community Center at the same location.

Reason for Non-selection: Dodge's application did not meet threshold for scoring. The project involved historic properties/facilities, and the application did not include the required State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) notification and approval.

- **The City of Falls City** applied for construction funds to create Falls City Amphitheater Park. Planned to be located adjacent to the Falls City Library and Arts Center, the city intends the amphitheater to serve as a vibrant hub for public events, performances, and recreation. The project would include a permanent stage, festival lawn, public art, enhanced streetscaping, and public restrooms.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Falls City's application was not as competitive in the areas of new resident impact and visitor impact. A stronger case for how this project will bring visitors to the community with specific events that would attract them, as well as

sharing data on park amenities important to newcomers, would have strengthened the application.

- **The City of Grand Island** applied for a grant to fund phase one of a construction project at Camp Augustine. The project is envisioned as the first step in a long-term, \$45 million investment to create a regional outdoor tourism destination in Grand Island. The Phase I construction work would include pre-design services, the creation of a thirteen-acre central green space, renovation of the existing park operations and maintenance buildings, and renovation of the event parking lot.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Grand Island's application was not as competitive in the areas of new resident impact and readiness and local public support. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in these areas. A stronger case for how this project will impact new residents in the community would have strengthened the application. Additionally, describing operational capacity and management may have improved overall scores.

- **The Village of Hemingford** applied for a construction grant to help complete a new outdoor recreation area in the village park. The proposed project would build a shade structure to protect guests from the sun, install security cameras, and create a rubber mulch/poured rubber surface at the playground.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Hemingford's application was not as competitive in the areas of retention impact and new resident impact. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in these areas. A stronger case for how this project is supported by residents in the community and how it can lead to greater economic prosperity would have strengthened the application. Additionally, offering evidence of the project's impact to new residents may have improved overall scores. Finally, the amount of secured funds were less than those of awarded projects.

- **The Village of Lawrence** proposed to build the Lawrence Community/Fitness Center. Half of the facility would be a large community room to host events. The other half of the facility would have a fitness center with exercise equipment and lockers.

Reason for Non-selection: Lawrence's application did not meet the threshold for scoring. The project involved historic properties/facilities, and the application did not include the required State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) notification and approval.

- **The Village of Malcolm** requested funding to support renovation of a 40-year-old baseball field.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Malcolm's application

was not as competitive in the areas of retention impact, new resident impact, readiness and local public support, and project planning. A stronger case for how this project will keep people in the community as well as data on usage and participation may have strengthened the application. Additionally, providing an operational, management, and maintenance plan may have increased scores. Finally, the amount of funds secured was less than those of awarded projects.

- **The Village of McCool Junction** sought CCCFF funding to renovate its town hall, located in the village center next to the post office. Years of wear have caused the exterior stucco and paint to deteriorate, requiring restoration to maintain the building's structural integrity and visual appeal.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, McCool Junction's application was not as competitive in the areas of readiness and local support, and visitor impact. A stronger case for how this project will impact visitors to the community with new meeting and event space would have strengthened the application. Additionally, including required support letters from the community would have increased scores. Finally, the amount of secured funds was less than those of awarded projects.

- **The Village of Mullen** applied for a construction grant to build a new community park pavilion next to the pool, designed to enhance the space for gatherings and events.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Mullen’s application was not as competitive in the area of readiness and local public support. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in this area describing community support, capacity to manage the project, and scheduled use of the pavilion. Additionally, more discussion on community engagement activities, specific current events, and anticipated future events would have strengthened the application. Finally, the committee noted narrative responses that were too broad in scope and did not fully address the respective criteria as compared to awarded projects.

- **The Village of Plymouth** sought a construction grant to renovate its existing East Park. Located in the northeastern corner of the village, the park has provided a variety of outdoor recreational activities to residents for 50 years. Village leaders have held multiple public meetings to identify the park’s most pressing needs, which include removing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) barriers (installing ADA parking, constructing accessible bathrooms, paving the concourse), improving the concession stands, installing fencing, and resurfacing the basketball/volleyball/pickleball courts.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Plymouth’s application was not as competitive in the areas of visitor impact and readiness and local public support. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in those areas describing the increase of visitor usage and results of discussions in community meetings confirming new amenities. Additionally, repetition from support letters and repeated content within multiple sections of the application replaced other content that may have strengthened the application.

- **The Village of Potter** applied for a construction grant to complete the revitalization and renovation of its historic 1917 theatre and to add an annex building adjacent to the community hall.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, Potter’s application was not as competitive in the areas of resident impact and readiness and local support. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in those areas, including a clearer understanding of the renovation process and how the current phase fits into the overall completion of the facility, as well as more details on community input and support for the chosen amenities.

- **The City of West Point** applied for a construction grant to build the West Point Community Rec Center. The facility would provide space for year-round physical activities—offering a three-lane walking track, batting cages, and two full-sized multi-purpose courts. Beyond the courts, cages, and track, the facility would also include locker rooms for athletes, public restrooms, a concession stand, and bleacher seating.

Reason for Non-selection: Compared to the awarded projects, West Point’s application was not as competitive in the areas of readiness and local support and project planning. The CCCFF scoring committee wanted more project- and community-specific narrative in those areas, including a clearer understanding of the renovation process and how the current phase fits into the overall completion of the facility, as well as more details on community input and support for the chosen amenities. Additionally, the amount of secured funds was less than those of awarded projects.

Table 3.6 CCCFF Non-Select Projects, 2025 Program Year

Municipality	Award Type	Amount Requested	Matching Funds	Total Project Budget
City of Albion	Capital Construction	\$251,230	\$283,846	\$535,076
City of Crete	Capital Construction	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$600,000
City of Crofton	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$1,395,763	\$1,957,763
Village of DeWitt	Capital Construction	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Village of Dodge	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$2,938,000	\$3,500,000
City of Falls City	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$562,000	\$1,124,000
City of Grand Island	Capital Construction	\$900,597	\$900,597	\$1,801,194
Village of Hemingford	Capital Construction	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$190,000
Village of Lawrence	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$1,150,610	\$1,712,610
Village of Malcolm	Capital Construction	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000
Village of McCool Junction	Capital Construction	\$29,975	\$29,975	\$59,950
Village of Mullen	Capital Construction	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$60,000
Village of Plymouth	Capital Construction	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$250,000
Village of Potter	Capital Construction	\$374,000	\$374,000	\$748,000
City of West Point	Capital Construction	\$562,000	\$7,539,700	\$8,101,700
Total		\$5,235,802	\$16,054,491	\$21,290,293



John C. Fremont Park in Fremont (Groundbreaking), 2024 Construction Award

PART 4:
THE NEBRASKA AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

DED endeavors to create opportunities for all families to enjoy the Good Life, whatever their level of income. Through the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF), the Department provides financial assistance to help communities develop homes priced within reach of families with low to moderate incomes. NAHTF was established in 1996 through the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act. It is funded with a portion of the Nebraska Documentary Stamp Tax.

