

State of Nebraska

Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan

JULY 2020 | VERSION 1

NEBRASKA
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Table of Contents

RECORD OF AMENDMENTS	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	II
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2 INTRODUCTION	5
2.1 Purpose	5
2.2 Audience and Scope.....	7
2.3 Related Recovery Planning Documents.....	7
2.4 Nebraska’s Recovery Principles.....	7
3 PLANNING PROCESS	9
4 RECOVERY ROADMAP	11
4.1 Cross-Cutting Issues.....	12
4.2 Infrastructure Systems	49
4.3 Housing	72
4.4 Economic.....	92
4.5 Agricultural.....	111
4.6 Health and Social Services	118
4.7 Natural and Cultural Resources	135
APPENDIX 1: GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY MEMBERSHIP	145
APPENDIX 2: COVID-19 IMPACTS	146
APPENDIX 3: RESILIENCE-BUILDING VALUE.....	151
APPENDIX 4: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	152

1 Executive Summary

In the spring of 2019, Nebraska suffered widespread and devastating impacts from Winter Storm Ulmer and subsequent record-breaking flooding continued through the summer. The economic impacts—estimated at approximately \$1.2 billion—spanned across sectors and caused direct, indirect, and induced damage (State of Nebraska Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report). Following the disasters, Governor Ricketts directed the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to convene a group of representatives from agencies across the state, requesting “total cooperation in these long-term recovery efforts” to support building Nebraska back stronger than it has ever been before.

To guide the state through the process of recovery, NEMA convened the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery, activated six Recovery Support Functions, and established a Local Impacts Group to help organize recovery and resilience discussions and planning efforts across sectors and levels of governance.¹ These groups collaboratively identified the overarching outcomes they hoped to achieve through long-term recovery efforts.

The culmination of this planning effort is captured in the *Recovery Roadmap*, which serves as the heart of this *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan*. The *Recovery Roadmap* is divided into seven sections: one for each of the six Recovery Support Functions activated following the 2019 disasters, and a seventh section specifically to address complex, cross-sectoral challenges.

Each section of the *Recovery Roadmap* is guided by a goal, with associated objectives, strategies, and tactics. The goals of each Recovery Support Function, and for each corresponding section of the document are as follows:

- **Cross-Cutting Issues (Community Planning and Capacity Building):** Identify issues, strategies, and potential solutions that require collaboration across multiple Recovery Support Functions, agencies, and stakeholders to effect recovery, resiliency, and capacity building.
- **Infrastructure Systems:** Support the efficient assessment, restoration, and revitalization of infrastructure systems (including but not limited to: roads, highways, dams, bridges, railways, tunnels, public drinking water systems, wastewater systems, sewer systems, electric generating facilities and transmission, fuel storage and associated pipelines, septic tanks, and levees).
- **Economic:** Return economic and business activities to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that contribute to a sustainable and economically viable community.

¹ See *Appendix 1: Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery Membership* for a list of entities that comprise the Task Force.

- **Agricultural:** Support the efficient restoration and revitalization of agricultural systems after a disaster by ensuring that the public sector has the necessary systems in place to support disaster recovery and that the agricultural community can access the information, funding, and resources necessary to recover.
- **Health and Social Services:** Restore services that protect health and safety and restore the mental, social, and physical health of the impacted population through the mitigation of disaster-created impacts.
- **Natural and Cultural Resources:** Protect natural, cultural, and historic places (e.g., parks, cemeteries, museums) through recovery projects to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore disaster-damaged resources.

Strategies were prioritized based on a weighting system, informed by members of the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery, to help focus available capacity. These strategies also include details such as lead entities, potential project partners, funding sources, measures of success, and additional resources to provide clear and detailed direction to support strategy implementation.

As Nebraskans approached the one-year anniversary of the start of the 2019 events and this long-term recovery and resilience planning effort continued, attention began to shift. The Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19, pandemic spread across the world—with sweeping ramifications—and the associated response took shape.

This plan was conceived from its outset to provide a basic roadmap for long-term recovery from the disasters of 2019 that could also be applied to future disaster events. Thus, to the extent possible within the original planning timeline, cross-sector impacts, emerging recovery needs, and future considerations associated with COVID-19 have been incorporated.

The publication of this plan represents a transition from intermediate to long-term recovery. Although the recovery planning process is finished and many recovery activities have been completed, more work remains to help the State of Nebraska recover from the disasters of 2019 and 2020. This plan is intended to help guide long-term recovery to increase the state’s capacity to withstand and rebound from whatever the future holds.

2 Introduction

Winter Storm Ulmer and the subsequent flooding of 2019 reshaped Nebraska's perception of disasters and presented the state with unprecedented recovery challenges. The storm and flooding (i.e., disasters), which began in March 2019, led to record-breaking flooding through the spring and summer, resulting in disaster declarations in 84 of the 93 counties in Nebraska. This resulted in breached levees, damaged roads, destroyed crops, and entire communities inundated. Tragically, three lives were lost and hundreds more required emergency rescue. The eastern side of the state was particularly impacted by flooding, resulting in extensive damage to infrastructure, homes, and the economy. While the western side of the state sustained less housing damage, it faces long-term impacts associated with damaged infrastructure and heavy agricultural losses.

The State of Nebraska has made great progress in recovering from the disasters. Despite numerous challenges, Nebraskans remain resilient and have been active participants in the rebuilding process. Volunteers activated statewide, contributing their time, materials, and services to support recovery efforts. Disrupted water systems were restored, hundreds of miles of roads were repaired, debris was removed from agricultural fields, many homes were repaired, and businesses re-opened.

However, much still needs to be done to rectify remaining disaster damage and to build a more resilient Nebraska. Many communities and households are struggling to recover from the disasters. In some cases, the struggle is taking place in plain sight, such as the residents of small towns working to rebuild their homes and communities. In other cases, it is hidden, as in the case of small business owners struggling with depression and anxiety as they contemplate whether they will be able to provide for their families after sustained losses.

As recovery continues, the state will be faced with many decisions about how to best recover from the disasters. This will involve decisions about where and how to allocate limited disaster recovery funds and how to balance the desire for a speedy recovery with the need for a forward thinking and resilient recovery. These decisions and processes will be further complicated by the emergence of a new disaster, the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting the entire globe, including Nebraska (see *Appendix 2: COVID-19 Impacts*).

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to help the state navigate the challenges of disaster recovery. The plan describes the steps and resources needed to address the needs of Nebraskans while increasing the state's resilience to future disasters in accordance with the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery's vision of success:

The State of Nebraska aspires to partner across sectors, levels of governance, and agency designations to balance expeditious recovery with opportunities to rebuild intentionally and with careful consideration.

The crux of the plan, the *Recovery Roadmap*, is divided into seven sections: one for each of the six Recovery Support Functions activated following the 2019 disasters, and a seventh section specifically to address complex, cross-sectoral challenges. Each section of the *Recovery Roadmap* is guided by a single goal, with associated objectives, strategies, and tactics designed to support the achievement of the corresponding goal. The goals of these sections are as follows:

- **Cross-Cutting Issues (Community Planning/Capacity Building):** Identify issues, strategies, and potential solutions that require collaboration across multiple Recovery Support Functions, agencies, and stakeholders to effect recovery, resiliency, and capacity building.
- **Infrastructure Systems:** Support the efficient assessment, restoration, and revitalization of infrastructure systems (including but not limited to: roads, highways, dams, bridges, railways, tunnels, public drinking water systems, wastewater systems, sewer systems, electric generating facilities and transmission, fuel storage and associated pipelines, septic tanks, and levees).
- **Economic:** Return economic and business activities to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that contribute to a sustainable and economically viable community.
- **Agricultural:** Support the efficient restoration and revitalization of agricultural systems after a disaster by ensuring that the public sector has the necessary systems in place to support disaster recovery and that the agricultural community can access the information, funding, and resources necessary to recover.
- **Health and Social Services:** Restore services that protect health and safety and restore the mental, social, and physical health of the impacted population through the mitigation of disaster-created impacts.
- **Natural and Cultural Resources:** Protect natural, cultural, and historic places (e.g., parks, cemeteries, museums) through recovery projects to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore disaster-damaged resources.

Each strategy within the *Recovery Roadmap* includes the following components:

- **Descriptions:** Simple overviews of underlying issues and rationale for correlated strategies.
- **Tactics:** Specific tools (e.g. research, activities, projects, policies) used to implement larger strategies.
- **Implementation Considerations:** Aspects of the strategy to consider for implementation, including estimated staffing requirements, resource needs, coordinating entities, and potential costs.
- **Leads:** Agencies, departments, and other entities that will be responsible for the implementation of the strategy and its outlined activities.
- **Partners:** Agencies, departments, and other entities that will support the implementation of the strategy and its outlined activities.

