



**Nebraska Workforce Development Board**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2022, 9a – 12p  
Administrative Services Building  
1526 K Street, Lower Level  
Lincoln, NE 68508

### Agenda item 1. Call to Order

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Vice Chair Bradley Schroeder called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (the Board) on June 10, 2022 at approximately 9a at the Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lower Level, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Before taking up the business of the Board, Vice Chair Schroeder welcomed members of the public and encouraged the public to sign in at the registration table; indicating, however, that it is not required.

Vice Chair Schroeder stated that members of the public would have an opportunity to comment on agenda items requiring formal action by the Board. Vice Chair Schroeder also stated that members of the public would also have an opportunity to comment at the end of this meeting. In both cases, individuals are permitted 5 minutes to speak during the public comment period to allow all who wish to comment time to do so. Vice Chair Schroeder also stated that members of the public may also submit written comments, which would be made part of the permanent record for this meeting. Vice Chair Schroeder made several additional announcements.

1. Ashley Pick joined the State WIOA Team as the Quality Control Administrator. Ashley oversees the State Monitoring Unit, the State Policy Unit, and Federal performance reporting.
2. Greg Adams retired from his role as Executive Director of the Nebraska Community College Association and resigned from the Board. Taking Greg's place on the Board is Courtney Wittstruck, the new Executive Director of the Nebraska Community College Association.
3. Jason Feldhaus resigned from the Board. Jason took a new position with another organization and is no longer eligible to serve as a youth workforce representative.
4. Allan Hale is retiring on July 1, 2022 and has resigned from the Board effective June 11, 2022. Vice Chair Schroeder thanked Allan for his valuable contributions to the Board during the last 7 years.
5. Brad Pierce's team is coordinating with the Governor's office to refill the vacancies created by Jason's and Allan's resignations.

### Agenda item 2. Roll Call

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Vice Chair Schroeder asked Nicole Schaefer to call the roll for purposes of establishing quorum (minimum of 13 out of 24 Governor-appointed Board Members). Nicole called roll and advised Vice Chair Schroeder that quorum was established.

### Members in Attendance

1. John Albin
2. Lindy Foley
3. Michael Geary
4. Allan Hale
5. James Hansen
6. James Hanson, Jr.
7. Kyle Nixon
8. Don Nordell
9. Terri Ridder
10. Bradley Schroeder
11. Becky Stitt
12. Paul Turman
13. Lisa Wilson
14. Jim Smith

### Members Absent

1. Governor Pete Ricketts
2. Senator Ben Hansen
3. Kyle Arganbright
4. Elizabeth Babcock
5. Brain Deakin
6. Gary Dixon
7. Anthony Goins
8. Tate Lauer
9. Susan Martin
10. Mark Moravec
11. Jennifer Sedlacek
12. Danette Smith

### Nebraska Department of Labor Board Administrative Staff

1. Derek Ahrens, State Monitor, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Deb Andersen, Program Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Erick Carrillo, Program Analyst, Division of Reemployment Services
4. Jana Dye, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
5. Bobbi Jo Howard, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
6. Lisa Laws, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
7. Ashley Pick, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
8. Bradley Pierce, Director, Division of Reemployment Services
9. Nicole Schaefer, Administrative Programs Officer, Division of Reemployment Services
10. Katie Thurber, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

### Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

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Nicole Schaefer announced that the Notice of Public Meeting was duly published, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Columbus Telegram, Grand Island Independent, Hastings Tribune, Kearney Hub, Lincoln Journal Star, Norfolk Daily News, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World-Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Nicole also announced that notice of the meeting was posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar.

### Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

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Vice Chair Schroeder called the next order of business, which was the approval of the draft meeting minutes from the March 11, 2022 meeting of the Board. The draft minutes from the March meeting were emailed to Board Members on June 8, 2022. The meeting minutes were included in Board Member meeting packets as Handout 1.

Vice Chair Schroeder opened the floor to Board Members for discussion on the draft minutes. Kyle Nixon pointed out that his name appeared in the draft minutes as in attendance and absent. Kyle advised that he was absent. No other discussion was heard. Vice Chair Schroeder opened the floor for public comment on the draft minutes. No public comments were made.

Becky Stitt motioned to approve the minutes as corrected, and Michael Geary seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

## Agenda item 5. Old Business

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### a. Combined State Plan for Nebraska's Workforce System – Status Update

Vice Chair Schroeder provided a brief update on the status of the 2022 modification of the Combined State Plan, indicating that the State received comments from Federal reviewers. Vice Chair Schroeder stated that a majority of the comments had been addressed as of June 10, 2022. Vice Chair Schroeder advised the Board that James Hanson, Jr., Chair of the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee would provide additional information on the State Plan during his Subcommittee report.

## Agenda item 6. New Business

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### a. 2022 Workforce Development Excellence Award

Board Member Lisa Wilson presented Pamela Lancaster with the 2022 Workforce Development Excellence Award for her steadfast dedication and unwavering leadership and service to Nebraska's workforce development system, including serving as Chair of the Greater Nebraska Chief Elected Officials Board for the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area for more than 20 years.

### b. Ignite Nebraska

Joni Wheeler, Executive Vice President for Talent and Enterprise Solutions at BlueCross BlueShield presented to the Board on Ignite Nebraska. Ignite Nebraska is a new workforce development model designed to spark meaningful career opportunities for individuals who are active in the workforce but underrepresented in higher-paying, high-impact industries. In collaboration with Bellevue University and community partners, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) is providing accelerated higher learning and paid on-the-job training in the field of information technology (IT). Upon program completion, participants will earn a full-time, rewarding job at BCBSNE or get help finding another local position to put their new skills to work. The Ignite model is designed to scale to other companies, career paths, and communities over time. Joni provided additional information on Ignite Nebraska as Handout 2.

### c. Greater Nebraska Career Pathways Planning Project

Josh Hanson, Greater Nebraska One-stop Operator presented to Board Members on the Greater Nebraska Career Pathways Planning Project, which resulted in design and implementation of a career pathways system that covers multiple career pathway programs spanning educational institutions and workforce partners providing supportive services. The system is comprehensive and the first career pathways system in Nebraska. The system model is based on a five-part cycle:

1. gap analysis;
2. career pathways planning;
3. implementation;
4. continuous improvement; and
5. expansion.

Industry sectors were chosen based on labor market data relevant to the various regions in Greater Nebraska. Industry leaders and employers were consulted, in collaboration with Greater Nebraska's business-outreach services team, to ensure applicability of the various career pathway programs to industry sector and employer needs. The system creates avenues of advancement for current workers and job seekers, as well as future labor market entrants, and increases the supply of qualified workers for local employers in the target industries. The individual career

pathway programs offer clear sequences or pathways that combine education and/or work-based training leading to stackable credits and credentials, which measure and document skills and credential attainment and are tracked in NEworks. Josh provided additional information on the Project as Handouts 3 and 4.

