

Community Council Priorities

(DRAFT)

Nebraska will cultivate an economic, political, and regulatory environment conducive to IT development by:

- Ensuring access to public and private services for all citizens of the State of Nebraska (regardless of impediment--i.e., location and socio-economic status) through the appropriate and efficient use of information technology.
- Promoting the development of an infrastructure (including sufficient bandwidth) that is secure, affordable, reliable, and responsive to the specific needs of various sectors. Efforts should be made to ensure that systems across the state are compatible.
- Developing the intellectual infrastructure necessary to support Information Age development. Intellectual infrastructure includes the development of a workforce knowledgeable of and fluent in the use and applications of information technology, the availability of IT support services, and the inclusion of information technology in local or regional economic development plans.
- Facilitating IT development and innovation by raising awareness, sharing information, encouraging collaboration, and developing partnerships among public and between public and private entities.
- Fostering collaborative and innovative uses of technology by local governments to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and provide better customer service. *(It has been suggested that a priority be added which addresses the IT needs of local governments.)*

Community Council Action Item Ideas

(Prioritized by # of votes)

1. Address the information technology planning needs of Nebraska's communities.

- Develop a manual/case studies for communities
- Sponsor a Governor's Technology Conference/Business Success Conference
- Dialog with Resource Providers (DED, League, TAN, NACO)/Build Connections with other groups
- Hold a Series of Forums--Listening Conferences
- Develop a Regional Planning Process

(8 votes)

2. Determine regulatory barriers to IT development and universal service within the state and develop strategies to address these barriers in partnership with the Administration, the Legislature, the Public Service Commission, and other entities. (8 votes)

3. Continue to develop, within the NITC Web site, a clearinghouse service to provide convenient access to information about information technology.

Clearinghouse additions

- IT Associations
- Community IT Committees (mailing list)
- Inventory of IT Intellectual Infrastructure

(5 votes) (There is some overlap between this and # 1, although because of the statutory requirement to develop a clearinghouse, we may want to keep this a separate item.)

4. Communicate with our federal legislators to work with other rural legislators in an effort to see that the Universal Service Fund is used to help assure low cost access to expanded bandwidth in rural communities. (4 votes) (This may be combined with # 2.)

5. Review and evaluate policy implications for state and local governments of issues such as inclusion of telecommunications expenditures as capital construction; use of debt financing to establish telecommunications infrastructure from local lid limits; standardizing cost centers for local telecommunications budget and expenditures; use of inter-local agreements to promote cost sharing; and identifying other financing opportunities. (3 votes)
6. Address the IT needs of entrepreneurs by developing an IT resource guide and/or co-sponsoring a conference targeting entrepreneurs. (3 votes)
7. Address the issues of telehealth reimbursement and licensure, by providing insurance companies, telehealth providers, and policy makers with information on these issues. (2 votes, telehealth subcommittee priority)
8. Setting up a Technical Assistance Center for Telehealth--A virtual technical assistance center could provide technical assistance to telehealth providers. The Technical Assistance Center could be a virtual call center or could be Web-based with a bulletin board and best practices. A listserv might also be useful to link telehealth providers in the state. (1 vote)
9. Involving the Congressional delegation and keeping them informed on telehealth issues. (1 vote)

Others

1. Develop policies and procedures for consolidating intergovernmental services on central servers, including digital certificates, verification, authorization, e-mail services, and other appropriate database applications.
2. Encourage a dialog with the Native American community regarding IT issues.

3. Bringing Telehealth Providers Together--On April 10, the Telehealth Subcommittee is planning to bring together telehealth grantees and other interested parties to discuss successes and obstacles and to identify best practices.

4. Bringing in Telehealth Speakers Twice a Year--Good Samaritan Hospital plans to continue sponsoring an annual telehealth conference. The Telehealth Committee has discussed offering to assist in the planning of this conference.