- **Measures of Success:** Metrics to evaluate progress and impact of the strategy by providing benchmarks to monitor implementation.
- **Potential Funding Sources:** Grant programs, funds, and other resources that may provide funding for the strategy and its outlined activities.
- **Resilience-Building Value:** Assessments of the ways in each strategy will promote long-term community resilience (see *Appendix 3: Resilience-Building Value*).
- **Resources:** When applicable, existing resources that could support strategy implementation.

2.2 Audience and Scope

Disaster recovery is a time- and resource-intensive process, requiring coordination across the whole community. The *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* reflects these diverse partnerships by including recovery stakeholders at multiple levels of government, from public and private sector organizations, regional and local community-managed groups, and state entities.

2.3 Related Recovery Planning Documents

This document is one of three documents developed in coordination with the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery following the 2019 disasters.

- **Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report** – This report provides a point-in-time analysis of the pre- and post-disaster conditions statewide in Nebraska across different sectors, quantifying the cost of the 2019 disasters where possible.
- **Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan** – This plan is intended to help the state navigate the challenges associated with long-term recovery, providing a roadmap with prioritized objectives, strategies, and tactics developed collaboratively by stakeholders from throughout the state to guide recovery and resilience-building.
- **Economic Ecosystem Analysis** – Using pre-disaster economic conditions and regional economic development priorities, this report examines the effects of the 2019 disasters across Nebraska’s economic development districts, connecting strategies from the *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* to regional priorities.

2.4 Nebraska’s Recovery Principles

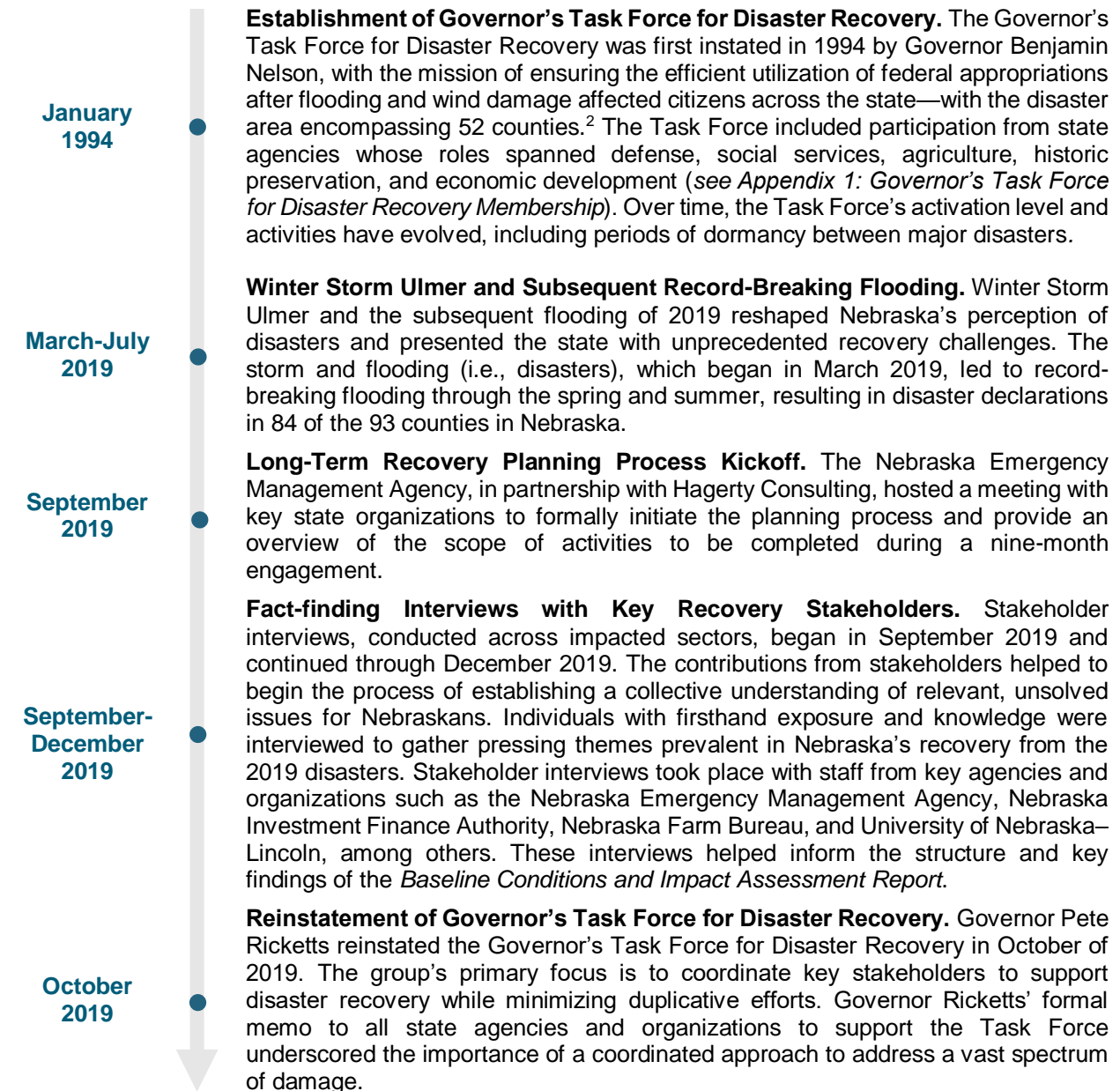
To ensure that this diverse mix of stakeholders is empowered to achieve the vision of success, the following principles have been identified and validated by the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery, and should guide all recovery actions and projects:

- The State of Nebraska will maintain focus and momentum on challenges that existed pre-disasters and were likely exacerbated post-disasters (e.g., workforce housing, outmigration).
- Recovery will concentrate on preserving Nebraska’s agricultural identity, emphasizing support and thoughtfulness of rural communities that drive the state’s livelihood.

- Recovery implementation will reflect the “new normal” for individuals and families in Nebraska.
- Recovery actions will prioritize mitigation in high-risk areas across Nebraska, ensuring that communities are able to build back better and enhance preparedness to all hazards.
- Recovery actions will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, policies, and laws.
- Recovery will leverage local resources and support local economies (e.g., through the selection of local vendors), to the extent possible.
- All recovery-related public communications will be accessible and redundant for equitable uptake through varied means.
- New disasters may occur as the strategies in this plan are being implemented, requiring ongoing adjustments to effectively meet the needs of Nebraskans.

3 Planning Process

The *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* was developed in coordination with the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery over a period of nine months, from September 2019 to June 2020. Major milestones are summarized in the timeline below.



² State of Nebraska Executive Office, 1994. “Executive Order 94-3.” Retrieved at: <http://govdocs.nebraska.gov/docs/pilot/pubs/eofiles/94-3.pdf>

Activation of the Nebraska Recovery Support Functions. In order to build a holistic and inclusive vision for Nebraska’s recovery, the Task Force established a set of Recovery Support Function working groups to focus stakeholders on areas of planning and activity execution. The following state-level Recovery Support Functions served, and continue to serve, as think tanks and organizational mechanisms for advancing recovery and resilience in Nebraska:

- Agricultural
- Economic
- Health and Social Services
- Housing
- Infrastructure Systems
- Natural and Cultural Resources

October
2019

Two aspects of this approach are unique to Nebraska: (1) The Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery fills the role of a dedicated Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function. (2) The state also established and activated an Agricultural Recovery Support Function given the importance of agriculture to Nebraska’s livelihood.

These groups met on a monthly basis throughout the planning process to develop the *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* and discuss immediate recovery needs.