DED serves as an investor in NAHTF projects, seeking to award applicants who demonstrate the strongest ability to use state resources to develop affordable homes. DED also partners with award winners to provide input into project design and to address any challenges that arise during

project implementation. NAHTFs are available to units of local government; public housing authorities; community action agencies; and community-based, neighborhood-based, or reservation-based nonprofits and for-profit entities working in conjunction with one of the

aforementioned eligible applicants. Awards support a range of activities including new home or rental construction, rehabilitation of housing units, and homebuyer down payment and closing cost assistance. The awards may also be used for support activities performed in tandem with NAHTF-

Table 4.1 NAHTF Awarded Projects, Calendar Year 2025

Congressional District	2025 Applications Awarded	Organization Awarded	Project Location	Project Description	Project Summary	Grant Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Amount of Cash Match	Percent of Cash Match	Amount Leveraged	Percent of Leverage	Total Project Cost	# of Units	Occupancy Rate	Expected Monthly Rent	Employment Generated	Community Investment
1	25-TFRH-15007	Cuming County Economic Development	West Point	New Construction	Rental	\$810,000	\$810,000	\$400,000	49%	\$372,026	46%	\$1,582,026	8	100%	N/A	7.0	\$2,088,664
1	25-TFHP-15008	Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity	Fremont	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$413,600	\$413,600	\$30,000	7%	\$10,000	2%	\$453,600	3	100%	N/A	2.6	\$765,728
1	25-TFTA-15009	Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity	Cedar Bluffs and Fremont	Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0%	\$16,375	33%	\$66,375	N/A	100%	N/A	0.3	\$86,308
1	25-TFHP-16010	Neighborhoods, Inc. (NeighborWorks Lincoln)	Lincoln	Homebuyer Assistance with Rehabilitation	Homebuyer	\$840,000	\$435,000	\$20,000	5%	\$0	0%	\$455,000	11	100%	N/A	2.6	\$785,407
1	25-TFRH-16011	Prairie Housing Opportunity	Hooper	New Construction	Rental	\$840,000	\$840,000	\$100,000	12%	\$2,943,960	350%	\$3,883,960	16	100%	N/A	5.5	\$1,622,599
1	25-TFHP-16012	Southeast Nebraska Affordable Housing Council	David City	New Construction	Homebuyer	\$586,875	\$586,875	\$75,000	13%	\$0	0%	\$661,875	6	100%	N/A	3.8	\$1,142,508
2	25-TFHP-27013	Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	Omaha	New Construction	Homebuyer	\$820,000	\$820,000	\$300,000	37%	\$2,342,444	286%	\$3,462,444	10	100%	N/A	6.5	\$1,933,309

funded housing development. NAHTF funds are awarded for projects that benefit households at or below 120% of the area median income.

NAHTF Financial Information,
Calendar Year 2025

In 2025, revenue deposits from the documentary stamp tax to the NAHTF totaled \$16,037,552.00. Additionally, the fund earned interest of \$762,389.46.

DED received 55 applications for NAHTF assistance in calendar year 2025, requesting a combined \$29,179,816. Twenty-two applicants were selected for award, in the combined amount of \$10,175,666. Table 4.1 displays information on award recipients, and Table 4.2 lists non-selected applicants.

Appropriated funds expended by the Department totaled \$13,702,857.68. All available funds were contracted to projects for the program year. The year-end NAHTF balance as of December 31, 2025, was \$14,038,782.71. The Department's current estimated budget for administration of the NAHTF (spending authority for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) is \$2,188,695.29; the budget for aid during the same timeframe is \$43,304,047.85.

NAHTF Awards and Outcomes,
Calendar Year 2025

DED awarded \$10,175,666 to 22 applicants in the 2025 NAHTF Program Year based on the scoring factors referenced below on page 32. Applications were awarded based on the top 22 scores. These

awards will make a significant impact across the state.

- ▶ Supporting the development of 296 housing units across Nebraska, with a combined \$12.8 million in project costs.
- ▶ Generating \$2.7 million in local cash match funds and \$22.1 million in community investment. These sums are evidence of the program's importance as a catalyst for local action to address housing needs.
- ▶ Leveraging \$54.3 million in other funding.
- ▶ Creating an estimated 75 jobs in construction, the skilled trades, and other related fields.

Table 4.1 provides detailed data on NAHTF awards for the calendar year.

