

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)				
	FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	See below		See below	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS	See below		See below	
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	See below		See below	

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

LB 361 provides Legislative intent to appropriate \$2,000,000 to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to be used in the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program.

LB 1144 (2022) provided funding for this program utilizing Federal Funds from the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The PSC notes that three of the four grant types laid out in the Precision Agriculture Grant Program do not appear to be eligible uses within the framework of BEAD. Although not a direct cost associated with LB 361, this accounts for the reduction of \$2,000,000 in Federal Funds. LB 1144A did include funding for salaries and benefits, however, this funding was used for staffing needs associated with non-BEAD related personnel.

The PSC estimates the need for additional staffing to administer the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program. This cost is estimated to be \$93,522 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$98,784 in fiscal year 2024-25. The remainder of the \$2,000,000 of General Funds per year will be distributed as grants to eligible applicants.

The PSC estimates appear to be reasonable.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE				
LB:	361	AM:	AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Public Service Commission	
REVIEWED BY:	Lee Will	DATE:	2/6/2023	PHONE: (402) 471-4175
COMMENTS: The Public Service Commission's assessment of fiscal impact seems reasonable given the assumptions provided.				

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2023

LB⁽¹⁾ 361

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Nebraska Public Service Commission

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Laurie Casados Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/25/2023 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-0252

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u> </u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u> </u>
CASH FUNDS	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>-2,000,000</u>	<u> </u>	<u>-2,000,000</u>	<u> </u>
OTHER FUNDS	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>

Explanation of Estimate:

LB 361 adds an additional funding source for the Precision Agriculture Grant Program. Previous Legislation had identified funds from the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program to fund the Precision Agriculture Grant Program. This bill adds a legislative appropriation as another potential source and includes language about the legislature appropriating \$2 million for the next two fiscal years (2023-24 and 2024-25) for the program. We interpret that language to mean that general funds would be appropriated for each fiscal year.

The Notice of Funding opportunity for eligible uses of BEAD federal funds was released in May 2022. After review of that guidance, 3 of the 4 grant types laid out in the Precision Agriculture Grant program do not appear to be eligible uses within the framework of BEAD. The remaining eligible grant type would likely only be funded through BEAD if support was remaining after the primary goals of connecting unserved locations were met, and only if the NTIA were to approve the use of BEAD funding for that purpose. A general fund appropriation funding the entire program would eliminate any uncertainty about the availability of funds.

Staffing needs include shared services for departmental program support for creation of all application materials and ongoing program management for the Precision Agriculture Grant Program, to include shared services of a staff Analyst, Attorney and Director.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Shared Services	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>66,998</u>	<u>71,018</u>
Benefits.....	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>25,974</u>	<u>27,216</u>
Operating.....	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>550</u>	<u>550</u>
Travel.....	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Capital outlay.....	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Aid.....	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>1,906,478</u>	<u>1,901,216</u>
Capital improvements.....	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL.....	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u> </u></u>	<u><u>2,000,000</u></u>	<u><u>2,000,000</u></u>