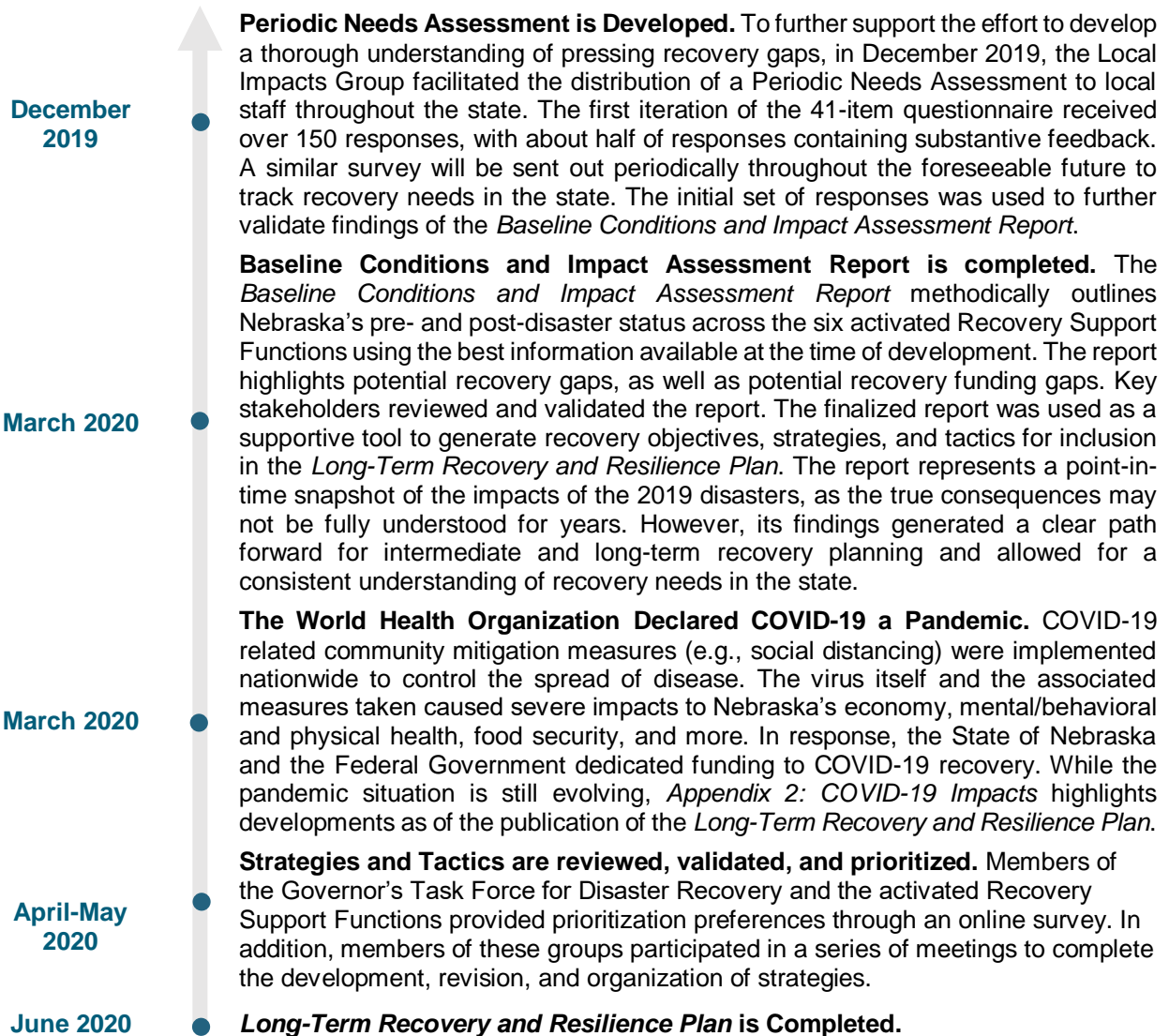
It is critical to note that state agencies were coordinating to advance resilience and recovery well before the Recovery Support Functions were formally activated.

First Monthly Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery Meeting. Once the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery was formally reinstated by Governor Ricketts, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency convened a meeting under this new mission to reengage stakeholders and clarify the mission of the group. From this point on, meetings were convened on a monthly basis. These meetings are beneficial because they promote multi-agency coordination on emerging recovery needs; the development of the *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan*; and coordination between the Governor’s Task Force for Mitigation and the Local Impacts Group.

November
2019

Local Impacts Group is Established. The Local Impacts Group was established in November 2019 to focus on outstanding and evolving local recovery needs. The group is comprised of representatives from organizations with a strong understanding of local context throughout the state, including the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, and the state’s active long-term recovery groups. This group could best speak to the on-the-ground conditions and changing challenges Nebraskans faced many months after the disaster events of March 2019. Providing an in-depth understanding of recovery needs throughout the state, Local Impacts Group representatives kept a strong connection between state agency and local staff. With long-term recovery groups represented within the Local Impacts Group, the group’s meetings provided valuable opportunities to identify and connect unmet needs to available resources, catalyzing direct efforts and operational activities while also informing long-term recovery and resilience planning.

November
2019



4.1 Cross-Cutting Issues



The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with cross-cutting issues related to recovery and resilience-building. Cross-cutting issues are those that impact multiple sectors or Recovery Support Functions. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by all members and partners associated with the Nebraska Recovery Support Functions.

Goal:

Identify issues, strategies, and potential solutions that require collaboration across multiple Recovery Support Functions, agencies, and stakeholders to effect recovery, resiliency, and capacity building.

Overview

 *High Priority Items*

Objective 1:

Create statewide resources to promote awareness of long-term recovery activities, community needs, available assistance, and funding programs.

 **STRATEGY 1.1**

Develop a statewide communications plan and information clearinghouse to standardize engagement of communities, businesses, and individuals after disasters about disaster recovery.

 **STRATEGY 1.2**

Identify or develop materials describing long-term recovery basics; disaster preparedness and response; mitigation principles and best practices; and disaster recovery funding sources so that guidance can be readily distributed to impacted communities before, during, or after a disaster.

Objective 2:

Work with federal partners to create efficiencies and streamline response and recovery operations to get individual assistance, public assistance, hazard mitigation, and all available funds to impacted persons and communities as rapidly as possible.

 **STRATEGY 2.1**

Build state capacity to efficiently apply for and manage major federal funding programs.

 **STRATEGY 2.2**

Identify sources to meet gaps in funding related to open and standing disasters (e.g., DR-4420, DR-4521), including local cost share.

Objective 3:

Obtain and disseminate accurate and timely mapping of disaster impacts to help assess priorities for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation.

❗ STRATEGY 3.1

Establish a statewide High-Water Mark and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Collection System to monitor the extent and severity of flood events.

❗ STRATEGY 3.2

Maintain and pursue opportunities to improve best available flood maps, data, and tools.

❗ STRATEGY 3.3

Take inventory of all drones that could be activated during an emergency.

Objective 4:

Ensure that considerations for people with access and functional needs are addressed throughout disaster response, recovery, and preparedness.

❗ STRATEGY 4.1

Monitor and address access and functional needs considerations as they arise or are identified, while increasing capacity at the state and local level to do so in the future without technical assistance.

❗ STRATEGY 4.2

Make statewide communications about disaster response and recovery readily available, accessible, and understandable to all residents.

❗ STRATEGY 4.3

Identify and address opportunities to increase the resilience of access and functional needs populations.

Objective 5:

Continue providing support for mold remediation.

❗ STRATEGY 5.1

Continue to monitor emerging public health trends related to mold and launch appropriate treatment plans in response.

❗ STRATEGY 5.2

Establish unified statewide mold identification and remediation guidance.

Objective 6:

Revise and update local, regional, and state long-term recovery planning documents and related decision-support tools to reflect changing understanding of risk and vulnerability.

❗ STRATEGY 6.1

Develop a pre-disaster long-term recovery framework for use throughout the state and provide technical assistance to local community emergency management agencies working to update their plans.

❗ STRATEGY 6.2

Use best available flood data from impacted areas to guide conversations with local communities to inform recovery, mitigation, and future development—including relocation and/or elevation of critical infrastructure and housing supply.

❗ STRATEGY 6.3

Work with communities and local emergency management agencies to update and adapt local emergency operations plans to account for revised guidance and inefficiencies created by/exposed by 2019 flooding.

Objective 7:

Establish mechanisms to monitor emerging and delayed impacts and associated recovery needs over time.

❗ STRATEGY 7.1

Use the Periodic Needs Assessment to assess impacts to Nebraskan communities and identify any missed areas of need.

Objective 8:

Minimize impediments to response and recovery during future disasters without compromising the safety of Nebraskans.

❗ STRATEGY 8.1

Evaluate the need to amend regulatory hurdles that hinder response, recovery, or resilience-building.

❗ STRATEGY 8.2

Build capacity to navigate regulatory hurdles that cannot or should not be amended through policy changes.



Objective 1: Create statewide resources to promote awareness of long-term recovery activities, community needs, available assistance, and funding programs.

Strategy 1.1

Develop a statewide communications plan and information clearinghouse to standardize engagement of communities, businesses, and individuals after disasters about disaster recovery.

Lead:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery (see *Appendix 1: Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery Membership*)

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Office of the First Lady
- Office of the Governor
- Public Information Officer(s)
- University of Nebraska Extension

Description

Disasters can hinder effective coordination and communication, creating challenges for Nebraskans to understand the recovery assistance available to them, what state and local government is doing to alleviate challenges, or how they can advocate for their needs. Following the 2019 disasters, some funding entities had difficulty effectively sharing information about disaster recovery resources with impacted communities and individuals. This strategy is intended to alleviate these issues by helping state and local organizations understand how to disseminate information about disaster recovery that is easily accessible, organized in a clear manner, includes clear instructions for use, and stays current.