Congressional District	2025 Applications Awarded	Organization Awarded	Project Location	Project Description	Project Summary	Grant Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Amount of Cash Match	Percent of Cash Match	Amount Leveraged	Percent of Leverage	Total Project Cost	# of Units	Occupancy Rate	Expected Monthly Rent	Employment Generated	Community Investment
2	25-TFTA-27014	Holy Name Housing Corporation	Omaha	Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0%	\$25,000	50%	\$75,000	N/A	100%	N/A	0.3	\$86,308
2	25-TFHP-27015	New Community Development Corporation (NeighborWorks) Home Solution	Omaha	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$219,241	\$219,241	\$32,000	15%	\$10,000	5%	\$261,241	1	100%	N/A	1.5	\$433,684
2	25-TFHP-27016	Omaha 100, Inc.	Douglas County	Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$300,000	79%	\$0	0%	\$680,000	20	100%	N/A	4.0	\$1,173,795
2	25-TFTA-27017	Partners for Livable Omaha	Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties	Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$20,000	40%	\$20,000	40%	\$90,000	N/A	100%	N/A	0.4	\$120,832
2	25-TFRH-27018	Prairie Housing Opportunity	Omaha	New Construction	Rental	\$840,000	\$840,000	\$100,000	12%	\$12,622,580	1503%	\$13,562,580	68	100%	N/A	5.5	\$1,622,599
2	25-TFTA-27019	Project Houseworks	Douglas and Sarpy counties	Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0%	\$50,000	100%	\$100,000	N/A	100%	N/A	0.3	\$86,308
2	25-TFHP-26020	Southeast Nebraska Affordable Housing Council	Wahoo	New Construction	Homebuyer	\$586,875	\$586,875	\$75,000	13%	\$0	0%	\$661,875	6	100%	N/A	3.8	\$1,142,508
3	25-TFTA-31021	Box Butte Development Corporation	Box Butte County	Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$3,204	6%	\$0	0%	\$53,204	N/A	100%	N/A	0.3	\$91,839
3	25-TFRH-34022	Central City	Central City	New Construction	Rental	\$840,000	\$840,000	\$20,000	2%	\$2,150,000	256%	\$3,010,000	16	100%	N/A	5.0	\$1,484,505
3	25-TFRH-34023	Hastings Community Redevelopment Authority	Hastings	Rehabilitation	Rental	\$830,000	\$830,000	\$150,000	18%	\$14,059,750	1694%	\$15,039,750	68	100%	N/A	5.7	\$1,691,645
3	25-TFHO-38024	South Sioux City	South Sioux City	Conversion	Homeowner	\$702,500	\$222,500	\$25,000	11%	\$0	0%	\$247,500	5	100%	N/A	1.4	\$427,227
3	25-TFHO-36025	Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership	Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$291,000	\$291,000	\$3,000	1%	\$0	0%	\$294,000	6	100%	N/A	1.7	\$507,494
3	25-TFHP-33026	Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation	Benkelman	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$443,700	\$443,700	\$100,000	23%	\$39,786	9%	\$583,486	2	100%	N/A	3.2	\$938,518
3	25-TFRH-34027	The Housing Development Corp.	Hastings	New Construction	Rental	\$845,000	\$845,000	\$750,000	89%	\$6,844,768	810%	\$8,439,768	44	100%	N/A	9.3	\$2,753,239
3	25-TFHP-36028	Village of Milligan	Milligan	New Construction	Homebuyer	\$521,875	\$521,875	\$150,000	29%	\$0	0%	\$671,875	6	100%	N/A	3.9	\$1,159,770
Total						\$11,060,666	\$10,175,666	\$2,653,204	26%	\$41,506,689	408%	\$54,335,559	296	100%		75	\$22,144,793



A home in Wauneta developed with support from a NAHTF award.

NAHTF Non-Selected Projects, Calendar Year 2025

For NAHTF funding requests under the 2025 Annual Cycle, DED first examined all applications to determine they met threshold criteria (e.g., eligible applicant, eligible activities, etc.) before scoring proposals.

Scores were assigned based on objective and subjective factors.

► **Objective Factors**

- Location
 - Projects located in an enterprise zone or blighted/extremely blighted area received extra points
- Length of Affordability Period
 - Projects received a higher score for having a longer affordability period
- Income-Qualified Households

- Projects received a higher score for serving a greater percentage of the project's households at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
- Cash Match
 - Projects received a higher score for providing a higher ratio of cash match relative to their award request
- Other Funding Sources
 - Projects received higher scores for having funding sources (other than match) for the project that do not require repayment (i.e., owner equity, community contribution, industry contributions, etc.)
- General Administration
 - Projects received higher scores when requesting a lesser amount of general administration costs.

► **Subjective Factors**

- Project Design
- Organization and Project Team Capacity
- Project Readiness
- Need and Impact

Proposals for Non-Profit Technical Assistance were scored according to the following criteria:

- Project Design
- Impact, Sustainability, and Collaboration
- Financial Management

Non-funded applications did not score in the top 22 of applications based on the above criteria. The number of awards is dependent on the amount of available funding for each year. For the 2025 Annual Cycle, DED received 46 housing development applications and 9 technical assistance applications for a total of 55 applications.

In Congressional District 1, six of ten applications received were funded—five housing development awards and one technical assistance award. In Congressional District 2, eight of 19 applications received were funded—five housing development and three technical assistance awards. In Congressional District 3, eight of 26 applications received were funded—seven housing development awards and one technical assistance award.

In all, 22 projects received funding out of 55 total applications.

Historical data on NAHTF applications funded in previous years is available on DED's website at opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/plans-reports (see 2025 Annual Report: Appendix A).

Table 4.2 NAHTF Non-Selected Projects, Calendar Year 2025

Applicant Organization	Project Location	Project Description	Project Summary	Grant Amount Requested	Amount of Match (Cash)
Central Nebraska Growth Foundation	Grand Island	New Construction	Rental	\$830,000	\$750,000
CIRA	Douglas County	Rehabilitation	Rental	\$840,000	\$750,000
City of Fairbury	Fairbury	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$578,000	\$115,600
City of Lexington	Lexington	New Construction	Rental	\$830,000	\$325,000
City of Peru	Peru	New Construction	Homebuyer	\$596,875	\$70,000
City of Sidney	Sidney	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$750,000	\$-
City of South Sioux City	South Sioux City	Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$330,000	\$30,000
Cozad Development Corporation	Cozad	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$485,000	\$-
Custer Economic Development Corporation	Arnold, Callaway, Merna, Sargent	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$762,000	\$250,000
Family Housing Advisory Services	Omaha	Nonprofit Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$-
Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity	Cedar Bluffs	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$413,600	\$30,000
GESU Housing, Inc.	Douglas County	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$785,000	\$-
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	Douglas and Sarpy counties	Nonprofit Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$-
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	Douglas and Sarpy counties	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$845,000	\$100,000
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, Inc.	Douglas and Sarpy counties	Purchase/Rehab/Resale	Homebuyer	\$820,000	\$400,000
Home Value Builders	Omaha	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$842,500	\$75,000
Kearney Community Sustainable Housing	Kearney	New Construction	Rental	\$765,000	\$100,000
Lincoln/Lancaster Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	Lancaster and Seward counties	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$785,000	\$100,000
Lincoln/Lancaster Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	Otoe County	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$470,000	\$75,000
NEHI, Inc.	Six counties in northeast Nebraska	Purchase/Rehab/Resale	Homebuyer	\$470,000	\$20,000
Neighborhoods, Inc.	Lincoln	Nonprofit Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$43,300	\$5,000
Neighborhoods, Inc.	Lincoln	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$795,000	\$60,000
Northeast Economic Development, Inc.	Ten counties in northeast Nebraska	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$315,500	\$30,000

