

# **Guidance Document**

*Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-901.03*

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# Nebraska Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce Development Pilot Guidelines

## Guidance Document

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-901.03

Effective Date: September 19, 2025

### Program Summary:

The Nebraska Manufacturing Modernization and Workforce Development Pilot Investment Act (LB265) was enacted to assist eligible Nebraska manufacturers in integrating smart technologies into their operations. This one-time pilot program, administered by the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL), will provide matching grant funding to support projects that improve productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness.

The pilot program provides up to \$250,000 in total funding. Individual grants may not exceed \$50,000 and must be matched 1:1 with private financial support.

### Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for a grant, an applicant must:

- Be a manufacturer of goods located in Nebraska.
- Have a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code between 31 and 33.
- Have been in operation for at least three (3) years prior to application.
- Derive at least 51% of gross revenue from the sale of manufactured goods.

- Employ at least three (3) full-time employees.
- Provide documentation of private matching financial support equal to or greater than the requested grant amount.
- Submit an application between October 1, 2025, and November 1, 2026.
- Have not already received an award under this grant.

#### Eligible Projects:

A “manufacturing modernization investment project” may include, but is not limited to:

- Adoption and integration of smart manufacturing technologies.
- Purchase of specialized hardware, software, or equipment.
- Job training related to new technologies.
- Any effort that increases productivity, efficiency, or competitiveness.

Projects must not commence before the application date.

#### Application and Award Process:

Applications will be accepted between October 1, 2025 and November 1, 2026.

Applications will be considered in the order received.

Priority will be given to employers who show how automation will increase the workforce.

If the applicant meets all criteria and funding remains available, NDOL will approve and notify the applicant.

The maximum individual grant is \$50,000 and must be matched 1:1 with private funds.

The total grant funding available is capped at \$250,000.

#### Grant Terms and Conditions:

- Execute a Grant Agreement outlining terms and expectations.
- Recipients agree that funds may not be used for projects that result in layoffs, job displacement, or the elimination of existing positions. Any project found to violate this condition will require full repayment of the grant.
- Submit documentation verifying matching private financial support.
- Complete the project as proposed and provide a final narrative report outlining project activities, outcomes, and impact.
- If the manufacturing operation no longer meets eligibility criteria, the grant must be repaid in full.

#### Payment of Awards:

Grants will be paid by the Nebraska Department of Labor upon full approval of the application and confirmation of private matching funds. Specific disbursement procedures will be outlined at the time of the award.