#### d. Subcommittee Reports

- Policy and Oversight Subcommittee

James Hanson, Jr. provided additional information to Board Members on the status of the 2022 modification of the Combined State Plan. James stated that the State received feedback from Federal reviewers, as Vice Chair Schroeder indicated.

1. The reviewers suggested revision of a handful of the common elements sections, including comments relating to the career pathways goal and strategies. James indicated that Board Member Paul Turman would provide more detailed information relating to the reviewers' comments on the career pathways goal and strategies.
2. Reviewers also provided feedback on program-specific sections for Vocational Rehabilitation programs, which have been addressed.
3. Reviewers also provided feedback on program-specific sections for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs, Wagner-Peyser, and Jobs for Veterans State Grant program. The State was addressing those comments as of June 10, 2022.
4. James indicated that State Plan partners would hear from Federal reviewers by the end of June 2022 on approval of the majority of the modification.<sup>1</sup>

James also updated the Board on the activities of the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met on March 16, 2022. During the meeting, Josh Hanson presented to the Subcommittee on the Greater Nebraska Career Pathways Planning Project, which supports the activities of the Subcommittee and its Alignment and Career Pathways Workgroups.

James advised the Board that Jody Easter (Alignment Workgroup Chair) and Board Member Paul Turman (Career Pathways Workgroup Chair) would provide updates to the Board on workgroup activities.

- Workgroup Updates
  - Alignment

Jody Easter advised the Board that the Alignment Workgroup continues its work to identify an alternative to the existing/unused common-intake system. The Workgroup has evaluated digital platforms that provide secure methods for collecting and sharing participant intake data among one-stop partner programs. The Workgroup had previously evaluated a low-tech approach, use of paper forms, including review of examples of forms used by other states.

Jody also advised the Board that progress on roll-out of the cross-training program for Nebraska's one-stop delivery system partner programs. The first monthly session scheduled for July 2022 will focus on Nebraska's WIOA workforce system, with presentations from Nebraska's three One-stop Operators. Starting in August, each monthly session will feature a specific one-stop delivery system partner program. The featured partner program will address topics such as program eligibility requirements and program services. Each training session will be recorded and posted on YouTube and possibly on a SharePoint site that could be accessed by all partner programs.

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<sup>1</sup> The US Department of Education, which oversees TANF and SNAP programs, has an additional 30 days to approve those program-specific sections pursuant to 20 CFR 676.143(e).

- [Career Pathways](#)

Paul Turman advised the Board that one comment from Federal reviewers involved the career pathways goal and strategies in the state plan modification. The comment was that the workgroup should take into consideration the importance of Registered Apprenticeship as a career pathway. While the original submission of the state plan modification did not explicitly voice the Workgroup's consideration of Registered Apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship is definitely a focus of the Workgroup.

- The NDOL Registered Apprenticeship Unit Program Coordinator is an active member of the Workgroup.
- In addition, the NDOL State Policy Unit Program Coordinator responsible for Nebraska's Eligible Training Provider List is also an active member of the Workgroup. Nebraska's Eligible Training Provider List currently includes 57 Registered Apprenticeship programs, representing more than 50 percent of Nebraska's active Registered Apprenticeship programs. The top five priority in-demand industry sectors identified by the Workgroup include:
  - healthcare and medical;
  - manufacturing;
  - construction;
  - heavy and tractor-trailer and transportation and warehouse; and
  - accommodation and food services.

NDOL's Registered Apprenticeship Unit was heavily involved in development of Nebraska's first Registered Apprenticeship program in the healthcare and medical industry sector during NDOL's implementation of its 2016 ApprenticeshipUSA grant. In addition, Nebraska has numerous active Registered Apprenticeship programs within the manufacturing and construction industry sectors. Further, NDOL's Registered Apprenticeship Unit also supports Nebraska's Federal Office of Apprenticeship in its development of Registered Apprenticeship programs in the heavy and tractor-trailer and transportation and warehouse industry sector and promotes National Registered Apprenticeship programs in that industry sector.

- While the top five priority list does not include the education industry sector, Paul remarked that teacher education is essentially an apprenticeship in that it includes both academics and work-based training.
- All of this information was conveyed to Federal reviewers in the State's response to the reviewers' comments.

Paul stated that the Workgroup will continue to rely upon the expertise of NDOL's Registered Apprenticeship Unit Program Coordinator to ensure that Registered Apprenticeship programs are considered as the Workgroup continues its efforts.

- [Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee](#)

Michael Geary, Chair of the Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee, updated the Board on the activities of the Subcommittee. Michael advised the Board that the Subcommittee met on March 18, 2022.

- There was discussion on whether to recommend to the Board that the establishment of the requested MOU with Nebraska's 3 Homeless Continuums of Care be tabled until the Subcommittee or the Board hears from the Continuums.
  - The Subcommittee voted to recommend that the Board discontinue efforts to finalize the MOU.
  - During the upcoming September meeting of the Board, the Board will take action on the Subcommittee's recommendation.

- During the meeting, as part of its consideration of next steps for alignment of statewide workforce initiatives, Josh Hanson presented to the Subcommittee on Greater Nebraska's Career Pathways Project.
  - The Project complements the activities of the Subcommittee, as well as the Career Pathways Workgroup.
  - The Subcommittee will begin coordination with the Career Pathways Workgroup in the near future to support its progress on development of career pathways.
  - The Subcommittee will also coordinate with Jody Easter to begin discussions with the Alignment Workgroup to learn more about the Workgroup's activities and capacity to support and implement the Subcommittee's plans to develop a database of statewide workforce initiatives that the Board has discussed during past meetings.

#### e. Member Updates

Vice Chair Schroeder asked Members of the Board for updates on their respective industries or organizations and local workforce development area activities for the Members who also serve on local workforce development boards. Members of the Board provided updates as requested.

#### Agenda item 7. Next Meeting – Date and Time

Vice Chair Schroeder reminded the Members of the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 16, 2022 from 9a to 12p, at the Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, NE. If the date or time of the meeting changes, Vice Chair Schroeder stated that Board Members would be notified by email.

#### Agenda item 8. Public Comment

Vice Chair Schroeder opened the floor for public comment.

- Dylan Wren, Workforce Administrator for the Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area, provided public comment regarding progress on the new Greater Lincoln American Job Center.
- Carlo Serván, Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, provided public comment regarding wages in Nebraska, requesting that the Board advocate with the Nebraska Legislature to increase wage rates among State agencies to improve recruitment efforts.
- No other in-person public comments were made.

Vice Chair Schroeder advised the Board one written public comment had been received by email from RespectAbility, which was provided in the Board's packet as Handout 5 and will be published on the Board's webpage as part of this meeting's materials. Vice Chair Schroeder provided an overview of the remarks in RespectAbility's written public comment.