Applicant Organization	Project Location	Project Description	Project Summary	Grant Amount Requested	Amount of Match (Cash)
Project Houseworks	Douglas County	Purchase/Rehab/Resale	Homebuyer	\$791,500	\$50,000
Southeast Nebraska Affordable Housing Council	Beatrice	New Construction	Homebuyer	\$596,875	\$65,000
Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership	Five counties in southeast Nebraska	Rehabilitation, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$388,000	\$4,000
Southeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership	Cass and Sarpy counties	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$291,000	\$3,000
Southside Redevelopment Corporation	Omaha	Nonprofit Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance	\$50,000	\$-
Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation	Six counties in southwest Nebraska	Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$520,000	\$25,000
Spark	Omaha	New Construction, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$470,000	\$-
Village of Walthill	Walthill	Purchase/Rehab/Resale, Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$396,500	\$-
West Central Nebraska Development District	18 counties in west central Nebraska	Rehabilitation	Homeowner	\$813,500	\$63,000
Western Nebraska Housing Opportunities	Kimball; Morrill and Scotts Bluff counties	Homebuyer Assistance	Homebuyer	\$350,000	\$50,000
Total				\$18,119,150	\$3,545,600

Per the requirements of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act and NAHTF regulations, DED made the best effort to allocate no less than 30% of NAHTF monies to each of Nebraska’s three U.S. Congressional Districts, reflecting 90% of the estimated NAHTF allocation. The remaining 10% of the NAHTF allocation was invested in housing development projects within U.S. Congressional District 3. A breakdown of program funding by district is displayed in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 NAHTF Funding by Congressional District, Calendar Year 2025

District	Amount Awarded	Percentage of Funds Awarded
Congressional District 1	\$3,135,475	30.81%
Congressional District 2	\$2,996,116	29.44%
Congressional District 3	\$4,044,075	39.74%
Total	\$10,175,666	100.00%



Left: In October 2025, leaders in Stuart celebrated the groundbreaking of two duplexes. They are being developed with support from the NAHTF.



Right: In downtown Minden, an NAHTF award supported construction of Zu Haus Flats, upper-level apartments located in a historic building on the town square.



Left: The City of Wood River collaborated with Dunn Building LLC on the completion of three new upper-story apartments. The project was made possible through a NAHTF award.



Right: Habitat for Humanity of Omaha created 10 new single-family homes in Omaha with support from a 2023 Program Year NAHTF award of \$820,000.

PART 5:
THE RURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING FUND

The availability of attractive, affordable homes is a major selling point for a community when seeking to welcome new families and recruit business investment. The Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) was established in 2017 through the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act. DED administers the RWHF to support the development of affordable housing in counties with populations under 100,000.

On a competitive basis, DED provides RWHF awards to non-profit development organizations, who invest the funding to develop high-quality, affordable housing. RWHF applicants must supply a match to be eligible for award, and they often partner with local businesses and financial institutions to raise the local match.

Many awardees use the RWHF dollars to create revolving loan funds. These funds are used to finance the construction of homes for working families. Upon sale of the homes, the money is repaid to the fund so that it can be loaned again. This

creates an ongoing funding instrument for housing development.

RWHF – 2020 Program Year

Given the tremendous success of the initial RWHF funding cycle in 2018, the Unicameral allocated an additional \$10 million to the fund in 2020. During 2021, DED awarded these funds to 17 recipients who contributed a total of \$10.7 million in local match. As of the end of 2025, the RWHF 2020 Program Year had resulted in the construction of 475 housing units with another 71 in progress. RWHF 2020 Program Year recipients invested

a combined \$2.9 million of award and match into housing projects during 2025. These investments are displayed in Table 5.1.

RWHF – 2022 Program Year

In 2022, the Nebraska Legislature authorized a general fund allocation of \$29.5 million to the Rural Workforce Housing Fund. In May 2023, DED awarded \$22.8 million of these funds to 27 non-profit housing organizations. DED then awarded the remaining \$6.8 million to 10 recipients in January 2024. Over the two rounds of funding for the RWHF 2022 Program Year,

Table 5.1 Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Investments in 2025 by Recipients of RWHF (2020 Program Year)

Awardee	Project Area	RWHF Investment	Match Amount
Aurora Housing Development Corporation	Aurora	\$1,811,672	\$106,291
Cuming County Economic Development, Inc.	Cuming County	\$76,313	\$76,313
Custer Economic Development Corporation	Broken Bow	\$500,000	\$-
Keith County Housing Development Corporation	Keith County	\$66,841	\$101,525
South Central Economic Development District	Holdrege	\$74,303	\$75,696
Total		\$2,529,129	\$359,825



A new home developed with the support of a RWHF award in Ogallala.



The Elm 26 Apartments in Hastings, a project supported by RWHF dollars.

awardees contributed \$14.0 million in matching funds. RWHF 2022 Program Year recipients invested \$11.4 million in award and match into housing projects during 2025 (see Table 5.2). As of the end of 2025, 228 housing units had been completed with financial assistance from the 2022 Program

Year of the RWHF—another 660 units were in progress.

RWHF – 2024 Program Year

In 2024, the Nebraska Legislature allocated \$12.5 million for an additional program year of the Rural Workforce Housing Fund. In March

2025, DED announced 12 awards in the amount of \$12.5 million. The awardees contributed \$4.9 million in combined match. RWHF 2024 Program Year Recipients invested a combined \$2.4 million of award and match into housing projects during 2025. As of the end of 2025, 4 housing units had been completed

Table 5.2 Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Investments in 2025 by Recipients of RWHF (2022 Program Year)

Awardee	Project Area	RWHF Investment	Match Amount
Albion Economic Development Corporation	Albion	\$149,455	\$-
Aurora Housing Development Corporation	Hamilton County	\$372,106	\$50,000
Box Butte Development Corporation	Alliance	\$287,200	\$-
Cambridge Community Daycare Foundation	Cambridge	\$1,180,000	\$-
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce	Columbus	\$1,000,000	\$555,000
David City Development Corporation	David City	\$310,000	\$642,800
Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation	Grand Island	\$250,000	\$250,000
Greater Fremont Development Council	Fremont	\$915,000	\$71,960
Merrick County Development Corp	Central City	\$314,500	\$157,500
NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska	Norfolk	\$628,356	\$161,959
O'Neill Chamber of Commerce	O'Neill	\$670,000	\$500,000
Ravenna Economic Development Corporation	Ravenna	\$210,000	\$-
Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership	Seward County	\$45,000	\$-
South Central Economic Development District, Inc.	13 counties in south central Nebraska	\$809,046	\$414,154
Southeast Nebraska Affordable Housing Council	Falls City and Nebraska City	\$706,059	\$554,761

Awardee	Project Area	\$554,761	Match Amount
Wakefield Development Corporation	Wakefield	\$118,582	\$31,418
Wausa Development Corporation	Wausa	\$16,000	\$16,000
Total		\$7,981,304	\$3,405,552

with financial assistance from the 2024 Program Year of the RWHF—another 33 units were in progress.

