

# Draft

## **Technologies Across Nebraska Action Plan**

(Date of Last Revision: January 3, 2002)

### **Goal**

To provide a sustained source of information, training and educational opportunities to enable Nebraska communities, citizens and businesses to make informed decisions regarding information technology.

Within two years, it is critical that as many Nebraska communities as possible have been engaged in a decision making process to insure their citizens have access to and are able to use the current information technology to enhance their businesses and quality of life.

### **Mission**

Technologies Across Nebraska (TAN) is an initiative led by University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension to create awareness and provide education to support communities as they make decisions regarding their future use of information technology. The initiative will provide a network of expertise to assist communities in locating current information on infrastructure, policy and education and training issues and opportunities. Over forty entities are involved in a Technologies Partnership. This group of organizations, agencies and education systems are working cooperatively to help communities create awareness of, access to and ability for use of information technologies.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Communities in Nebraska will make progress toward becoming Information Age communities;
- Communities will have easy access to information and resources to assist them in developing their capacity to use information technology for community and economic development;
- State agencies, education institutions, and other entities with responsibilities in the area of community and economic development will coordinate and collaborate to leverage available resources and maximize benefits.

## **Strategies**

### **Coalition Building**

- Develop a coalition of policy makers and organizations with an interest in information technology development in Nebraska's communities.
- Meet in other locations to promote interest.
- Invite other partners (RC&Ds).

### **Information/Resource Development**

- Develop a community IT toolkit, drawing upon resources available through the Extension programs of other states.
- Inventory what activities TAN partners are planning regarding information technology development in the next year.
- Identify gaps in the information and resources that are available to assist communities.
- Publish a TAN newsletter in conjunction with NITC.news.
- Identify funding sources.
- Identify facilitators with understanding of tech issues.

### **Community Outreach**

- Create awareness in communities of the importance of information technology by developing a speaker's bureau and by other methods.
- Provide a description of resources available to communities from TAN partners with a TAN contact point.
- Establish links to community IT committees using the information collected by the Rural Development Commission.
- Pilot toolkit materials by working with a small number of communities to develop community IT plans.
- Write a NITC Community Technology Fund grant application for community surveys.
- Host a conference on IT planning and development.
- Promote information exchange and mentoring among communities.
- Develop an e-mail discussion list for questions and answers.
- Focus on economic sectors (how to use technology) –health care, car dealers.

### **Funding**

- Explore funding opportunities, including the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Technologies Opportunities Program (TOP), and the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) or other programs.

### **Address Technical Support Issues**

- Develop guidelines for developing a metropolitan area network (like Norfolk's).
- Address the scarcity of tech support for small businesses and home owners in many rural areas.

### **Develop New Strategies**

- Explore public-private partnerships.