- RespectAbility is a diverse, disability-led non-profit that:
  - works to create systemic change in how society views and values people with disabilities; and
  - advances policies and practices that empower people with disabilities to have a better future.
- In its written public comment to the Board, RespectAbility provided the Board with statistics on employment and unemployment rates for individuals with disabilities in Nebraska.
- RespectAbility also indicated its willingness to collaborate with the Board on regarding its ideas, policy proposals, and key data to inform the Board's decision-making processes.

- RespectAbility provided recommendations to the Board regarding solutions relating to workforce development in Nebraska and individuals with disabilities. RespectAbility's recommendations included:
  - focusing on closing the gap in labor force participation rates between Nebraskans with and without disabilities;
  - looking at strategies to close the gap in high school graduation rates in relation to students with disabilities;
  - expanding the use of online, cohort-based apprenticeships for workers in the knowledge economy and the nonprofit sector, providing examples of successful cohort-based models, such as Project RISE in Virginia and Project SEARCH and the Caring Economy;
  - focusing on encouraging disability owned businesses by utilizing best practices from other states; and
  - leveraging Federal Contractors and Section 503 to drive employment opportunities for workers with disabilities.

#### Agenda item 9. Adjournment

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Vice Chair Schroeder asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board. Becky Stitt motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Michael Geary seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12p.

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



Program Design and Delivery of Funds  
Allocated to the Nebraska Department  
of Labor under LB 1014

**NEBRASKA**

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The American Rescue Plan Act created the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) to provide states with resources to respond to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CSFRF Objectives

1

Respond to COVID-19 and its negative impact on:

- Households
- Small businesses
- Nonprofits
- Specific industries

2

Provide better wages to essential workers

3

Assist underemployed and unemployed individuals achieve reemployment

4

Create retention incentives

# Legislative Bill 1014

LB1014  
2022

LB1014  
2022

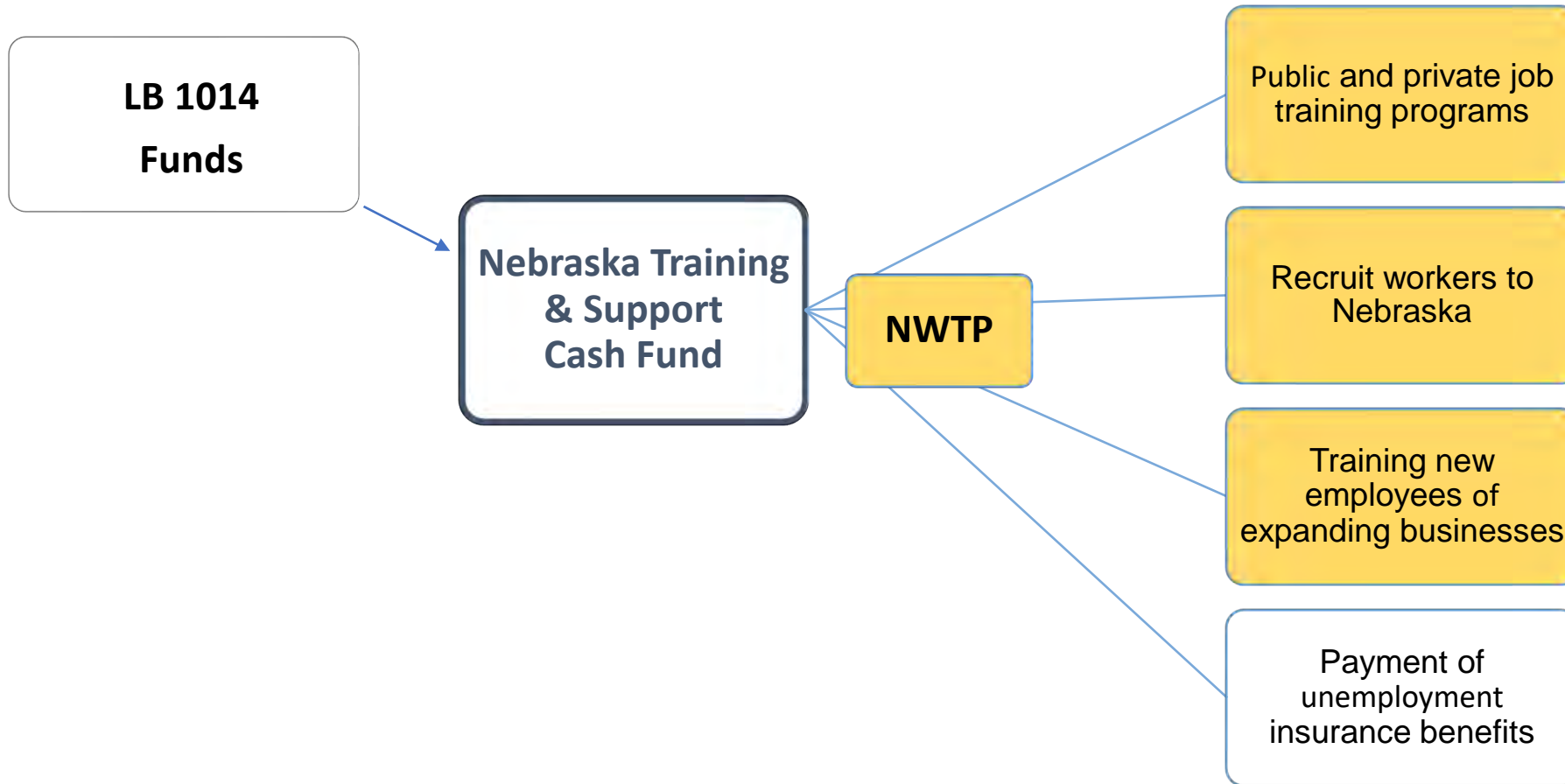
LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1014**  
FINAL READING  
(SECOND)

Introduced by Speaker Hilgers, 21; at the request of the Governor.  
Read first time January 13, 2022  
Committee: Appropriations

LB1014 2022		LB1014 2022
1	<u>Department, Agency No. 31, Program No. 191, as identified in section 34</u>	
2	<u>of this act.</u>	
3	Sec. 15. <u>AGENCY NO. 23 – DEPARTMENT OF LABOR</u>	
4	<u>Program No. 31 - Division of Employment</u>	
5		<u>FY2021-22</u> <u>FY2022-23</u>
6	<u>FEDERAL FUND</u>	<u>-0-</u> <u>10,000,000</u>
7	<u>PROGRAM TOTAL</u>	<u>-0-</u> <u>10,000,000</u>
8	<u>There is included in the appropriation to this program for FY2022-23</u>	
9	<u>\$10,000,000 Federal Funds for state aid, which shall only be used for</u>	
10	<u>such purpose.</u>	
11	<u>There is included in the amount shown as aid for this program for</u>	
12	<u>FY2022-23 \$10,000,000 Federal Funds for worker training programs</u>	
13	<u>administered by the Department of Labor and distributed through the</u>	
14	<u>recommendation of the Nebraska Worker Training Board pursuant to the</u>	
15	<u>guidelines established in section 48-622.03.</u>	

Appropriated **\$10M** in CSFRF to the Nebraska Department of Labor for worker training programs administered by the Department and distributed through the recommendation of the Nebraska Worker Training Board (NWTB)

# Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund (NTSC) and the Nebraska Worker Training Program (NWTP)



# ARPA Programs

Program	Title	Summary	Budget
1	<b>Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant (TRRG)</b> 6-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Educators (Science, Math, CTE) & Childcare or Early Childhood Education Providers	Premium Pay	\$4M
2	<b>Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grant (NRRG)</b> RN, LPN, and CNA's	Premium Pay	\$4M
3	<b>Workforce Development Grant (WDG)</b> All industries and occupations affected by COVID-19	Employment & Training Grants	\$2M
4	Transfer to Unemployment Trust Fund	*Contingency	\$0M

**Note:** The NWTB may reallocate funds amongst TRRG, NRRG, and WDG if the amount of approved grant applications received on or before October 2, 2023 in a program category is less than the amount of funds allocated to that program category.