Note that data provided in Tables 5.1 , 5.2, and 5.3 are only for those RWHF awardees who made new investments in 2025. Historic data

for RWHF recipients is provided in DED’s previous annual reports to the Nebraska Legislature, which are available at opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/plans-reports.

Table 5.3 Rural Workforce Housing Fund, Investments in 2025 by Recipients of RWHF (2024 Program Year)

Awardee	Project Area	RWHF Investment	Match Amount
Community of Butte Development Corp.	Butte	\$-	\$50,000
Hastings Economic Development Corporation	Hastings	\$750,000	\$275,000
Merrick County Development Corporation	Central City	\$704,000	\$351,000
Sherman County Economic Development, Inc.	Loup City, Sherman County	\$264,000	\$-
Total		\$1,718,000	\$676,000



Leaders in Nebraska City celebrate the completion of a new home developed with RWHFs.

PART 6:
THE MIDDLE INCOME WORKFORCE HOUSING FUND

Nebraska’s urban areas have seen impressive growth in recent years. The Omaha metro surpassed 1 million residents in 2024, and Lincoln’s population now exceeds 300,000. Both of the state’s largest metros had record employment as of March 2025. The Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Fund (MWHF) is helping meet the demand for housing as Nebraska’s metro areas rapidly generate new jobs.

In 2020, Nebraska enacted the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act, which created the MWHF. DED administers the fund to help nonprofits develop affordable homes in older or underserved urban neighborhoods with a demonstrated need for housing. Awards are available for housing projects in Lancaster or Sarpy counties and in (or adjacent to) qualified census tracts in Douglas County.

In the 2020 Program Year, DED awarded more than \$9.6 million from the MWHF to 10 recipients. Each awardee supplied a match equal to the award amount. The Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) provided \$5 million to support MWHF recipients in raising their required match.

In the 2022 Program Year, DED awarded \$19.25 million of MWHFs through two funding cycles. Recipients supplied at least 50% match (or 50 cents for every dollar of funds awarded). In the first round, announced in June 2023, DED awarded \$7.5 million to three recipients. In February 2024, DED announced the second round of 2022 Program Year funding, awarding \$11.75 million to four recipients.

In the 2024 Program Year, DED awarded \$13.5 million of MWHFs. Recipients each provided at least 25% match (or 25 cents for every dollar of funds awarded).

In calendar year 2025, 55 housing units were completed with financial

assistance from the MWHF and 57 additional units were in progress. During 2025, MWHF recipients invested \$14.24 million in combined MWHF awards and match. Details are displayed in Table 6.1, Table 6.2, and Table 6.3.

Note that data provided in Tables 6.1 , 6.2, and 6.3 are only for those MWHF awardees who made new investments in 2025. Historic data for MWHF recipients is provided in DED’s previous annual reports to the Nebraska Legislature, which are available at opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/plans-reports/.



In November 2025, Omaha 100 celebrated the completion of a home developed in North Omaha with support from a MWHF award.

Table 6.1 Middle Income Workforce Housing Fund, Investments by 2020 Program Year Recipients in 2025

Awardee	Project Area	MWHF Investment	Match Investment
Nebraska Housing Resource	Lincoln	\$371,250	\$378,750
Omaha 100	Omaha	\$717,915	\$717,915
Total		\$1,089,165	\$1,096,665

Table 6.2 Middle Income Workforce Housing Fund, Investments by 2022 Program Year Recipients in 2025

Awardee	Project Area	MWHF Investment	Match Investment
Nebraska Housing Resource	Lincoln	\$476,667	\$238,333
Spark Capital	Douglas County	\$1,651,025	\$1,651,025
Total		\$2,127,692	\$1,889,358

Table 6.3 Middle Income Workforce Housing Fund, Investments by 2024 Program Year Recipients in 2025

Awardee	Project Area	MWHF Investment	Match Investment
GESU Housing, Inc.	Omaha	\$500,000	\$195,833
Habitat for Humanity of Omaha	Omaha and municipalities in Sarpy County	\$4,620,000	\$2,250,000
Holy Name Housing Corporation	Omaha	\$-	\$74,723
Nebraska Housing Resource	Lincoln and Waverly	\$171,429	\$228,571
Total		\$5,291,429	\$2,749,127



In the fall of 2025, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha helped two families achieve the dream of homeownership with support from a MWHF award.

PART 7:
THE CUSTOMIZED JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

Given the rapid pace of technological innovation, the most adaptable companies are best positioned to succeed. The Customized Job Training (CJT) Program provides funds to help businesses in Nebraska train their employees in the use of new equipment and technologies. By helping to develop a highly skilled, tech-savvy workforce, DED is keeping Nebraska on the leading edge of technological change.

CJT grants provide financial assistance for employee training initiatives that create or retain quality jobs in Nebraska. The program gives preference to projects resulting in increased investment and employment in the state. Eligible activities within the CJT program include on-the-job training, classroom instruction, educational costs such as tuition and fees, and costs of training materials.

CJT awards must be used to train full-time, permanent, in-state employees who are

not involved in administrative support, management, or facility maintenance. Businesses have one to three years to complete training for employees under CJT. All CJT grant recipients must maintain their employee baseline as of the time of application for at least two years.

CJT Active Grants, 2025 Program Year

One CJT contract was open during the 2025 program year in the award amount of \$80,000. The grant helped Graepel North America upskill 10 current employees

and train an additional 10 new employees. As of June 2025, expenditures for the contract totaled \$79,317.70. Table 7.1 displays data for the open contract.

CJT Closed Grants, 2025 Program Year

As shown in Table 7.2, one CJT contract was closed during the 2025 program year. The award resulted in 16 new employees being trained.

Table 7.1 Customized Job Training Active Contracts, 2025 Program Year

Business Name	Award	Expenditures to Date	New Employees Trained	Existing Employees Trained	Training Period Start Date	Training Period End Date
Graepel North America Inc.	\$80,000.00	\$79,317.70	10	10	5/1/2022	4/30/2024

Table 7.2 Customized Job Training Closed Contracts, 2025 Program Year

Business Name	Award	Expenditures to Date	New Employees Trained	Existing Employees Trained	Training Period Start Date	Training Period End Date
Staska Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$32,000.00	\$10,940.23	16	0	6/1/2020	6/1/2023



PART 8:
INTERN NEBRASKA (InternNE)

The State’s workforce development strategy begins with recruiting in our own backyard. DED and its partners are helping connect students to great career opportunities in Nebraska. In fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025, the agency oversaw the Intern Nebraska program to provide students with valuable experience in growing, high-wage career fields.