This strategy is intended to reinforce *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.2*, by establishing a standardized approach to sharing important information and resources with impacted communities after a disaster.

See *Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Executive Summary, page 9, for more information.*

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Engage organizations that oversee financial resources for disaster recovery in discussions aimed at understanding what was challenging about “advertising” the availability of their loans/grants so that these considerations can be reflected in a statewide communications plan.

Within three years of the disasters...

2. Develop a communications plan that establishes processes for:
 - Developing unified messaging about recovery across state agencies;
 - Coordinating with nonprofit entities, long-term recovery groups, and local, regional, and state organizations to define their roles and functions as they relate to interfacing with disaster survivors to share information about available resources (funding sources, low interest/interim loans, and grant programs);
 - Conducting outreach through existing information-sharing channels, such as long-term recovery groups and regional Economic Development Districts, to increase shared understanding of programs;
 - Ensuring that appropriate programmatic experts and staff at local, state, and federal levels understand how to support multi-agency



Measures of Success:

- Meeting to identify historical challenges “advertising” resources for disaster recovery is convened by March 2021.
- Develop a draft communications plan by September 2021.
- Share plan with stakeholders for comment and finalize the plan by March 2022.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- State/Local Budgets

Resources:

[EmployLNK](#)

[Multi-Agency Resource Center Planning Resource for Agricultural Communities](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(9/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(1/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(4/14)
Economy & Society	(6/14)

resource centers/disaster recovery centers when they are established after future disasters;

- Making important information and resources easily accessible to communities, businesses, and individuals requiring minimal guidance from government officials;
 - Regularly providing updates to the public on the status of recovery (e.g., how are impacted communities finding their “new normal”), supplemented with hard data wherever possible; and
 - Maintaining up-to-date public-facing resources that are no longer accessible if they are not needed.
3. Identify and maintain a public-facing website that is the go-to resource for information about long-term disaster recovery.
 - Identify and evaluate existing models for “one-stop-shop” services, such as [EmployLNK](#), that could serve as a template for a similar long-term recovery resource clearinghouse.
 - Determine roles and responsibilities for establishing, funding, and maintaining website and materials.
 - Work collaboratively to identify and establish a primary website and smart phone application to host information housing-related resources.
 - Collect, consolidate, and establish a system for organizing information about disaster recovery resources (see *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.2*).
 4. Validate the plan with stakeholders. Adjudicate and incorporate suggested edits to finalize the plan.
 5. Formally adopt the plan and socialize the final draft with key stakeholders.
 6. Implement the plan, and periodically revise to reflect lessons learned.
- Ongoing – Within four years of the disasters...*
7. Use regular touchpoints associated with other phases of emergency management (e.g., planning, training, and exercises) and continue conversations about recovery funding to help strengthen local knowledge of these processes.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require permanent part-time commitment from an existing mid-level staff member. The staff responsible for implementing this strategy will develop an extensive communications plan, collaborate with stakeholders, and update/create a public-facing website. Some aspects of this effort could be contracted to a third-party. This strategy requires informational resource development and access to different public communications channels. This strategy may require website development costs if a suitable website does not exist prior to the implementation of this strategy or if additional temporary support is



required to update an existing website. The purchase of a new web domain may range from \$10-\$15 annually, and the initial build-out of the website may cost at least \$7,900-\$11,800. Development of a comprehensive communications plan could range from \$45,000-\$75,000 depending on the number of personnel supporting the effort and extent of stakeholder engagement.



❗ Strategy 1.2

Identify or develop materials describing long-term recovery basics; disaster preparedness and response; mitigation principles and best practices; and disaster recovery funding sources so that guidance can be readily distributed to impacted communities before, during, or after a disaster.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- County Government Officials
- HomeNE Learning Network
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Elected Officials (State and Local)
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)

Description

In the wake of the 2019 disasters and COVID-19 pandemic, entities across (and beyond) Nebraska have employed numerous resources informed by best practices and real-world application. A concerted effort to aggregate these resources will help residents and community officials access this information more easily and reveal where additional resources are needed. This strategy is intended to support the identification and maintenance of resources that provide clear, consistent, and current information to communities and residents.

Note: This strategy is intended to reinforce *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.1*, by supporting the identification and development of resources to be shared on a state-managed website or other designated "clearinghouse."

See *Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.3, pages 53–60, for more information.*

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Locate or create educational materials and resources.
 - Compile key information about relevant funding sources such as application processes, timelines, best practices, and program requirements into a centralized location that can be referred to following future disasters (see *Appendix 2: COVID-19 Impacts*).
 - Engage organizations that oversee financial resources for disaster recovery in discussions aimed at understanding what applicants' primary challenges were in applying for, managing, or spending funding.
 - Coordinate with funding agencies to identify or develop outreach materials that will help address these challenges after future disasters.
 - Resources should clearly delineate which sources are available to government, communities, businesses, and individuals. This will help the right information reach the right recipients.
2. Assign responsibility for maintaining this resource so that information remains relevant and accurate.
3. Assign a state recovery representative to help direct local communities to information, resources, and points of contact.



Measures of Success:

- Educational materials and resources are identified and cataloged.
- Responsibility for maintaining the catalog of resources is assigned.
- State recovery representative is designated.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Rural Community Development Initiative
- State/Local Budget

Resources:

Appendix 4: Funding Opportunities

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(7/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems(2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(3/14)
 Economy & Society.....(5/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require temporary full-time commitment from an existing mid-level staff member or temporary contracted support. This strategy will require the identification of current regulatory hurdles and justifications for such regulations. Additional resources (e.g., job aid checklists, manuals, standard operating procedures) may be necessary to build personnel capacity and understanding of regulatory challenges. There may be costs associated with the development of informational resources, however, if resources are built and housed electronically, the cost of development can be reduced/minimized.



Objective 2: Work with federal partners to create efficiencies and streamline response and recovery operations to get individual assistance, public assistance, hazard mitigation, and all available funds to impacted persons and communities as rapidly as possible.

1 Strategy 2.1

Build state capacity to efficiently apply for and manage major federal funding programs.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies

Description

Disaster-related federal funding provides a valuable opportunity for states to recover from disaster events, reduce risk to future events, and build resilience over the long-term. However, these programs have significant administrative work and cost-matching requirements that represented a major burden on staff statewide following the 2019 disasters. While the state can partner with federal agencies to identify opportunities to streamline or adjust policies to increase the efficiency of federal programs, the outcomes of those efforts may not be fully in the state's control. This strategy is intended to help the state identify activities that will build capacity for administering these programs and increase the efficiency of program management, getting funds to impacted communities sooner.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with federal funding agencies to provide technical assistance and information to communities and individuals regarding resources, protocols, and regulatory thresholds or requirements (e.g., environmental and historic preservation reviews).
2. Develop operational support tools (e.g., pre-scripted communications, reporting forms, checklists) that will help staff perform assigned responsibilities efficiently and correctly.
3. Procure standby support that can be activated at the time of a disaster to provide surge support for recovery, specifically for grant management services that will increase the state's efficiency at standing up federal grant programs.
4. Consider including training as part of the scope of work for standby recovery contracts in order to leverage subject matter expertise to execute trainings.

Within three years of the disasters...

5. Coordinate with federal funding agencies to provide technical assistance and information to communities and individuals regarding resources, protocols, and regulatory thresholds or requirements (e.g., environmental and historic preservation reviews).
6. Develop a plan at the state level to record disaster recovery financing and grant management procedures.
7. Develop operational support tools (e.g., pre-scripted communications, reporting forms, checklists) that will help staff perform assigned responsibilities efficiently and correctly.



Measures of Success:

- Solicit and review proposals for standby recovery support by June 2020.
- Select contractor(s) to provide standby recovery support by June 2020.
- Develop draft disaster recovery financing and grant management procedures by December 2021.
- Finalize disaster recovery financing and grant management procedures by March 2022.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Public Assistance
- State/Local Budget

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(6/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems(2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(5/14)
 Economy & Society(5/14)

Implementation Considerations

The administration of this strategy will likely require temporary full-time commitment by senior-level personnel or temporary contracted support. This strategy incorporates tool development, evaluation of current grant management software, dissemination of information to local communities, and documentation of disaster recovery financing and grant management procedures. This strategy also suggests the procurement of standby support, to be activated at the time of a disaster to provide surge support for recovery; standby support may be specifically used for grant management services that will increase the state’s efficiency at accessing federal grant programs. This total cost associated with this strategy depends on the scope of work requested and agreed upon by the contractors providing surge support, as well as the scope of work dictated by the severity of the disaster itself.