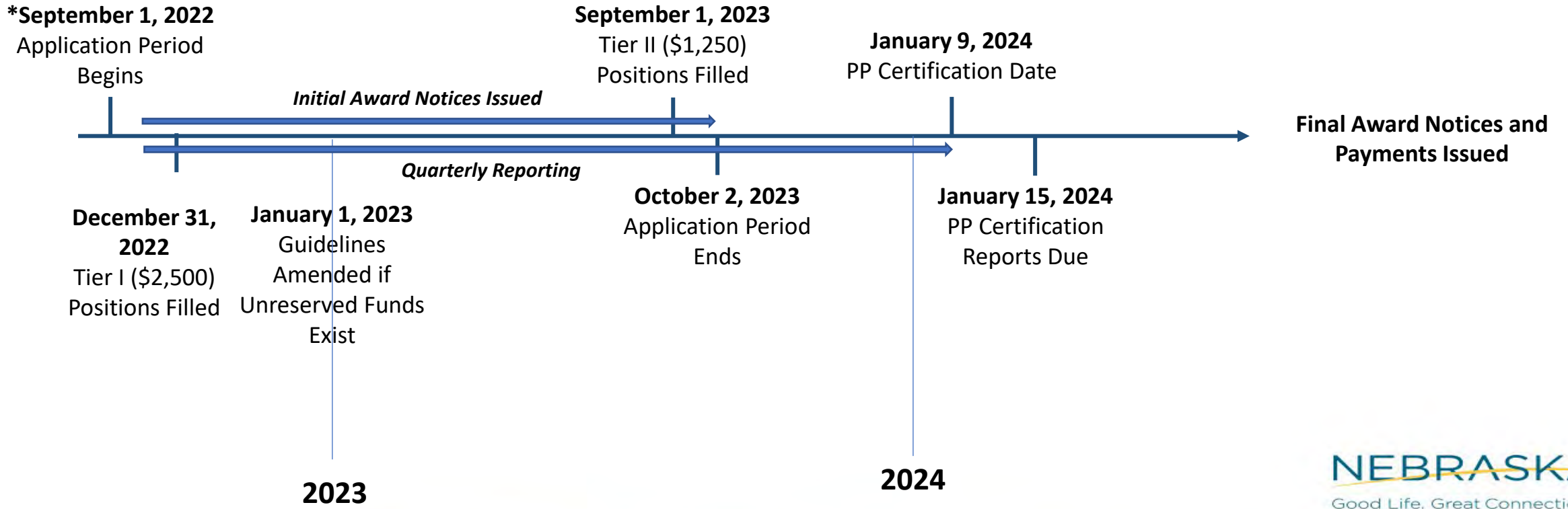
# TRRG & NRRG - Premium Pay-Scales

Tier	Teacher/Provider in Position (TRRG)	Payment
I	On/Before December 31st, 2022	\$2,500
II	January 1 <sup>st</sup> to September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	\$1,250

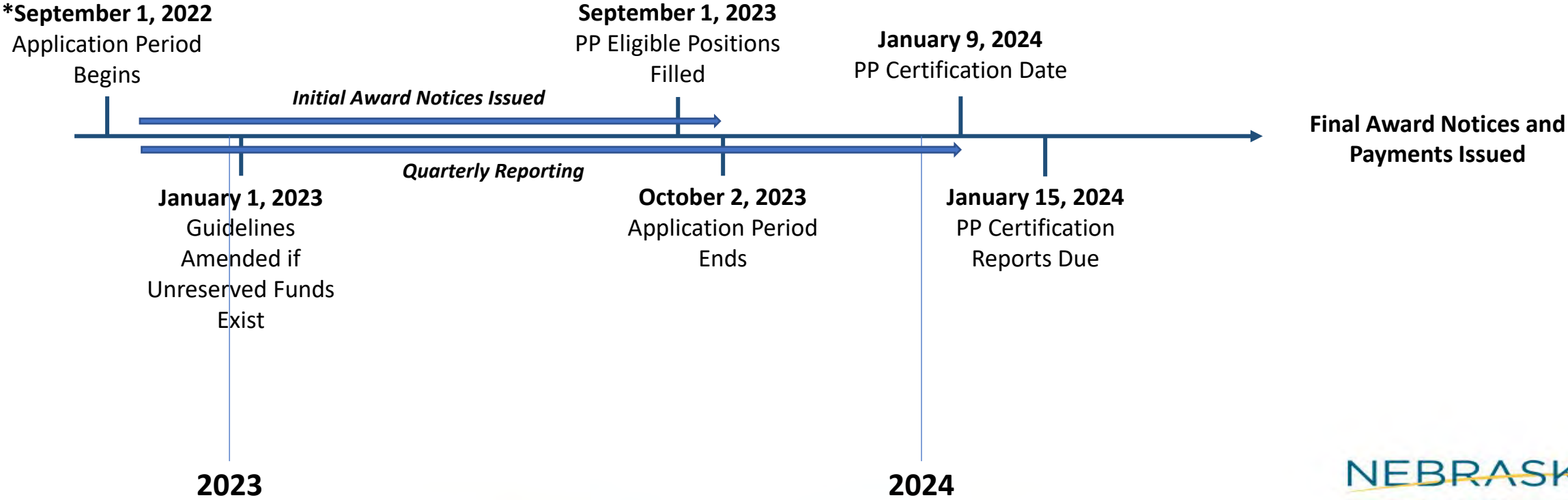
## Premium Pay Pay-Scale (NRRG)

\$2,500	Registered Nurse
\$1,500	Licensed Practical Nurse
\$1,000	Certified Nursing Assistant