- In FY 2024-2025, DED received 264 applications for funding through the Intern Nebraska program. The Department received applications from employers in 32 counties (see Table 8.1 for details).

 - ▶ 114 applications were submitted by employers in Douglas, Sarpy, and Saunders counties, of which 67 were awarded.
- ▶ 92 applications were submitted by employers in Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Dodge, Lancaster, Madison, Platte, Seward, and Stanton counties, of which 60 were awarded.
 - ▶ 58 applications were submitted by employers in Congressional District Three (with 23 counties represented), of which 34 were awarded.
- In total, DED awarded \$4,536,500 to 161 applicants through Intern Nebraska in FY 2024-2025. These awards supported 704 internship positions. Information on the awardees is displayed in Table 8.2.



Interns with The Foundry Community in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Table 8.1 Intern Nebraska Applications, Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Congressional District	County	Number of Applicants
1	Cass	1
1	Dodge	8
1	Lancaster	64
1	Madison	12
1	Platte	6
1	Seward	1
2	Douglas	104
1/2	Sarpy	9
2	Saunders	1
3	Adams	6
3	Antelope	1
3	Boone	1
3	Box Butte	1
3	Buffalo	13
3	Cedar	2
3	Cheyenne	1
3	Dawes	1
3	Dawson	2
3	Fillmore	2
3	Furnas	3
3	Gage	1
3	Garfield	1
3	Hall	9
3	Hamilton	1
3	Lincoln	4
3	Richardson	1
3	Scotts Bluff	3
3	Sheridan	1
3	Thayer	1
3	Washington	1
3	Wayne	1
3	York	1
	Total	264

Table 8.2 Intern Nebraska Awards, Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Employer	Employer City	Number of Internships Awarded	Total Grant Amount
Abstract Union	Lincoln	2	\$15,000
ADS BIOTEC Inc.	Omaha	3	\$22,500
Ag Processing Inc.	Omaha	20	\$150,000
AKSARBEN Foundation	Omaha	5	\$37,500
Alvine and Associates Inc.	Omaha	5	\$37,500
AOI Corporation	Omaha	2	\$8,000
Applied Connective Technologies	Albion	2	\$15,000
Arbor Aesthetics Tree Service	Omaha	1	\$3,500
ARCURETECTURE GROUP Inc.	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Arts with Others / Calibraska Arts Initiative	Scottsbluff	2	\$12,000
Barney Church Group	Lincoln	1	\$4,000
BCDM Architects	Omaha	3	\$12,000
BCom Solutions LLC	Auburn	6	\$30,000
BFF Omaha Inc.	Omaha	3	\$3,000
Big Pals Little Pals Association of Greater Columbus	Columbus	1	\$4,000
Bluestem Biosciences Inc.	Omaha	3	\$22,500
Box Butte Development Corporation	Alliance	1	\$7,500
Branched Oak Observatory	Raymond	1	\$4,500
Briggs & Barrett Project	Norfolk	1	\$7,500
Bruckman Rubber Co.	Hastings	1	\$2,500
Buckley & Sitzman LLP	Lincoln	2	\$15,000
CareerPathway.com	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Carhart Lumber Co.	Wayne	12	\$90,000
Centese Inc.	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Central Confinement Service LLC	Columbus	8	\$60,000
Chaza Hofmeister Design	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Cheyenne County Chamber of Commerce	Sidney	1	\$7,500
City Ventures Professional Services	Omaha	2	\$15,000
CL Construction LLC	Wahoo	5	\$37,500
Completely KIDS	Omaha	16	\$120,000
ConAgra Foods Inc.	Omaha	25	\$187,500
Concord Components Inc.	Wayne	1	\$7,500
Contryman Associates P.C.	Grand Island	4	\$30,000
Croker Huck Law Firm	Omaha	1	\$7,500
CSS Farms	Kearney	6	\$45,000

Employer	Employer City	Number of Internships Awarded	Total Grant Amount
Daycos Inc.	Norfolk	2	\$15,000
Dreyers Auto Body	Rushville	1	\$7,500
EF Johnson Technologies	Lincoln	6	\$45,000
Eleanor Creative	Lincoln	8	\$56,000
Elmwood Capital	Omaha	1	\$7,500
Ethos Connected	Lincoln	5	\$37,500
Evolve Training Co.	Norfolk	1	\$5,000
Fallen Giant Films Inc.	Omaha	1	\$7,500
FarmAfield Labs LLC	Lincoln	5	\$37,500
Flatwater Wealth Inc.	Grand Island	1	\$3,500
Fleet Defender Inc.	Springfield	3	\$22,500
FoleyShald Engineering LLC	Omaha	3	\$22,500
Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools	Lincoln	10	\$25,000
Fremont Area Chamber	Fremont	2	\$9,000
Fusion Medical Staffing	Elkhorn	10	\$75,000
Gallup Inc.	Omaha	25	\$187,500
gener8tor	Lincoln	2	\$4,000
General Excavating LLC	Lincoln	10	\$75,000
Great Plains Health	North Platte	2	\$15,000
Greater Omaha Chamber	Omaha	10	\$75,000
Guardify Inc.	Omaha	8	\$60,000
Hancock & Dana P.C.	Omaha	8	\$60,000
Hansen Brothers Parts & Service Inc.	Laurel	2	\$15,000
Harrison Financial Services	Omaha	4	\$30,000
Hausmann Construction	Lincoln	12	\$90,000
Hayes & Associates LLC	Omaha	5	\$37,500
Hefty Seed Company	Wood River	8	\$60,000
HGM Associates Inc.	Omaha	4	\$4,000
Holland Basham Architects	Omaha	5	\$32,500
Holmes Murphy & Associates	Omaha	2	\$7,000
Home Care Partners	Lincoln	5	\$37,500
Horizontal Boring & Tunneling Co.	Exeter	3	\$22,500
Hudl	Lincoln	25	\$75,000
Huffman Engineering	Lincoln	7	\$52,500
Humanities Nebraska	Lincoln	1	\$4,500

