

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 840

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

Read first time January 03, 2024

Committee: Urban Affairs

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to cities; to adopt the Poverty Elimination

2 Action Plan Act.

3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Sections 1 to 5 of this act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act.

3 Sec. 2. The Legislature finds that there is a need to address the
4 problem of poverty in high-poverty areas, qualified census tracts, and
5 economic redevelopment areas in the state. The purpose of the Poverty
6 Elimination Action Plan Act is to create a comprehensive, statewide
7 poverty elimination action plan to address the specific poverty
8 challenges faced in such areas and tracts and promote upward mobility and
9 sustainability.

10 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act:

11 (1) City means any city of the metropolitan class, city of the
12 primary class, or city of the first class in the State of Nebraska with a
13 population of at least twenty thousand inhabitants as determined by the
14 most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified
15 count by the United States Bureau of the Census;

16 (2) Economic redevelopment area means an area in the State of
17 Nebraska in which:

18 (a) The average rate of unemployment in the area during the period
19 covered by the most recent federal decennial census or American Community
20 Survey 5-Year Estimate by the United States Bureau of the Census is at
21 least one hundred fifty percent of the average rate of unemployment in
22 the state during the same period; and

23 (b) The average poverty rate in the area is twenty percent or more
24 for the federal census tract in the area;

25 (3) High-poverty area means an area consisting of one or more
26 contiguous census tracts, as determined by the most recent federal
27 decennial census, which contain a percentage of persons with incomes
28 below the poverty line of greater than thirty percent, and all census
29 tracts contiguous to such tract or tracts, as determined by the most
30 recent federal decennial census; and

31 (4) Qualified census tract means a qualified census tract as defined

1 in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I), as such section existed on January 1,
2 2024.

3 Sec. 4. (1) This section applies to any city with a population of
4 fifty thousand or more inhabitants.

5 (2) No later than July 1, 2025, each city shall establish and adopt
6 a five-year poverty elimination action plan. The city shall
7 electronically submit a copy of the plan to the Urban Affairs Committee
8 of the Legislature and the Clerk of the Legislature. The plan shall
9 include, but not be limited to:

10 (a) Goals for poverty elimination in high-poverty areas, qualified
11 census tracts, and economic redevelopment areas; and

12 (b) Plans for the use of federal, state, and local incentives to
13 eliminate poverty in high-poverty areas, qualified census tracts, and
14 economic redevelopment areas.

15 (3) Each city shall reevaluate its poverty elimination action plan
16 every two years and update its plan every five years to ensure its
17 effectiveness and relevance. Updated plans shall be electronically
18 submitted by the city to the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature
19 and the Clerk of the Legislature.

20 Sec. 5. (1) On or before July 1, 2025, and on or before July 1 of
21 each odd-numbered year thereafter, each city shall electronically submit
22 a report to the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature detailing its
23 efforts to eliminate poverty. The report shall encompass the following
24 key components:

25 (a) Needs Assessment. Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment to
26 identify challenges in housing, education, health care, employment,
27 access to capital, economic development, and social services in target
28 areas;

29 (b) Community Engagement. Involving residents, community
30 organizations, and stakeholders in the planning process to ensure
31 community input;

1 (c) Data Analysis. Utilizing data and research to understand root
2 causes of poverty and measure the impact of interventions;

3 (d) Education and Job Training. Developing accessible education and
4 job training programs in sectors with growth potential;

5 (e) Affordable Housing. Implementing strategies to increase
6 affordable housing options, address homelessness, and promote home
7 ownership;

8 (f) Health Care Access. Improving access to quality health care
9 services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment;

10 (g) Economic Development. Attracting investments to stimulate local
11 business growth and job creation;

12 (h) Transportation and Infrastructure. Investing in transportation
13 options and infrastructure improvements;

14 (i) Social Services. Expanding access to social services such as
15 childcare, food assistance, and counseling;

16 (j) Equity and Inclusion. Promoting equity and inclusivity, and
17 addressing disparities based on race, gender, and other factors;

18 (k) Accountability and Evaluation. Establishing metrics for progress
19 tracking and regular evaluations;

20 (l) Funding and Resources. Securing funding from various sources,
21 including government grants and private investments;

22 (m) Long-Term Sustainability. Developing a sustainability plan to
23 maintain improvements;

24 (n) Coordination and Collaboration. Fostering collaboration among
25 government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses; and

26 (o) Public Awareness. Promoting awareness of the city's efforts,
27 goals, and progress through communication and outreach efforts.

28 (2) The Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature may request any
29 city to present its report to the committee at a public hearing.