# TRRG Timeline



# NRRG Timeline

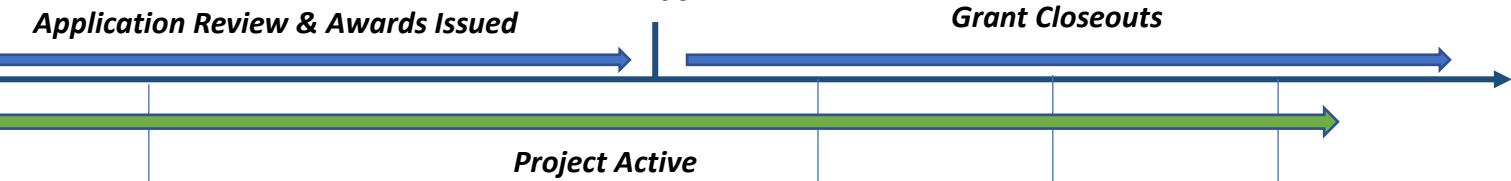


# WDG Timeline

**\*October 1, 2022**  
Application Period  
Begins

**June 30, 2023**  
Application Period  
Ends

**December 31, 2026**  
Funds  
Expended/Liquidated



**January 1, 2023**  
Guidelines  
Amended if  
Unreserved Funds  
Exist

**2023**

**2024**

**2025**

**2026**



# Application Process

Applicants will apply for an ARPA award using the application form provided by NDOL through the application portal located at [dol.nebraska.gov](https://dol.nebraska.gov). All applications will be submitted digitally.

Applications function as requests to reserve a specific amount of grant funds per applicant.



# Application Selection Process and Initial Award Notification

1. An **Evaluation Committee**, designated by the Commissioner of Labor, will review applications on a rolling to verify eligibility requirements of applicants and premium pay positions
2. Based on the review of the evaluation committee and the availability of allocated funds, the Commissioner will make recommendations for awards to the Nebraska Worker Training Board (NWTB) giving priority to eligible applications filed earliest
3. The **NWTB** will review the Commissioner's recommended awards for compliance with [program guidelines](#). The NWTB will vote on awards recommended by the Commissioner during its [scheduled](#) quarterly meetings, or more frequently as determined necessary
4. Once approved by the NWTB, **Initial Award Notifications** will be issued to recipient employers identifying amount of PP or WDG funds reserved. Applications determined ineligible or not approved by the NWTB will receive notification accordingly

NOTE: Once initial funds have been obligated, the Department will allow applicants to potentially receive funds in a 'wait-list' status.

# PP Reporting Process

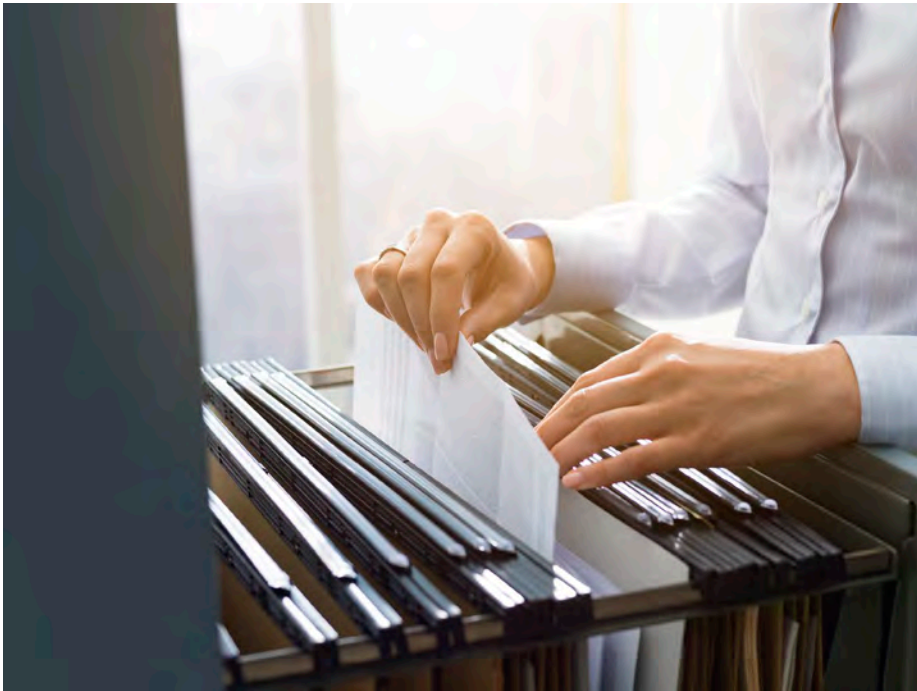
## Quarterly Report

Employers must submit a report to NDOL within **15 days** of the end of each calendar quarter using a form and method prescribed by the Department. Quarterly reports identify whether the PP eligible position was filled or vacant. For filled positions, employers will provide information about the worker in the position (as specified by NDOL). Recipients who do not submit quarterly reports in a timely fashion may be subject initial award deobligation or decertification

## Certification Report

On or before **January 15, 2024**, each recipient employer must submit a PP Certification using a form and manner prescribed by NDOL. The Certification form is utilized to verify the recipient met eligibility requirements as of the PP Certification Date (**January 9, 2024**). The form includes reporting information and documentation, as specified by the Department, to determine the total amount of eligible premium pay

# NRRG – Quality Control



As a condition of award, ARPA grant recipients must agree to cooperate with any quality control (monitoring, auditing, or oversight) activities determined by NDOL or other lawful entities

Quality control activities may occur from the date of application until December 31, 2026

# Questions?

To learn more about the specific ARPA programs, please find additional program resources at:

<https://www.dol.nebraska.gov/ree-employment-services/arpagrants>

Applicants, recipients, and other stakeholders should contact the Department for technical assistance or program questions at:

[NDOL.ARPA@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDOL.ARPA@nebraska.gov)



**Handout 3**

# American Rescue Plan

Workforce Development

September 16, 2022, Nebraska Workforce Development Board

## **Workforce Development Grants - \$12M Total**

- Bryan Foundation – \$1.1M
- Center for People in Need - \$555,000
- Community Action – \$1M
- Lincoln Manufacturing Council – \$2M
- Rabble Mill – \$2.1M
- Southeast Community College - \$4.8M

## **All eligible participants in the above trainings will gain additional support from the American Job Center.**

- In an effort to leverage and coordinate resources, the American Job Center will work with American Rescue Plan grantees to provide supportive services to training participants. Assistance can include:
- Transportation reimbursements
- Childcare and dependent care
- Housing assistance
- Reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities
- Uniforms or other appropriate work attire and work-related tools
- Books, fees, school supplies, and other necessary items
- Payments and fees for employment and training-related applications, tests, and certifications
- Legal aid services
- Referrals to health care
- Needs-related payments (i.e., assistance with non-training expenses)

Supportive services are available to participants co-enrolled in the Adult Program.



## University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

will assist in data collection and reporting on all the City's workforce training grantees.

## **American Job Center, \$1.5M capital update**

- Relocation of the American Job Center to better accommodate customers.