❗ Strategy 2.2

Identify sources to meet gaps in funding related to open and standing disasters (e.g., DR-4420, DR-4521) including local cost share.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Office of the Governor

Measures of Success:

- Program-based unmet needs assessment is conducted by June 2020 to determine funding gaps (see *State of Nebraska Recovery Action Plan*).
- Two meetings are conducted to educate the public and local government officials about the use of CDBG-DR funding to address non-federal cost share matching by August 2020.
- Conduct outreach to local communities to convey non-federal share cost match requirements by December 2020.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- State/Local Budgets

Resources:

State of Nebraska Recovery Action Plan

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (5/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (4/14)
 Economy & Society (5/14)

Description

While there are numerous federal funding programs providing funding to support recovery from the 2019 disasters, the state may experience a shortage of funding to cover the entire cost of recovery. This shortage has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This strategy is intended to help identify and secure additional funding to continue promoting recovery and resilience-building goals.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with state agencies overseeing major federal funding programs (e.g., Community Development Block Grants, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Public Assistance) to maintain an accurate understanding of potential funding gaps. Leverage the Unmet Needs Assessment in the *State of Nebraska Recovery Action Plan* to inform this understanding of funding gaps.
2. Prioritize outstanding needs, and work with state agencies to provide loans, grants, or other support to help communities secure funding outside of the major federal programs.
3. Help impacted local communities understand available local match requirements and opportunities to address match through eligible funding streams (i.e., Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery) or in-kind contributions (e.g., staff time).

Ongoing – Within one month of the disasters...

4. As additional disasters occur, continue to advocate for presidential disaster declarations that would make additional funding available, especially where it can address needs created by multiple disasters (e.g., crisis counseling).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require temporary full-time commitment from mid-level staff or contracted support. This strategy will require collaborating with state agencies responsible for federal funding, conducting local community outreach, and advocating for Presidential Disaster Declarations. To successfully implement this strategy, involved staff should leverage the Unmet Needs Assessment in the *State of Nebraska Recovery Action Plan* to inform this understanding of funding gaps. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses other than staffing expenses.



Objective 3: Obtain and disseminate accurate and timely mapping of disaster impacts to help assess priorities for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation.

❗ Strategy 3.1

Establish a statewide High-water Mark and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Collection System to monitor the extent and severity of flood events.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Description

Every flood event is unique, with water reaching different locations at different depths. No statewide system was in place for collecting high-water marks following the 2019 disasters, making it more difficult to develop post-event inundation maps. Capturing high-water mark levels can be used to generate inundation maps or interactive viewers to support outreach and communication efforts. Collecting high-water marks across a wide geographic area in the wake of an event can also help validate or improve existing flood models. This strategy is intended to establish a system for deploying field staff across state agencies to gather and catalog these datapoints following flood events.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.2.1, pages 65–68, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Determine roles and responsibilities for data management and sharing to facilitate effective data collection, maintenance, and distribution.
2. Establish procedures for the High-water Mark Collection System.
3. Develop Mission Critical Assignment templates and guidance for high-water mark and LiDAR collection that can be used as appropriate in Joint Field Offices.
4. Produce and disseminate job aids to support accurate, reliable, and efficient data collection by field staff.

Within three years of the disasters...

5. Develop maps, depth grids, and other tools showing inundation boundaries following major flood events.
6. Identify a publicly accessible state website to house the maps (e.g., Nebraska Department of Natural Resources website) to enable wide dissemination and passive access.
7. In partnership with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, provide post-event technical assistance to local communities to support use of inundation boundaries as well as current Flood Insurance Rate Maps and other relevant hazard data for planning and mitigation project development and prioritization.


Measures of Success:

- High-water Mark Collection System is established with formal procedures developed.
- At least one job aid to support data collection is developed.
- Mission Critical Assignment Templates are developed.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Coordinated Technical Partners Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(9/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(8/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(4/14)
Economy & Society.....	(6/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy establishes a High-water Mark and LiDAR system, and may require temporary staffing of a subject matter expert, or a memorandum of agreement with an organization familiar with development of interconnected High-water Mark and LiDAR systems. Once established, there will need to be procedures, guidelines, and training established for those using and maintaining the system. As information is gathered from flood events, data will be used to develop post-event inundation maps and relevant maps will be posted on a public-facing website. “Live” flood data could also be generated through this system to inform government officials and the public about water levels during events. This strategy will require staff time for ongoing maintenance of the database and high-water mark collection and may require additional costs for updating LiDAR maps over time.



❗ Strategy 3.2

Maintain and pursue opportunities to improve best available flood maps, data, and tools.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Groups
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- University of Nebraska Omaha, Center for Public Affairs Research – [Nebraska State Data Center](#)

Description

The 2019 disasters revealed flood risk in areas outside of the special flood hazard area. Visual tools that portray probabilistic flood risk, projected flood depth information, and/or inundation levels from historic events can help residents and government officials better understand potential future impacts. In turn, enhanced understanding of risk through these tools can also encourage preparedness activities and support the prioritization of appropriate planning considerations and mitigation actions.

At the time this plan was developed, DR-4420 Funding has been prioritized to support expansion of the state's stream gauge collection and online mapping tools. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency staff also held exploratory conversations with counterparts from other states to learn about their efforts to develop user-friendly online floodplain map portals accessible to the general public.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.3, pages 53–60, for more information.

Tactics

Ongoing...

1. Continue efforts to update regulatory and non-regulatory flood maps and data throughout the state to more reflect current and future flood risk as accurately as possible, including nuisance flooding and less-frequent (e.g., 0.2% annual chance) events, in accordance with the *State of Nebraska Coordinated Technical Partnership Business Plan*.
2. Leverage existing information-sharing platforms to disseminate best available information about future flood scenarios and areas that were inundated during the 2019 disasters, including Nebraska Department of Natural Resources StoryMap – [Nebraska Flooding: March 2019](#).

Within three years of the disasters...

3. Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to develop more detailed and accurate inundation maps showing areas impacted by the 2019 flooding using available stream gauge data.



Measures of Success:

- New inundation maps are developed.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Cooperative Technical Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Resources:

DR-4420 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – 5% Initiative

Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning Program

State of Nebraska Coordinated Technical Partnership Business Plan

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(8/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems(9/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(4/14)
 Economy & Society.....(2/14)

4. Pursue funding to expand stream gauge data collection and online mapping tools through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program 5% Initiative. The Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery can help evaluate key application and program-design components, including:
 - Initial project costs and funding mechanisms;
 - Annual and long-term data management and update cost estimates;
 - Website maintenance plan and estimated upkeep costs;
 - Project timeline, roles, and responsibilities;
 - Lessons learned and opportunities for improvement; and
 - If the group decides to proceed, this Task Force can outline roles and responsibilities in developing applications, overseeing project implementation, and long-term project management.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require the addition of new staff. This strategy will require updating flood maps, the use of information sharing platforms for flood risk communications, and the pursuit of funding to expand stream gauge data collection and online mapping tools. This strategy does not require foreseeable expenses (beyond those covered by existing funding mechanisms) other than staffing.



❗ Strategy 3.3

Take inventory of all drones that could be activated during an emergency.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Crop Consultants
- Local Fire and Police Departments

Description

During and in the aftermath of the 2019 disasters, residents, farmers, ranchers, and others had difficulty determining the extent and depth of floodwaters, particularly in rural areas. Drones can be rapidly deployed to provide real-time information about the extent and location of flood levels in areas that can be difficult or impossible to reach on the ground. This information can be invaluable for residents and response personnel, particularly in identifying alternate routes when some roads are impassible. Drones can also be used to help identify locations of stranded or deceased livestock, orphaned containers, and other debris carried by floodwaters. This strategy is intended to establish a program through which drones could be deployed for this purpose.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.2.2, pages 71–72, and Section 2.8.5, pages 107–108.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Conduct outreach to local governments to identify agencies with publicly-owned drones and develop a list of resources and personnel that could be volunteered in support of other jurisdictions when not activated locally.
2. Establish a small committee from relevant sectors (e.g., cartography, photography, emergency management, transportation, floodplain management), and use lessons learned from the 2019 disasters to establish state policies and procedures to activate drones during and following disasters.
3. If the state determines it is appropriate, work with local governments, clubs, operator forums, and social media groups to disseminate optional sign-up for a citizen corps of registered drone operators active in disasters.
4. Coordinate with the Nebraska Attorney General and University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to assess legal risk prior to implementation of drone use policies.
5. Establish plans, standard operating procedures, and job aids to facilitate effective deployment and coordination of drones.

Ongoing – Annually by December 31st.

