



# NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE LB997

## January 2018

### Proposed Bill LB997 - Administrative Salary Limitations & Terms

The Unicameral of Nebraska is in full swing, opening the Second Session of the 105th Legislature on January 3, 2018. While the session is shorter, 467 bills and 16 substantive resolutions have been introduced. One bill that we have elected to highlight this month is LB997, due to the imposition it could place on many of our communities.

On January 11, 2018, Senator Murante of District 49 introduced LB997. This bill is relating to political subdivisions; to define a term; and to provide limits on certain salaries and benefits as prescribed. If this piece of legislation is approved, it will directly impact wages and length of employment. This movement will create an increased pursuit for administrative personnel to gravitate towards the private sector. The Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC) is voicing opposition against LB997.

Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section, administrative employee means an employee whose primary responsibilities are supervisory or supportive in nature and includes, but is not limited to, a superintendent, principal, city clerk, city administrator, county clerk, county administrator, or similar position that performs a similar administrative function and any personnel whose position provides support to such positions.

If LB997 is approved, it is proposed to be implemented on budget cycles starting on or after January 1, 2019, no political subdivision shall spend more than five percent of its budget for salaries and benefits for administrative employees.

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=34485](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=34485)



## 2018 Litter Reduction & Recycling Grants: \$1.3 Million Awarded

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy has announced the awarding of \$1,306,370 in 53 grants for litter cleanup, recycling, and public education programs and activities. Funds for the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program are generated from a fee charged to certain manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of products that commonly contribute to litter. The program has been providing grants annually since 1979. The Department received nearly \$3.6 million in eligible grant requests; an increase of over \$900,000 from last year.

“There were many outstanding applications submitted to NDEQ this year,” Macy said. “The grant awards will support many important local efforts to recycle and reduce litter across the state.”

Below is a summary of the three grant categories, and grant awards in each category. Following that summary is a table that lists all projects by city, and provides more details regarding the purpose of each grant.

### **Recycling Grant Awards**

The recycling programs provide an alternative to the disposal of solid waste in Nebraska’s landfills. The programs recycle more than just aluminum, paper, glass, and plastic. Materials such as electronic computer components, paint, aerosol cans, fertilizer, pesticides, pharmaceutical items and household hazardous waste are collected and either reprocessed to be used again or are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Recycling efforts that promote the purchase of recycled content products continue to receive priority for funding. NDEQ awarded 20 grants in the recycling category, totaling \$603,838.

### **Cleanup Grant Awards**

Cleanup grants provide assistance for programs involving Nebraska residents of all ages who pick up litter and debris along Nebraska's highways, waterways, recreation lands, urban areas, and other public use areas within the state. Not only are the public areas improved through the removal of litter and debris, but also much of the material collected during the cleanups is recycled. The recycling proceeds are often used to benefit the respective programs. NDEQ awarded 12 grants in the cleanup category, totaling \$50,569.

### **Public Education Awards**

The Public Education programs educate citizens in the areas of litter reduction, cleanup, and recycling through a variety of individual and community activities. Priority is given to programs that promote markets for recycled materials or purchasing products made from recycled materials. NDEQ awarded 21 grants in the public education category, totaling \$651,963.

Communities in our region that received litter reduction and recycling grants for 2018 include the City of Imperial (\$63,925), City of Lexington (\$23,948), City of North Platte (\$69,086), and City of Ogallala (\$117,993).

## 2018 American Small Business Championship

Three Grand Prize winners will win \$15,000 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 a trip to a National Training and Networking Celebration to be held in Reno, Nevada, April 23-26, 2018, supported with a SCORE mentor and business advice to help you grow your business.

If you've already been a SCORE client, your business may win one of eleven SCORE Awards and be invited to the SCORE Awards Gala on September 13, 2018 in Washington, D.C. All entrants get major national publicity.

You can enter online through this website January 10, 2018 through February 7, 2018 at 5:00 pm EST. To enter, answer the question, "What makes your business one of the best small businesses in your community?" through a video of 30-60 seconds, or with a photo and written response of 1,000 characters or less. You will also need to get at least 100 votes for your entry to be eligible to win.

Winners will be based on public voting and judging by small business experts. See Official Rules for more details, <https://championship.score.org/rules>



## #whatshappeningWCNDD

What are you doing this year? Send us your pictures to [mburke@west-central-nebraska.com](mailto:mburke@west-central-nebraska.com) with the hashtag #whatshappeningWCNDD and we might feature them in our newsletter. Meanwhile, see if you can guess where this is ...

## Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities

The Nebraska Library Commission along with partners University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and Regional Library Systems, are excited about the Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project, which was recently awarded a National Leadership Grant of \$530,732 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The project will begin July 1, 2017 and conclude June 30, 2020.

The project uses Library Innovation Studios (makerspaces) hosted by public libraries to support community engagement and participatory learning experiences by providing access to technological and innovative learning tools not readily accessible locally. This strengthening of the maker culture in Nebraska communities is expected to stimulate creativity, innovation, and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skills development, and local economic development.

With this project, rural community residents will be empowered with the tools and guidance to explore, collaborate, create, learn, and invent. Libraries will transform their rural communities through participatory learning spaces, while establishing themselves as strong community catalysts for community change. If your community is interested in this opportunity, be on the lookout for the 2018 second public library application deadline.

For more information, contact JoAnn McManus at [joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov](mailto:joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov) or visit <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/grants/InnovationStudios/>

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### **Important Deadlines:**

2018 American Small Business Championship	February 7, 2018
Rural Workforce Housing (LB518) Application	March 30, 2018
CDBG Water & Waste Water	Open Cycle
Second Cycle Public Library Application	TBA