## Opening Mid-January 2023

1330 N Street

[Eagle Parking Garage]



## Key features:

- Public area and secure staff area
- Training room
- 2 Conference rooms
- 3 Interview rooms
- 2 Phone booths
- Waiting area including kid's space
- Wellness room
- 29 workspaces
- 6 Private offices
- Breakroom

## Programs and agencies [tentative]:

- Blue Stem Health
- City of Lincoln
  - Administrative Entity
  - Adult
  - Dislocated Worker
  - Ticket to Work
  - Youth Employment & Support Services
- Equus Workforce Services
  - TANF Employment First
- Job Corps
- National Able Network
  - Senior Community Service Employment Program

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
  - TANF
  - SNAP
- Nebraska Department of Labor
  - NEres
  - Reemployment Services
  - TRADE
  - Veterans Services
  - Unemployment Insurance Benefits
- Nebraska VR
- RISE

Property owner: **Park and Go (City of Lincoln)**

Architect: **Davis Design**

Builder: **Manzitto Builders, Inc.**

Workplace furniture: **encompass/innerspace studios**

# Tour the new American Job Center

**Thursday, October 27, 2022 10:00-10:30 (1330 N Street)**  
directly after the Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Board  
meeting at the Bennett Martin Library (136 S 14th Street,  
Lincoln, NE 68507, 4th floor, Auditorium from 8:30-10:00)

# Dylan Wren

Workforce Administrator

[dwren@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:dwren@lincoln.ne.gov)

402-441-7117

[ajc.lincoln.ne.gov](http://ajc.lincoln.ne.gov)



# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

## Omaha Area

Handout 4



HEARTLAND  
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# More than 50 Omaha-area nonprofit Agencies Received ARPA funding

100 Black Men of Omaha	Mentoring	\$50,000
AIM Institute	Accelerated Technical Training	\$154,354
Bluebird Cultural Initiative	Behavioral & mental health support services	\$220,640
Boys & Girls Club	Great Futures Program	\$213,041
Carole's House of Hope	Transitional housing, mental health services for homeless young mothers	\$150,000
Catholic Charities-Archdiocese of Omaha	Domestic violence services	\$176,373
Charles Drew Health Center	Community-based crisis intervention	\$600,000
Child Saving Institute	Pediatric & adolescent mental health services	\$299,436
Center for Holistic Development	Family Engagement and Resource Connection	\$268,000
City Sprouts	Urban Farming Summer Internship	\$200,000
Completely Kids	Weekend Food Program	\$100,000
	Youth & Family Mental Health Services	\$60,000
	Out of School Time for vulnerable youth	\$400,000
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixam	Maya Health Initiative	\$432,600
Empowerment Network	Omaha 360 & Step-Up	\$358,475
ENCAP	Rent, utilities, medical expenses	\$100,000
Family Housing Advisory Services	No charge tax preparation services	\$160,000
Food Bank for the Heartland	Food access	\$158,494

Girls Inc., of Omaha	The Girls Inc. Experience	\$300,000
Greater Omaha Attendance and Community Learning Services	Community navigation program	\$70,000
Heart Ministry Center	Fresh Start program	\$200,000
Heartland Family Service	Counseling-behavioral health Nebraska Family Works	\$137,500
		\$500,000
Heartland Hope Mission	Hunger & homelessness prevention	\$160,000
<b>Heartland Workforce Solutions</b>	<b>American Job Center South</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
Hope Center	The Hope Employment & Learning Academy	\$100,000
Immigrant Legal Center	Legal Services for survivors of crime, violence, human trafficking	\$330,000
InCommon Community Development	Youth Program	\$183,626
Intercultural Senior Center	Food pantry for older adults	\$160,000
Kids Can	Mentoring	\$200,000
Kim Foundation	Suicide prevention campaign	\$120,000
Latino Center of the Midlands	Youth internships	\$148,832
Legal Aid of Nebraska	Legal Services=Families in Crisis	\$244,404
Lutheran Family Services	Behavioral health programs Centers for Healthy Families	\$303,680
		\$40,000
Mentor Nebraska	Mentoring	\$94,200
Nebraska Medical Center	Encompass Omaha-violence intervention program	\$400,000

# More than 50 Omaha-area nonprofit Agencies Received ARPA funding (continued)

Nebraska Methodist Hospital Foundation	Counseling	\$187,000
New Visions	Homeless veterans services	\$120,000
No More Empty Pots	Community Harvest	\$250,000
North Omaha Area Health	Mental health outreach program	\$320,000
NorthStar Foundation	Student support services	\$110,000
Ollie Webb Center, Inc	Supportive employment program	\$89,418
Omaha Home for Boys	Mental & behavioral health services	\$90,000
	Jacob's Place Transitional Living Program	\$100,000
	Branching Out Independent Living Program	\$260,000
PACE	Violence prevention & mentoring	\$360,000
Partnership for Kids	College and Career Readiness Program	\$500,000
One World Community Health Ctr	Access to behavioral health care	\$120,000
	Social Assistance Team	\$240,000
	Medical care for uninsured adults	\$150,000
	Medical care for uninsured children	\$100,000
Santa Monica Inc	Residential Treatment for women	\$100,000

Siena Francis House	Case management services	\$242,000
	Emergency shelter program	\$372,000
	Miracles Recovery Program	\$95,169
Stephen Center	Emergency shelter program	\$100,000
The Bike Union Mentoring Project	Apprentice program	\$100,000
The Salvation Army	Utility Assistance \$80,000	\$80,000
The Simple Foundation	Safe Place to Play and Learn	\$426,959
Together Inc.	Rapid Rehousing Program	\$150,000
	Food programs and access	\$100,000
Urban League of Nebraska	Community Coach Enhancement Program	\$300,000
Visiting Nurse Association	Maternal Child Community Home Visitation	\$113,272
Whispering Roots, Inc.	Emergency food production and delivery	\$200,000
Women's Center for Advancement	Emergency housing support for domestic abuse victims/survivors	\$78,000
	Provide financial support for domestic abuse victims/survivors	\$57,000
	Safety & mental health services	\$250,000
YouTurn	Make a 180 Against Violence	\$245,473

# Coming Soon!

- New expansion of the AJC in South Omaha – March 2023 (4425 S. 24<sup>th</sup> Street)



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# Press Coverage of our New Location

**HWS con nuevo espacio en el sur de Omaha**  
 Proyecto de la nueva sede de HWS hecha por Canopy South.  
 POR KARLHA VELÁSQUEZ

El sur de Omaha estrenará un espacio de formación laboral como parte de los programas que lleva a cabo la organización Heartland Workforce Solution (HWS), en aras de apoyar al sector productivo después de ser impactado económicamente tras las medidas tomadas durante la pandemia de 2020.

En esta obra se invertirán \$600 mil dólares provenientes del Programa de Subvenciones Comunitarias de la Ley del Plan de Rescate Americano (ARPA por sus siglas en inglés) y que recibió HWS de la Alcaldía de Omaha (City of Omaha) luego de presentar su proyecto de expansión, ya que esta solo cuenta con oficinas en el norte de la ciudad.