6. Maintain records of the number of drones deployed, the value they provided to response or recovery activities, and develop an after-action report summarizing any challenges and potential solutions once drones have been used under the new program (and any associated policies).



Measures of Success:

- A list of publicly owned drones is created.
- Guidance on the use of drones during emergency response and recovery is developed.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
- Emergency Management Performance Grant

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (10/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (6/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (4/14)
 Economy & Society (5/14)

7. Evaluate whether the program/policies should remain in effect, whether any amendments are required or suggested, or whether the program should continue as originally designed.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may require temporary part-time commitment from mid-level staff, or temporary contracted support. During and post-disaster, this strategy may require full-time temporary staffing additions. This strategy will require outreach to local governments to inventory existing public drones, and potentially conducting a similar inventory of privately-owned drones from volunteer citizen operators. Additionally, this strategy will require buy-in from state and local stakeholders and elected officials to be successfully implemented. This strategy does not include foreseeable costs, besides staffing and potentially the cost of acquiring public-use drones (should private drones and a citizen corps of drone operators not be permitted). Drones range in cost from \$150-\$500, depending on the desired quality of imaging and range of flight.



Objective 4: Ensure that considerations for people with access and functional needs are addressed throughout disaster response, recovery, and preparedness.

1 Strategy 4.1

Monitor and address access and functional needs considerations as they arise or are identified, while increasing capacity at the state and local level to do so in the future without technical assistance.

Lead:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Community Advocacy Groups (e.g., Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities)
- Disability Rights Nebraska
- Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination
- Independent Living Centers
- Independent Living Research Utilization
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Attorney General
- Office of the Governor

Description

Individuals with access and functional needs may have specific medical, mobility, or other requirements to support their health and wellbeing. During disaster response and recovery, there may be interruptions to their existing support networks, disrupting access to necessary support services. When access and functional needs are unmet, individuals may face disruptions to independent living, quality of life, and sense of dignity. These potential disruptions warrant the consideration of access and functional needs throughout all areas of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.2.1.2, pages 22–23, for more detail.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Engage the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination for strategic guidance on disability and access and functional needs integration.
2. Evaluate the need for training to increase awareness of common challenges and solutions associated with serving access and functional needs populations. Training may take the form of in-person or virtual seminars, a formal framework or memorandum, or distribution of resources and tools to state and local government officials.

Within three years of the disasters...

3. Consolidate important resources on Knowledge Center (i.e., the software platform at the State Emergency Operations Center) or the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency’s website so that resources can be accessed by state and local officials. Consider the following resources at minimum:
 - A resource library describing best practices for addressing access and functional needs considerations.
 - A list of providers specializing in support for populations with access and functional needs (e.g., durable medical equipment providers, long-term care facilities) that can be engaged to identify needs, requirements, or considerations through their client/customer bases.
 - Contact information for individuals or organizations within the state that can help address access and functional needs considerations as they arise, in partnership with the Nebraska Attorney General, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and advocacy groups.



Measures of Success:

- Three community advocacy focus groups conducted by March 2022 to understand needs and challenges faced by access and functional needs populations during disasters.
- The Knowledge Center resource library is updated to include guidance on Access and Functional Needs populations.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funding
- Disaster Assistance for State Units on Aging and Tribal Organizations in Major Disasters Declared by the President
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resources:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Disability and Health Emergency Preparedness Tools and Resources](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Disability and Health Emergency Preparedness](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (8/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (3/14)
 Economy & Society..... (4/14)

4. Engage community advocacy organizations across the state in virtual or in-person focus groups to understand their needs and commonly faced challenges to better prepare for future disasters.
5. Work with community advocacy organizations to quickly triage and address access and functional needs considerations specific to individual disaster events during response and recovery.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy is unlikely to require the addition of new staff but will require commitment from an existing staff member, preferably a someone with experience in this area. This strategy requires collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, access and functional needs populations assessment, the consolidation of informational resources, and community organization engagement. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses other than staffing costs. Additional costs may be incurred from development of informational materials.



❗ Strategy 4.2

Make statewide communications about disaster response and recovery readily available, accessible, and understandable to all residents.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Access and Functional Needs Advocacy Groups (e.g., Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination and Region VII
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters
- Nebraska Attorney General
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Office of the Governor

Description

During and in the wake of disaster events, tailored communication efforts are extremely important to provide residents with up-to-date and unified messaging. Approximately five percent of Nebraska's population has limited English proficiency (i.e., they speak a primary language other than English). Communication efforts should consider language barriers that may prevent Nebraskans from accessing important response and recovery information.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Sections 2.2.1.2–2.2.1.4, pages 22–24, for more detail.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Engage key state agencies, academic, and non-profit partners to collect information about existing translation service providers to develop a statewide resource list.
2. Work with stakeholders to identify additional needs, such as:
 - Identifying additional licensed service providers;
 - Providing training to state and local officials;
 - Establishing resource sharing agreements or contracts; and
 - Hiring additional staff.
3. Pursue funding opportunities to support translation services (e.g., multi-lingual, braille), as well as to staff multi-lingual personnel at supportive resource networks (e.g., Nebraska Rural Response Hotline).
4. Evaluate the need for guidance issued to state and local organizations establishing minimum standards or criteria for translators to empower them to select professional and credentialed translators.
5. Engage local community organizations, the Local Impacts Group, and access and functional needs advocacy groups, to help craft communications that are accessible by all.

Within four years of the disasters...

6. Develop a system and processes to increase the timeliness, reliability, and accessibility of disaster messaging and resources.
7. Periodically re-evaluate translation service needs and adjust implementation approach as needed.



Measures of Success:

- All public-facing disaster communications are provided in the state’s major languages (English, Spanish).
- Major press briefings are delivered with an American Sign Language interpreter present or are recorded and include closed captioning.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Public Assistance

Resources:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Disability and Health Emergency Preparedness Tools and Resources](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Disability and Health Emergency Preparedness](#)

[Oregon Office on Disability and Health – Emergency Preparedness](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (7/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (2/14)
 Economy & Society (4/14)

Ongoing – As needed during disaster response and recovery...

8. Work with groups who comprise or represent the target population to create and help deliver communications.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require periodic support from interpreters/translators, specifically in American Sign Language and Spanish, for major briefings and public-facing disaster communications. Translators must be well qualified to ensure translation accuracy. Collaboration with functional needs advocacy groups and relevant partners will be critical in the development of communications and standardized communication processes. Additional costs may be accrued through the use of translation services. Professional translators charge an average of \$25-40 per hour.



❗ Strategy 4.3

Identify and address opportunities to increase the resilience of access and functional needs for populations.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Access and Functional Needs Advocacy Groups (e.g., Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of Disability Integration and Coordination and Region VII
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters
- Nebraska Attorney General
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- Office of the Governor

Measures of Success:

- The five most-used, state-managed websites are tested for 508 compliance by March 2022.
- Working group with expertise in translation or interpretation and disabilities and access and functional needs is established by March 2021.

Description

Natural disasters can have disproportional impacts on populations with access and functional needs. Incorporating a focus on equity through all phases of emergency management supports whole community resilience-building.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Build a network of advocates and experts to help with planning or attend training and exercises at the state and local level.
 - Engage community organizations and advocacy groups that work with access and functional needs to better understand shortfalls during disasters.
 - Determine what resources are necessary to make preparedness, response, and recovery more inclusive.
 - Consider establishing a regular working group to assist with identifying and resolving access and functional needs challenges across the state on an ongoing basis.

Within four years of the disasters...

2. Develop tools that can help those with access or functional needs navigate disaster preparedness, response, or recovery more efficiently.
 - Translate generic disaster messaging that can be easily updated or distributed during disasters (e.g., messaging about the location of Multi-Agency Resource Centers, what to do in a flood).
 - Determine whether any special training needs to be developed so that government officials are better prepared to serve those with access and functional needs.
3. Assess the current capabilities within the state to determine areas for development/expansion in order to fully address access and functional needs.
 - Assess state-managed websites to determine how many are compliant with the Section 508 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Prioritize addressing the compliance of sites that regularly post important informational updates to the public.



Measures of Success (Cont.):

- Three tools that will help empower those with access and functional needs during disaster preparedness, response, and recovery are developed by March 2022.
- One training on access and functional needs considerations is held by March 2022.
- State sheltering capacity is reassessed with access and functional needs considerations in mind by March 2022.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funding
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
- Disaster Assistance for State Units on Aging and Tribal Organizations in Major Disasters Declared by the President
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resources:

[Oregon Health and Science University: Preparedness Toolkit for People with Disabilities](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (9/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (2/14)
 Economy & Society (4/14)

- Assess the state’s sheltering capacity. Specifically, how many designated shelters are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements? Is there accessible transportation available to and from these locations? Capture the findings in a formal document and develop a strategy to increase the availability of accessible shelters, if needed.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely not require additional staffing but will require commitment from an existing staff member, preferably someone with experience in this area. This strategy requires collaboration with access and functional needs advocacy group, the development of tools to assist those with access and functional needs during disaster, and assessment of state capabilities to fully address access and functional needs; this includes the evaluation of current state shelter capacity for those with access and functional needs.



