



Civic and Community Center Financing Fund Program

Annually, the Department of Economic Development accepts applications from Nebraska municipalities for grants to support the development of civic, community, and recreation centers under the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund program.

The fund may be used for new construction of or the renovation and/or expansion to existing civic, community, and recreation centers, which may include the conversion, rehabilitation, or reuse of historic buildings. The fund may also be used for preliminary planning related to the development or rehabilitation of eligible projects. The definitions of eligible projects are:

- Civic Center- a facility that is primarily used to host conventions, meetings, and cultural events and/or a library. A civic center therefore includes space for conventions, meetings, and cultural events and/or a library.
- Community Center- the traditional center of a community, typically comprised of a cohesive core of residential, civic, religious, and commercial buildings, arranged around a main street and intersecting streets. A community center is therefore an area of multiple buildings with both internal and external elements. A civic center may or may not be in a community center.
- Recreation Center- a facility used for athletics, fitness, sport activities, or recreation that is owned by a municipality and is available for use by the general public with or without charge. A recreation center does not include any facility that requires a person to purchase a membership to utilize such facility.

- Planning- engineering and technical studies directly related to eligible projects.

The program operates on a two-part application process. Previous years included a pre-application component and required invitation to submit a full application. Beginning in 2017, a municipality seeking a grant will submit a letter of intent to apply and complete a full application online using <https://neded.fluidreview.com>. The letter of intent shall be signed by the applicant municipality's chief elected official and received by the Department by April 1 of the current program year.

To see if your project is eligible to apply, please review all of the program fund guidelines, <http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/ccff> or contact Jenny Mason with DED for more information: 402-471-6280 or jenny.mason@nebraska.gov

Board Boot Camp for Nonprofits - April 4th

Rural communities are supported by numerous nonprofits organized to manage local projects and events. With the year winding down boards start preparing to transition new members.

While willing to serve in new leadership roles, many folks come onto boards with no familiarity or knowledge of how nonprofit organizations function or the legal requirements. Since rules and regulations governing nonprofits change, it's also important continuing board members be periodically updated.



Nebraska Extension and the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands are partnering to provide Board Boot Camps throughout Nebraska in 2017, see information below.

- April 4, North Platte, Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 5015 Rodeo Road

Extension Educator Emeritus, Vernon Waldren and Daniel Walsh, Program Director of the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands will provide the latest information all board members need to know to keep their nonprofit organizations compliant and boards operating smoothly. They will discuss:

- Mission and Vision, Board Structure, and Meaningful Engagement
- Finance and Compliance

Cost of a single registration for the Boot Camp is \$125. Since three sets of ears are better than one, up to 3 people representing the same nonprofit organization can attend for \$200. Nonprofits can also send up to 6 board members for \$300. Folks can register online by going to <http://www.regonline.com/boardbootcamp> or <http://communityvitality.unl.edu/nonprofitbootcamp>

The registration deadline is for each location is 7 days prior to the Board Boot Camp; for example February 1 is the deadline to register for the Auburn Board Boot Camp. Board members of nonprofit organizations in communities and counties around the boot camp locations are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Carroll Welte at cwelte1@unl.edu or the Burt County Extension Office, 402.374.2929; or Jessica Jones at jessica.jones@unl.edu or the Johnson County Extension Office, 402.335.3669.

DED Leadership Certified Community



In today's competitive and challenging economic environment, it's vital for communities to demonstrate pro-active leadership, not only to earn the trust of citizens, but to open doors to the many opportunities to grow, remain viable and become sustainable.

The purpose of the Leadership Certified Community Program is to provide a solid framework for communities to identify capacity, stimulate focused planning, and utilize technology to provide a strong foundation to meet the challenges of the

future. Designation as a Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) Leadership Certified Community will be good for five years, with annual reviews of websites. Websites not current and consistent with information will result in suspension of certification and benefits associated with certification.

Along with the Leadership Certified Community Designation will come the opportunity to be awarded up to 75 extra points when a community applies for the Downtown Revitalization CDBG program through NDED and will also strengthen other applications with the community's strong citizen participation as a result of the Leadership Certified Community Designation. Below you will find a summation of the program requirements:

- Completion of a community needs assessment showing community-wide involvement
- Completion of a community profile
- Development of a community strategic plan, utilizing the information from the needs assessment
- Development of a comprehensive plan
- Development of a capital improvement plan
- Development of zoning and subdivision ordinances
- Development of building codes, code enforcement and a building permit process
- Updated and consistent online presence, including a community website
- Updated and consistent presence on Location One Information System (LOIS)
www.locationone.com
- Establishment, and ongoing implementation of an active Business Retention and Expansion(BRE) program
- Financing options for projects and goals included in the strategic plan and comprehensive plan
- Development of a resource list for businesses, including financial and technical assistance programs and providers

For information about the Leadership Certified Community Program, contact Kelly Gewecke at kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov, 308-627-3151, or visit <http://neded.org/community/community-info/community-improvement/leadershipcommunity>.

2017 American Small Business Championship What Makes Your Business Unique?

Three Grand Prize winners will win \$25,000 each courtesy of Sam's Club – money that will go a long way in helping you build your business. In addition, two businesses from each state and the District of Columbia will win \$1,000 Sam's Club gift cards. Winners also will attend a regional Championship Celebration, supported with a SCORE mentor and business advice to help you grow your business.



You can enter online through this website January 12, 2017 through February 13, 2017 at 5:00 pm EST. To enter, answer the question, “What one unique aspect of your business will make you succeed over the next year?” through a video of 30-60 seconds, or with a photo and written response of 1,500 characters or less. You will also need to get at least 100 votes for your entry to be eligible to win.

For a complete guide to contest rules: <https://championship.score.org/about>

#whatshappeningWCNDD

What are you doing this winter? Send us your pictures to mburke@west-central-nebraska.com with the hashtag #whatshappeningWCNDD and we will share them on our Facebook page. Meanwhile, see if you can guess where this is ...

Important Deadlines:

Scrap Tire Application

CDBG Pre-App Annual Cycle

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February 1, 2017

March 3, 2017

April 1, 2017