Stan Odenthal, director de relaciones comerciales HWS. Foto: Karla Velásquez.

Ubicación de la nueva sede de HWS.

Este es un proyecto fantástico, vamos a renovar un edificio con diversas áreas. Tendrá una cafetería, centro de trabajo y oficinas de otras organizaciones que conectarán nuestro programa. El edificio tendrá unos 10 000 a 11 000 ft<sup>2</sup> (unos 1022 m<sup>2</sup>). Abierta de lunes a viernes, comentó. Los programas de HWS consisten principalmente en enseñar a personas según las compañías que solicitan personal y que están asociadas

**LABOR & GROWTH**

## Federal ARPA funds help turn fire-damaged South Omaha funeral parlor into job center

But there's more to the story: Locals would eventually own the property

BY CINDY GONZALEZ - AUGUST 12, 2022 4:00 AM



A former funeral home on South 24th Street is to house a new "one-stop shop" workforce development center. It's also a property that will be owned eventually by South Omaha residents under an innovative investment plan by Canopy South. (Courtesy of B2L, Inc.)

OMAHA — A burned-out mortuary is to be resurrected as a South Omaha workforce development hub

**HWS has a new place in South Omaha**  
 BY KARLHA VELÁSQUEZ

A user South Omaha will use for the first time a job training place as part of the programs that are carried out by the Heartland Workforce Solution (HWS) organization, trying to support the productive sector, after being economically impacted by the measures taken during the 2020 pandemic.

\$600,000 from the Community Grants Program of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be invested in this project, which HWS received from the Omaha Mayor's Office (City of Omaha), after presenting its expansion project since it only has offices in the north of the city.

Stan Odenthal, director of business relations, explained that the idea of expansion came from the mayor's office to ensure that the city's people are served in terms of employment, especially in the south of the city.

"Here (at HWS) we have many types of training. The purpose of this ARPA's money is to attend to the people affected by the pandemic. We know from statistics that the Latin American people were very affected", Odenthal said in an interview with El Perico, in the offices at 5752 Ames Ave, in the north of the city.

The construction of the new building is under the direction of Canopy South who, after area evaluations, found an abandoned building at 4425 S 24th St, in what was formerly a funeral home located a block from South High School.

In this regard, Odenthal commented that the new headquarters in the south will have the same established programs, but they will be more focused on the area of nursing and construction.

"This is a fantastic project. We are going to renovate a building with different areas. It will have a cafeteria, work center, and offices of other organizations that will connect to our program. The building will be about 10,000 to 11,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (about 1,022 m<sup>2</sup>). It would be open from Monday to Friday", he said.

HWS programs consist, mostly, of training people based on companies applying for staff and being associated with the non-profit organization. Odenthal commented that for this new project they are still in talks with the business sector.

"The idea is to connect everyone. Employers come to North Omaha, and they have a computer and everything they need, and we help both of them to find what they are looking for", he said.

The director of the program assured that the building could be finished in March 2023. It could also open a new work field where all the residents in the south of the city will be served.

**A HARD BLOW TO LATIN ENTREPRENEUR**

It's not a secret to anyone that the pandemic had an economic impact on Omaha for business owners and employees. Some employers had to work with reduced staff and with higher demand, and others were left without work while the accounts and bills increased.

A study titled Vulnerable, yet Resilient: The Impact of Covid-19 on Latino-Owned Businesses in South Omaha, conducted by Cristián Doña-Reveco and Marissa Cuellar, from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), highlighted that one of the more affected sectors after the pandemic was the Latino. "Latin entrepreneurs have largely faced the pandemic with far less support and financial assistance compared to non-Latin entrepreneurs", the report says.

The sample for this study was 121 Latino business owners who were interviewed at



# Increasing Access to Programs and Better Connecting with our Community

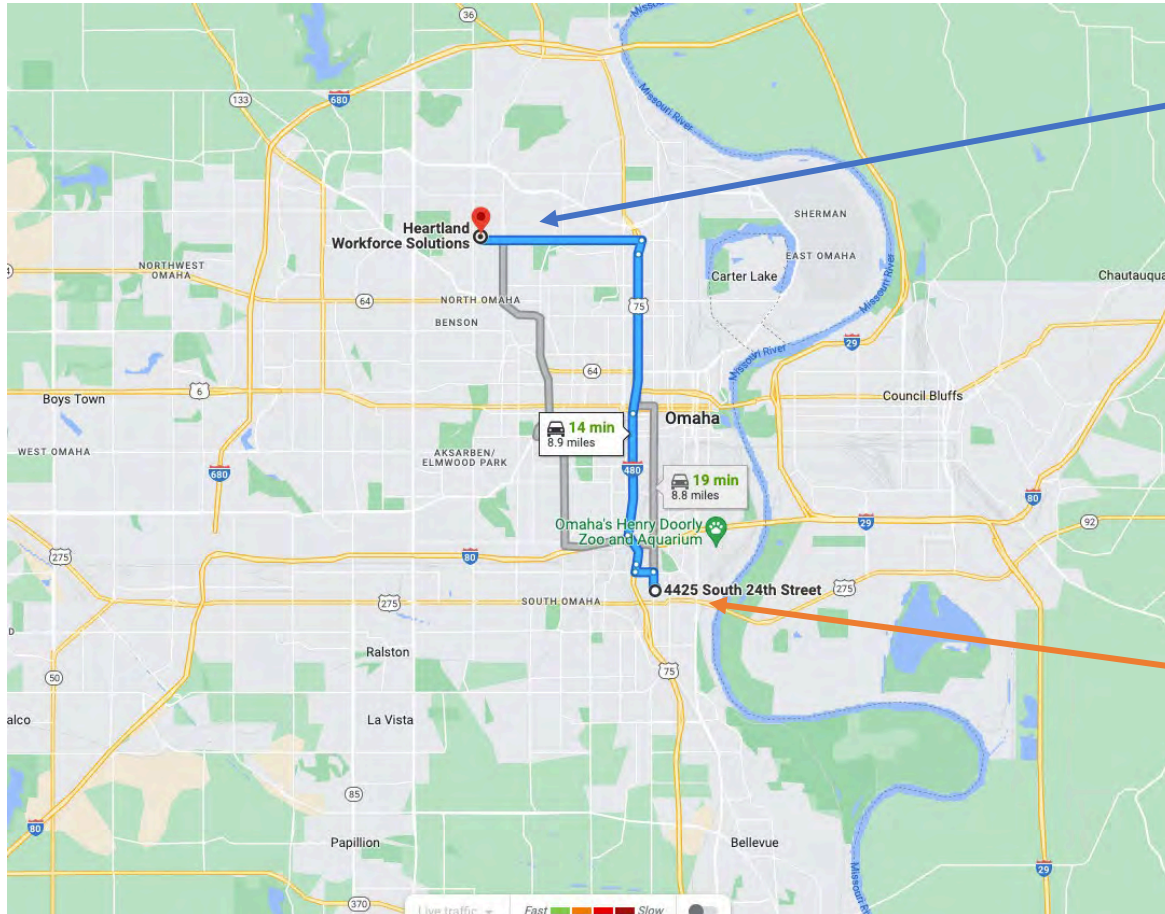


- Recent condition of the building at 4425 S. 24<sup>th</sup> Street



Future of the building at 4425 S. 24<sup>th</sup> Street (Anticipated March 2023 Opening)