Objective 5: Continue providing support for mold remediation.

Strategy 5.1

Continue to monitor emerging public health trends related to mold and launch appropriate treatment plans in response.

Lead:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group

Measures of Success:

- Educational materials about mold remediation are distributed at regular intervals through the Local Impacts Group and long-term recovery groups.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Individual Assistance Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (6/14)
 Economy & Society (3/14)

Description

Following the 2019 disasters, cases of flood-related mold issues plagued residents. Many residents (i.e., more than half of those that applied for housing assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency) indicated they were inhabiting damaged dwellings at the time of their application. Extended exposure to mold can contribute to a variety of health impacts, including asthma attacks, eye and skin irritation, and allergic reactions. This strategy is intended to focus efforts to monitor public health trends to determine whether additional public health interventions are needed.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.2.2.2, pages 50–51, and Section 2.6.3.1.2, page 87, for more information.

Tactics

Ongoing – Within two years of the disasters...

1. To the extent possible, continue monitoring emerging public health trends related to mold and launch appropriate treatment plans in response, leveraging existing reporting structures and response protocols for public health emergencies.
2. Continue to support efforts to identify homes and businesses that need mold remediation.
3. Coordinate with long-term recovery groups and University of Nebraska Extension to obtain and deploy moisture meters in flood-affected communities to test homes for mold.
4. Continue promoting education and awareness to encourage homeowners to safely address mold concerns and minimize negative impacts to their quality of life, in partnership with the Local Impacts Group.

Within two years of the disasters...

5. Procure mold remediation professionals that can be immediately called upon to help with mold removal and building dry-out after flooding events.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require permanent part-time commitment from a mid-level staff member or temporary support from a third-party. Additionally, this strategy will require the procurement of mold remediation professionals that can be immediately called upon to help with mold removal and building dry-out after flooding events. Mold remediation services can range in price significantly depending upon building size and materials and the severity of the mold.



❗ Strategy 5.2

Establish unified statewide mold identification and remediation guidance.

Leads:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Long-Term Recovery Groups

Partners:

- Local Building and Planning Agencies
- Local Impacts Group

Measures of Success:

- One training event on mold remediation is conducted by December 2020.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants
- Individual Assistance Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(6/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(1/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(3/14)
Economy & Society	(2/14)

Description

The 2019 disasters led to numerous housing and health concerns for Nebraskans, including mold growth related to flooding. Mold infestation within flooded homes can result in several health consequences, especially when mold remediation is improperly executed. The intent of this strategy is to reduce or eliminate confusion surrounding inappropriate mold remediation tactics (e.g., the use of bleach) and help reduce mold exposure among Nebraskans.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.2.2.2, pages 50–51, and Section 2.6, pages 81–87, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and Nebraska Department of Labor will provide Occupational Safety and Health Administration training to long-term recovery groups and local non-governmental organizations on safety and best practices when identifying, assessing, and remediating mold in flooded homes.
2. Work with local building and planning departments to identify innovative solutions to mold remediation that can be replicated or scaled to other jurisdictions through education or revision of regulations.

Ongoing – Within two years of the disasters...

3. Continue to monitor needs as they evolve over time, identifying additional resources necessary to promote mold remediation for all households.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require temporary part-time commitment from mid-level staff or temporary contracted support. This strategy establishes unified statement mold identification and remediation guidance to long-term recovery groups and local non-governmental organizations. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses beyond staffing.



Objective 6: Revise and update local, regional, and state long-term recovery planning documents and related decision-support tools to reflect changing understanding of risk and vulnerability.

Strategy 6.1

Develop a pre-disaster long-term recovery framework for use throughout the state and provide technical assistance to local community emergency management agencies working to update their plans.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group

Description

While every county in Nebraska has an iteration of a pre-disaster recovery plan, the state currently lacks a policy that mandates a set structure for long-term recovery. Using lessons learned from the 2019 disasters, Nebraska can enhance its recovery planning frameworks at both the state and local levels, ensuring that these plans reflect federal best practices, standards, and procedures. *See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Section 2.7.4.1, page 99, for more information.*

Tactics

Ongoing – Within three years of the disasters...

1. Identify a stakeholder group to support planning (e.g., Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery).
2. Develop the plan, incorporating Nebraska-specific initiatives (e.g., Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy's energy assurance effort), including templates and guidance for local communities.
3. If the state will continue its use of the Recovery Support Functions, update the pre-disaster recovery plan to include these concepts, building on the lessons learned through implementation after the 2019 disasters.
4. Once the plan is complete, develop a strategy to promote awareness and use of the updated document (e.g., training and exercises).
5. Evaluate whether any developments or modifications to the state plan can or should be shared with local communities to inform local plan revisions (i.e., serving as a template).
6. As part of the effort to engage local government officials and provide technical assistance, consider developing a series of recommendations or supplemental tools/resources for local communities to promote effective integration of state and local recovery plans.
7. Host virtual meetings or webinars, during which local governments can ask questions about the recovery planning process and best practices, or validate roles and responsibilities with state personnel.



Measures of Success:

- Pre-disaster recovery plan draft is developed.
- One technical resource is distributed to support local government’s efforts to update recovery plans.
- One question and answer session or meeting is convened with local government officials.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- State/Local Budgets

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society (5/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require temporary full-time commitment from mid-level staff or temporary contracted support. The staff member responsible for implementation will gather a stakeholder group to support planning (e.g., Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery), continue to develop the trainings and other methods; a series of recommendations will be developed for local communities using the plan as a framework, and virtual meetings will likely be held for local officials. Developing a pre-disaster recovery framework and the provision of technical support/guidance to local communities could range from \$80,000-\$125,000 depending on the extent and scale of stakeholder engagement. If virtual meeting software is not currently possessed, there may be additional expenses to acquire that software in order to host virtual meetings and trainings. Subscriptions to virtual meeting platforms range from \$20-\$25 per month.



❗ Strategy 6.2

Use best available flood data from impacted areas to guide conversations with local communities to inform recovery, mitigation, and future development—including relocation and/or elevation of critical infrastructure and housing supply.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Floodplain Administrators
- Local Impacts Group
- Natural Resources Districts

Measures of Success:

- One training event on mold remediation is conducted by December 2020.
- Three case studies are identified and distributed to local communities across the state.
- Three educational meetings are convened with disaster-affected local governments about flood risk and mapping processes.

Description

Flood maps and data are actively being updated through the state's floodplain mapping program at the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. This includes both updating regulatory maps and developing non-regulatory data, maps, and outreach tools. This strategy is intended to encourage the use of best available information about flood risk and historic flood events to support coordination with local officials to help them understand their risk and in turn identify and implement resilience-building activities.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Partner with History Nebraska to develop case studies and outreach materials highlighting how other communities have successfully used hazard data to inform community planning, risk-reduction and resilience-building activities.
2. Prior to beginning engagement, consider providing a copy of the funding resources identified in this plan, as well as a list of funding resources that can be used outside of disaster recovery to support mitigation or resilience efforts.

Within three years of the disasters...

3. Provide technical assistance to local communities through regional hazard mitigation plan updates to support integration of best available data and development of effective projects.

Ongoing...

4. Continue efforts to engage local government representatives about map revisions for residents and community planning through the state mapping program. Consider:
 - The means of outreach (e.g., in-person flood risk review, levee, and stakeholder meetings, public open houses, webinars, utility bill inserts or mailers, social media campaigns);
 - Appropriate messengers (e.g., the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, local Natural Resources Districts, local Floodplain Administrators);
 - Technical assistance to support mitigation project identification and development with an emphasis on multi-benefit projects (e.g., acquiring structures or grazing rights in flood-prone areas to reduce flood risk and provide recreational or ecosystem benefits);



Potential Funding Sources:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Cooperative Technical Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources

Resources:

[Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning Program](#)

[State of Nebraska Coordinated Technical Partnership Business Plan](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(9/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(4/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(1/14)
Economy & Society.....	(5/14)

- Resources to support mitigation project implementation and long-term planning efforts to reduce risk (e.g., hazard mitigation plans, capital improvement plans); and
- Tools or resources to leave with local officials to help them educate members of their community.

