

Podcasting Across Nebraska

2006-2007 Application

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1. Is this application from:

A single community

A single community with multiple partners (Please list partners below.)

A regional group of communities (Please list participating communities and organizations below.)

Participating communities and organizations:

This project will encompass all communities all counties across the state.

Organizations:

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Answers4Families.org
Center on Children, Families and the Law
Nebraska Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
Nebraska Foster Youth Council

Who will act as the lead for this project?

Jessica Hilderbrand and Charlotte Lewis will act as co-lead.

Where will the equipment be housed?

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation or Center on Children Families and the Law.

2. Why is your community or region interested in podcasting?

Nebraskans are taking advantage of the increased opportunities afforded by the Internet, increasing access to community-based services and resource information. Internet access is widely available these days. Access can be found in workplaces, schools, and in public areas such as libraries, senior centers and Internet cafés. The Internet is changing the way people learn about health and illnesses, resources and services within their community, disabilities and the way families and consumers can support one another with similar circumstances.

At one time, the internet was seen as something special, available to the techno-wizards and to those who were fearless. Now it has become a part of everyday life. People routinely integrate the internet into ways in which they communicate, find information and resources and do business. The internet has become the “town square” if you will. The internet, supplements, rather than replaces the communication people have with people who are close to them as well as those not so close.

Millions of Americans use the internet to assist in making important decisions. The internet connects people to information. The Internet is a rich resource for information, and nationally, has had an impact on people’s ability to learn new things. Podcasting becomes the voice of information. With podcasting.....possibilities are endless.

Podcasting will help Nebraskans connect with other Nebraskans and with resources that they may not be aware of. Because of Nebraska’s large rural area and vast geographical layout it is often difficult for Nebraskan’s to keep informed of all that is happening in our state. Podcasting will allow youth and adults to connect on a much greater level.

3. Please describe how your community or region plans to use audio and/or video content to promote tourism, events, recreation, historic sites, and other activities. Please include project goals (i.e., to promote the county fair) and expected outcomes (i.e., an increase in visitors from outside the county) for at least two podcasts which will be made available over the Internet.

Podcasts will be published to serve many Nebraska Families and Youth. It is envisioned that podcasts will be inclusive of individuals with disabilities and accessibility at historical sites, events, other activities and what it’s like to live in Nebraska. Podcasts will focus on communities, school systems, recreation areas, and local celebrations from the point of view of youth, parents, individuals with disabilities and the aged population.

Youth will publish podcast/s on how to land their first job, what employers look for, and how to advocate for themselves. Older youth will publish podcasts on how to locate a college, finding adult medical care or how to go about finding a place to live or rent. Youth in foster care will be the podcasters and they will share their experiences in Nebraska.

Foster and Adoptive parents will publish podcast/s on how to become a foster/adoptive parent in Nebraska and why Nebraska is a good place to raise a family.

The Aged population will publish podcast/s on what it is like to have lived the majority of their lives, if not all in Nebraska. What made them stay, what is the most memorable thing about Nebraska and what makes Nebraska a special place to live.

Individuals with disabilities will publish podcast/s on what historical sites are best and what activities are accessible. Helpful hints for those with disabilities in Nebraska.

4. How do you plan to promote the podcasts created through this project?

Answers4Families.org provides Internet based support and information for Nebraskans with special needs across the lifespan. Beginning as a pilot project in 1994 when the Internet was just becoming recognized for its benefits, the project has matured to a web site with thousands of pages of information and e-mail discussion groups that serve Nebraskans across the lifespan. The discussion groups offer the opportunity to share information, resources and support with persons across the state. The website contains valuable information for families and professionals including state and national resources, support group information, organizations, and tips for coping with a variety of issues. Answers4Families.org has had over 4 million hits to the site since January of this year. The podcasts will be highlighted on the website. Articles will be written for newsletters for different age populations. Information will be shared at exhibits, conferences and special events. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation will also publicize the podcasts via its e-newsletter.

5. Please list the regional or community Web sites which could link to the podcasts produced through this project?

www.nebraskachildren.org
www.answers4families.org
www.nebraskatickettowork.org
<http://www.nfapa.org>

6. Will this project involve youth? If so, how will they be involved?

The project will include youth in foster care. The Nebraska Foster Youth Council will oversee and take responsibility for the content, editing, production and publication of the podcasts. Although adults will also be involved in the creation of the podcasts the project will rely on the youth to finalize the podcast. It should be noted that the Youth Council is made up of youth who are in foster care.

7. Are any other uses of podcasting within your community or region in place or planned?

It is envisioned that topics will be added to the podcast library on numerous topics from a youth's perspective. Primarily, the youth in foster care will continue the production of podcasts to publish on their website that is being developed through Answers4Families.org. Topics will be Nebraska focused to enrich the lives of individuals living in Nebraska or those who come to Nebraska for one reason or another.

E-mail completed applications to anne.byers@cio.ne.gov by 5:00 CT, October 13, 2006.