# Existing AJC Location and New Affiliate AJC Location

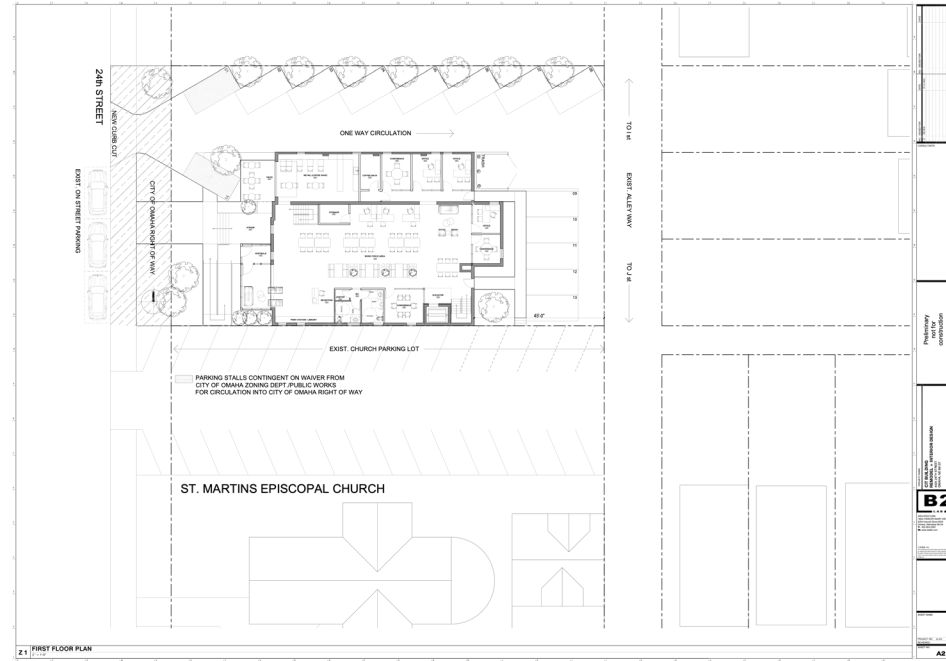


5752 Ames Avenue



4425 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street

# Drawings and Features





# Highlights and Timeline

**For Immediate Release**  
**July 8, 2022**



## **Heartland Workforce Solutions receives \$600K grant to provide pandemic relief to South Omaha residents, businesses**

*ARPA funds will be used to connect career seekers to in-demand employers and support talent recruiting, career path education, job search, résumé assistance and interviewing skills*

**Contact:**

**Erin Porterfield**  
Executive director, Heartland Workforce Solutions  
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402-332-8948

**OMAHA, Neb.** — Heartland Workforce Solutions has received \$600,000 from the Omaha American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Community Grant Program to provide a program in South Omaha aimed at helping residents and businesses that have been economically harmed by the pandemic.

Heartland Workforce Solutions (HWS), a non-profit dedicated to strengthening Nebraska's workforce, will use the funding to secure permanent building space and establish workforce program partnerships that are accessible and responsive to South Omaha residents. These programs will help remediate the lasting economic effects of the pandemic on career seekers and business. The HWS space in South Omaha will include a resource center offering support for job searching, résumé assistance, interviewing skills, occupation and career path awareness, referral to workforce partner programs, employer education and recruiting events.

The location is expected to open in March 2023.

HWS was one of 50 Omaha non-profit agencies to receive ARPA funds through a grant program created by the City of Omaha, which partnered with United Way of the Midlands and the Omaha Community Foundation to administer the federal pandemic dollars.

"We are grateful and excited to increase access to these services to people on site in South Omaha, an affiliate American Job Center," said Erin Porterfield, executive director of Heartland Workforce Solutions. "HWS will act as a hub for career seekers and talent recruiters to meet local in-demand occupations. Part of our goal is to remove barriers through bilingual programs in order to develop skills and connection to careers."

"The City of Omaha has a strong partner in Heartland Workforce Solutions," Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert said. "The

- Center expected to open in March 2023
- Full-time Coordinator position to connect with community, workforce, and business partners
  - Currently in the hiring process for this position
- On-site industry partners
- Access to one-stop partner programs
- Conference room space for community events, job fairs, and program planning
- Coffee shop
- Partnership with Canopy South

# Quotes

“The City of Omaha has a strong partner in Heartland Workforce Solutions,” Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert said. “The worker shortage spans all job fields in the city, and HWS can help build that job-ready workforce and then connect workers to the many business partnerships that will help lead our economic recovery.”

“South Omaha residents have struggled through this pandemic, but they are a strong community of people who want to contribute to Omaha’s success,” **said Armando Salgado, an HWS board member and community leader.** “The ARPA Community Grant provides a critical pathway to help connect residents and businesses to career opportunities, which in turn will reignite the South Omaha economy.”

# Quotes

“The expansion of Heartland Workforce Solutions will serve our community well, and I am thrilled to see the organization’s growth in South Omaha,” **said Nebraska State Senator Tony Vargas**. “South Omaha residents who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic will see a benefit from HWS’ outreach, resources and services to find stable employment and good-paying jobs.”

"I am very pleased to hear about the forthcoming Heartland Workforce Solutions award for an affiliate American Job Center in South Omaha,” **said Douglas County Commissioner Roger Garcia**. “We all know that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many job transitions, job losses and overall economic hardships. This center will be a tremendous addition to our South Omaha community when it comes to helping individuals gain new skills, receive job coaching and be able to transition to their next big career move that will set them on a pathway to improved financial stability and career growth. I am thankful to all who are investing in this center and for Heartland Workforce Solutions as they take the lead to make this new service a reality in our community."

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

## Omaha Area



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402-444-4700

[www.hws-ne.org](http://www.hws-ne.org)



### Proposed meeting dates and locations for 2022 – 2023

- December 9, 2022, 9a – 12p
  - Administrative Services Building, Development Center, Lower Level, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
  
- March 10, 2023, 9a – 12p
  - Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, or
  - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facility (AKA Terry M. Carpenter Telecommunications Center), 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503
  
- June 9, 2023, 9a – 12p
  - Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, or
  - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facility (AKA Terry M. Carpenter Telecommunications Center), 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503
  
- September 15, 2023, 9a – 12p
  - Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, or
  - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facility (AKA Terry M. Carpenter Telecommunications Center), 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

Note. Locations are subject to availability.