Employer	Employer City	Number of Internships Awarded	Total Grant Amount
i3 Bank	Bennington	1	\$2,000
Ideologix Insights	Omaha	3	\$22,500
Ignite Nebraska	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Independent Business Consulting LLC	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
IronConnect LLC	Lincoln	5	\$37,500
ISoft Data Systems	Lincoln	4	\$24,000
Jacobsen Orr Lindstrom & Holbrook	Kearney	10	\$75,000
Job Lasso	Omaha	1	\$2,500
Kearney Family YMCA	Kearney	1	\$7,000
Kearney Public Schools Foundation	Kearney	1	\$1,500
Kingery Construction Co.	Lincoln	3	\$22,500
Kinstler Brown Companies Inc.	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Klute Inc.	York	3	\$22,500
Koley Jessen P.C. LLO	Omaha	24	\$120,000
KSO CPAs PC	Kearney	7	\$42,000
KZCO Inc.	Greenwood	4	\$22,000
Landoption	Roca	2	\$15,000
Latino Center of the Midlands	Omaha	3	\$75,000
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce	Lincoln	2	\$15,000
Lincoln Literacy	Lincoln	4	\$30,000
Lincoln Tool & Design Co.	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Little Lamb Preschool	North Bend	1	\$2,000
Lochland Country Club	Hastings	1	\$1,000
LUX Center for the Arts	Lincoln	1	\$3,000
MCL Construction	La Vista	8	\$32,000
MetalQuest Unlimited	Hebron	2	\$15,000
Midlands African Chamber	Omaha	2	\$15,000
MindSet LLC	Bellevue	2	\$15,000
Morrissey Engineering Inc.	Omaha	6	\$45,000
NebDev LLC	Bellevue	1	\$7,500
Nebraska 4-H Foundation	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Nebraska Angels	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Lincoln	1	\$7,500
Nebraska Enterprise Fund	Omaha	1	\$7,500
Nebraska Journalism Trust	Omaha	4	\$30,000
Nebraska Pro Volleyball	Omaha	4	\$30,000

Employer	Employer City	Number of Internships Awarded	Total Grant Amount
Nebraska Startup Academy	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Nebraska State Fair Park Foundation	Grand Island	4	\$20,000
Nebraska Wildlife Rehab Inc.	Omaha	15	\$60,000
NEBRASKAland DAYS	North Platte	1	\$7,500
Nonprofit Hub	Lincoln	3	\$22,500
Norfolk Daily News	Norfolk	1	\$7,500
Norfolk Iron & Metal	Norfolk	11	\$22,000
North 24th Street Business Improvement District Association	Omaha	1	\$7,500
OBI Creative	Papillion	4	\$20,000
Omaha Public Power District	Omaha	13	\$97,500
Omaha Storm Chasers	Papillion	2	\$15,000
Pacific Engineering Inc.	Roca	25	\$187,500
Pacific Realty Commercial LLC	Omaha	5	\$37,500
Peeq Industries	Omaha	2	\$10,000
Pierre's Techheads Inc.	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Pinata Technologies Inc.	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Platte Valley Bank	North Bend	1	\$2,000
Plum Creek Seed Services LLC	Seward	2	\$15,000
QA Technologies	Omaha	1	\$4,000
Rabble Mill	Lincoln	2	\$15,000
Rasmussen Air & Gas Energy	Waterloo	1	\$5,000
Rebuilding Together, Platte Valley East	Fremont	1	\$3,500
REGA Engineering Group Inc.	Lincoln	6	\$45,000
Rembolt Ludtke LLP	Lincoln	4	\$30,000
Revolution Group LLC	Omaha	1	\$7,500
Ridgeline CPAs	Hastings	3	\$10,500
Rocket 3 Minute LLC	Omaha	2	\$1,500
RVW Inc.	Columbus	10	\$75,000
Senior Care Finder	Lincoln	3	\$22,500
Sentinel Fertigation Inc.	Lincoln	2	\$15,000
Set Your Sites Inc.	Lincoln	2	\$6,000
Set Your Sites Inc.	Lincoln	1	\$5,000
ShineForth LLC	Omaha	2	\$9,000
Shyft Solutions LLC	Omaha	7	\$52,500
Signetik	Lincoln	3	\$15,000
Smith Johnson Allen Connick & Hansen Law Firm	Grand Island	3	\$22,500

Employer	Employer City	Number of Internships Awarded	Total Grant Amount
Sower	Omaha	1	\$7,500
Sower	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Steven Ginn Architects	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Superior Industries	Columbus	3	\$22,500
Support Nebraska DBA Pinnacle Bank Championship	Omaha	3	13,500
Susan J Tonniges CPA P.C.	Kearney	1	\$7,500
TACKarchitects Inc.	Omaha	2	\$15,000
The Headset App	Lincoln	2	\$15,000
The Leadership Center	Aurora	4	\$14,000
Tye & Rowling PC LLO	Kearney	2	\$15,000
Union Pacific Railroad	Omaha	25	\$187,500
Vaughans Printers Inc.	Hastings	1	\$1,500
Voice-It Inc.	Omaha	1	\$7,500
Western Nebraska Community College Foundation	Scottsbluff	1	\$7,500
WJAG Inc.	Norfolk	2	\$15,000
WoodmenLife	Omaha	13	\$26,000
Workshop Software Inc.	Omaha	2	\$15,000
Z3 Technology LLC	Lincoln	4	\$20,000
Zulkoski Weber LLC	Lincoln	5	\$10,000
Total		704	\$4,536,500

Employers participating in InternNE reported the following as goals for their participation in the InternNE program.

- ▶ Developing a talent pipeline
- ▶ Being able to work with potential employees before hiring them
- ▶ Gaining industry exposure
- ▶ Gaining visibility as an organization
- ▶ Providing skill-specific training to potential employees
- ▶ Soliciting creative/innovative input from young leaders
- ▶ Allowing existing teammates to develop supervisory skills
- ▶ Receiving assistance with special projects

DED surveyed individuals who interned through the InternNE program in fiscal year 2024-2025, receiving 518 responses. Of the respondents, 85% were college students, 11% were college alumni, and 4% were high school students.

- ▶ Responding interns overwhelmingly expressed satisfaction with their experience—with 98% rating it either as “excellent” or “good.”
- ▶ A strong majority of respondents (94%) rated their internship as having either “excellent” or “good” relevance to their career/educational goals.

- ▶ Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondents described their on-the-job training as either “excellent” or “good.”
- ▶ Finally, 90% of interns rated the quality of their work as challenging, responding either “excellent” or “good.”

Results from the internship survey are displayed below on page 51 (Table 8-3a to Table 8-3d).

