

I. Action:	Conduct a telehealth feasibility study										
II. Sponsoring Entity:	Telehealth Subcommittee of the Community Council										
III. Goals and Objectives:	<p>This study will examine the needs of the citizens of Nebraska, and the role that telehealth services might play in meeting those needs. The deliverables we propose include reports on: 1) community needs, 2) the potentially conflicting incentives, costs, and benefits to different interested parties, 3) the current geographic distribution of resources; 4) an estimate of costs; and 5) a methodology for conducting ongoing impact assessment once such a system has been implemented. The information obtained in the context of this study can be used by planners, in conjunction with current information on costs, to devise multi-year plans for a stepwise, statewide implementation of telehealth technology and applications.</p>										
IV. Justification / Rationale:	<p>Telehealth services have the potential to improve access to health services for all Nebraskans. However, the cost of equipment and telecommunications services, the low population density of areas served, and conflicting interest of health care providers and organizations, are impeding the expansion of telehealth services. In order to provide services across the state, careful assessment and planning are essential.</p>										
V. Work Plan:	Task	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	
	Initial meeting	•	•								
	Design of instruments	•	•								
	Training of interviewer			•							

Collection of health department/hospital data	•	•	•			
Interviewing		•	•			
Survey administration	•	•	•			
Transcription of interviews		•	•			
Preparation of qualitative database			•	•	•	
Analysis of qualitative interview data	•	•				
Preparation of geographic information database			•	•		
Analysis of geographic information			•			
Preparation of quantitative database				•		
Analysis of quantitative (survey) data					•	•
Synthesis of findings						•
Preparation of final report						•

VI. Required Resources:	Services will be performed by a consultant. Other costs include supplies, photocopying, and long distance phone charges.
VII. Estimated Cost (if appropriate):	\$27,600