Table 8.3a InternNE Internship Survey – Overall Satisfaction

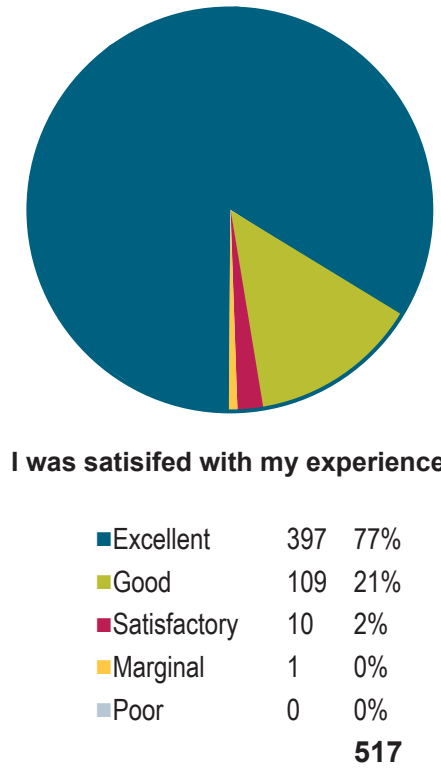


Table 8.3b InternNE Internship Survey – Relevance

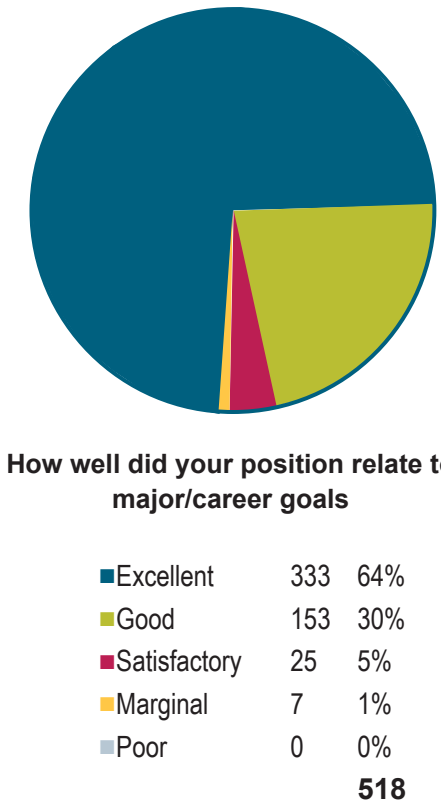


Table 8.3c InternNE Internship Survey – Adequacy of On-the-Job Training

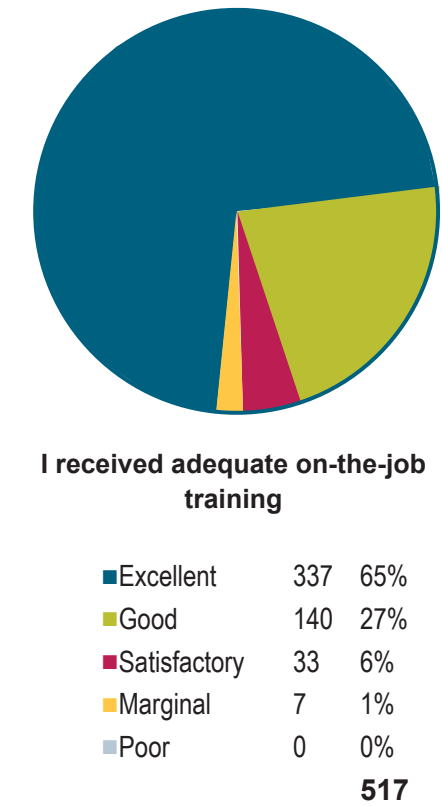
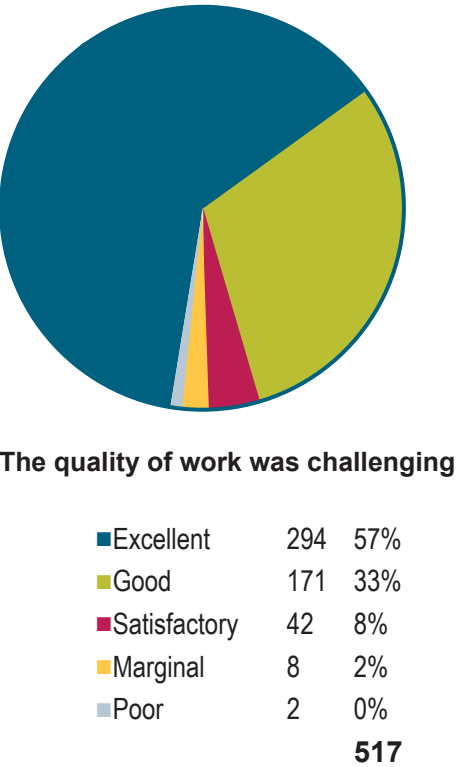


Table 8.3d InternNE Internship Survey – Performed Challenging Work



PART 9:
THE SITE AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT FUND

Through the Site and Building Development Fund (SBDF), DED helps Nebraska’s communities prepare the places and spaces needed to support business growth. Having industry-ready facilities strengthens recruitment and retention of high-wage job creators. SBDF gives communities a competitive advantage when seeking to attract investment—whether from a new venture or existing company looking to expand.

The Site and Building Development Fund was established in Nebraska through legislation passed in 2011. Its purpose is to assist communities in readying industrial sites and facilities to create conditions favorable to growth. DED competitively awards SBDF grants to local governments and nonprofits, such as economic development organizations. Grants can be used to acquire land, to buy or construct buildings, to renovate existing structures, or to develop land for industrial use. SBDF grants can



With support from the SBDF, Dostofarm broke ground for a new facility in Fremont. The German company is a pioneer in the production of natural supplements to enhance animal nutrition.

also be used for planning, design, and engineering costs. SBDF grants require a dollar-for-dollar match from all recipients.

DED awarded \$15,700,000 through

the SBDF to assist four projects that finalized contracts in calendar year 2025 (and remain active as of June 2026), as displayed in Table 9.1.

Table 9.1 Site and Building Development Fund Awards, Calendar Year 2025

Eligible Applicant	Benefiting Entity	County	Award Amount
City of Falls City	Mid-America Rail Campus	Richardson County	\$15,000,000
Greater Fremont Development Council	Dostofarm	Dodge County	\$200,000
Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development	Haleon	Lancaster County	\$250,000
City of South Sioux City	Bluestem Biosciences	Dakota County	\$250,000
Total			\$15,700,000









NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Opportunity.

DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

opportunity.nebraska.gov