Implementation Considerations

Staff across numerous state agencies and other entities can engage local communities in these discussions. This strategy is focused upon leveraging the best available information and better-connecting resources to outreach staff, and therefore should not require significant additional staff. This strategy requires the development of case studies, identification of funding resources for mitigation efforts, regional hazard mitigation plan update development, and continuous efforts to engage local officials in community planning through the state mapping program. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses besides staffing.



❗ Strategy 6.3

Work with communities and local emergency management agencies to update and adapt local emergency operations plans to account for revised guidance and inefficiencies created by/exposed by 2019 flooding.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association

Measures of Success:

- A list of considerations for updating a local emergency operations plan is developed.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- Emergency Management Performance Grant

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (1/14)
 Economy & Society (6/14)

Description

The 2019 disasters represented an unprecedented event in Nebraska's history, highlighting vulnerabilities statewide. The state can support local efforts to review and reexamine local emergency operations plans considering lessons learned during and following the 2019 events. This strategy is intended to encourage state support of local updates to these plans to incorporate best practices throughout the state.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.7.4, pages 99–101, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Conduct outreach to local emergency management agencies to inquire about the status of their local emergency operations plans to determine when they were last updated or whether processes are ongoing / soon pending.
2. For communities that have not yet updated or do not currently have plans to update their local emergency operations plans, consider providing a rubric or checklist of things to review/update in their plans to reflect lessons learned during the 2019 disasters.
3. Educate local communities about the value of maintaining local emergency operations plans (i.e., doing so maintains eligibility for Emergency Management Performance Grants, builds local resilience to future disasters).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require temporary part-time commitment from mid-level staff or contracted support. This strategy will require local emergency management agency outreach, informational resource development for local emergency operations plans, and collaboration with local communities to educate them about the importance of local emergency operations plans. There may be costs associated with the development of informational resources, but these can be developed electronically at low/reduced costs. Depending on the style of engagement with local communities and the number and level of detail of informational resources, this effort could range from approximately \$60,000-125,000 using a third-party.



Objective 7: Establish mechanisms to monitor emerging and delayed impacts and associated recovery needs over time.

! Strategy 7.1

Use the Periodic Needs Assessment to assess impacts to Nebraskan communities and identify any missed areas of need.

Lead:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association
- Nebraska Farm Bureau

Measures of Success:

- *Periodic Needs Assessment* is distributed by September 2020.

Potential Funding Sources:

- State/Local Budgets

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(8/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(0/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(3/14)
Economy & Society	(7/14)

Description

The *Periodic Needs Assessment* was developed by the Local Impacts Group to help gather information about community needs at the local level following the 2019 disasters and monitor the evolution of needs. The value of performing a survey of this nature is that it enables state leadership to monitor how needs change, and how they are met over time. This will help the state evaluate progress associated with long-term recovery efforts.

Tactics

Ongoing – Twice annually...

1. Coordinate with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to revise and help inform the next iteration of the Periodic Needs Assessment.
2. Identify existing networks that can be leveraged to disseminate the Periodic Needs Assessment, in order to increase distribution and gather more accurate information about disaster impacts.
 - Specifically, partnership with the agricultural community (e.g., Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association, Nebraska Farm Bureau) is needed to improve information-sharing and understanding of post-disaster need.
3. Distribute the survey through these networks when it is time to perform the next assessment.

Within six months of collecting survey results...

4. Evaluate the findings as they are collected and continue to provide recommendations to streamline or modify the approach to the assessment to improve data collection or monitoring.
5. As new needs are identified, design appropriate solutions, execute, and evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented approach.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require permanent part-time commitment from entry- or mid-level staff twice annually. This strategy would be well-supported by access to a digital survey platform, but traditional word-processing software could be leveraged as well. If free survey software is utilized for survey distribution, there will not be any expenses associated with this strategy beyond staffing.



Objective 8: Minimize impediments to response and recovery during future disasters without compromising the safety of Nebraskans.

1 Strategy 8.1

Evaluate the need to amend regulatory hurdles that hinder response, recovery, or resilience-building.

Lead:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- American Planning Association of Nebraska
- Disaster Assistance Training Nebraska
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Nebraska
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Nebraska Attorney General
- Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts
- Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association
- Office of the Governor
- Professional Associations (e.g., Nebraska State Home Builders Association)
- State Fire Marshal
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Description

Some preexisting policies and regulations posed notable challenges to response and recovery efforts following the 2019 disasters. Adjusting requirements to provide greater flexibility during and in the aftermath of hazard events could allow for more efficient efforts to respond, recover, and increase resilience across the state. However, in many cases, it may not be practical or feasible to adjust policies. *Cross-Cutting Strategy 8.2* is intended to help build capacity to overcome hurdles that cannot be addressed through regulatory or policy changes presented in this strategy.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. In coordination with the Local Impacts Group, catalog regulatory hurdles that previously impeded (or are likely to impede) disaster response and recovery.
2. Identify potential solutions or workarounds that would maximize efficiency without significantly compromising public safety or causing environmental harm. Hurdles that have already been identified by the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery include:
 - Legal restrictions on shipping, vehicle weights, and inter-state commerce slowing movement of emergency livestock feed.
 - Potential solution: Identify key points of contact within and outside of the state to develop policy waivers that can be activated rapidly at the time of a disaster as needed.
 - Tax filing deadlines.
 - Potential solution: Extend tax filing deadlines for those impacted by disasters who may need additional time to gather financial documentation.
 - Required environmental reviews (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act, Section 404 review processes).
 - Potential solution: Identify opportunities to streamline review processes to help facilitate long-term recovery. Engage specifically with the Agricultural Recovery Support Function to identify and capture (in a white paper) common hurdles in meeting requirements that can be presented to federal partners for further discussion.
 - Eviction or foreclosure policies active in time of disaster (e.g., during the COVID-19 pandemic).



Measures of Success:

- Policy memorandum for the Governor is developed by February 2021.
- Policy memorandum is presented to the Governor by March 2021.
- (If policy changes are enacted) policy impact monitoring mechanism is established.

Potential Funding Sources:

- State/Local Budget

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(7/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(4/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(3/14)
Economy & Society.....	(6/14)

- Potential solution: Enact a temporary moratorium on evictions and/or foreclosures until the impacts of the disaster subside or affected communities are stabilized.
- Cost-prohibitive local and municipal regulations for home repairs to meet modern building code requirements.
 - Potential solution: Work with homebuilders' associations and land use authorities to develop model code that could be used in communities to enact exceptions in line with local preferences without risking community standing in the National Flood Insurance Program. Disseminate code examples through planning and zoning networks to encourage adoption of code allowing for temporary relaxation of requirements to help homeowners repair their homes to pre-disaster condition.
- Structures built without incorporation of resilient building standards are more vulnerable to hazard impacts.
 - Potential solution: Develop model codes that could be adopted in local communities to promote resilience-building practices in new development and non-disaster redevelopment. Disseminate code examples through planning and zoning networks.
- Cost and level of effort required for residents to obtain home inspections (see *Housing Natural Resources Districts 1.1* for more information).
 - Potential solution: Standardize building code inspections across the state to enable inspectors to travel greater distances without requiring knowledge of multiple municipal or county code requirements. Standardization can be achieved by leveraging the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Housing Quality Standards (Inspection Form HUD-52580A and Checklist HUD-52580) to either: (1) design model requirements and procedures for repair and rehabilitation inspections that *can* be adopted at the local level or (2) design model requirements and procedures for repair and rehabilitation inspections procedures that *must* be adopted at the local level.
- Inability to leverage state housing tax credits for meeting federal funding grant match requirements.
 - Potential solution: Leverage state resources to expedite the provision of financial assistance to homeowners through use of a bifurcated tax system to build local investment and increase the availability of livable low- and high-density housing statewide.
- Local restrictions prohibiting the use of temporary housing (i.e., temporary trailers or other shelters intended for use while



permanent structures are under repair) that can be rapidly deployed to meet emergency housing needs.

- Potential solution: Develop model code that local jurisdictions can adopt to reduce restrictions on disaster-related temporary housing to facilitate long-term recovery efforts.
 - Administrative and permitting processes for disposing of animal carcasses.
 - Potential solution: Partner with federal entities to adapt absentee-landowner permission forms and processes from similar drum/fuel tank collection programs for the collection and disposal of cattle and animal carcasses.
 - Administrative and permitting process for disposing of sand, silt, and other debris.
 - Potential solution: Work with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop guidance on eligible sand, silt, and other debris removal and disposal tactics while identifying opportunities to provide recommendations on streamlining procedural guidelines.
 - Lack of statewide requirements to disclose information about flood history at the time of sale.
 - Potential solution: Enact statewide policy or provide model policy that could be adopted locally to require disclosure of previous flood history on seller's statements (e.g., identifying any previous flood history or National Flood Insurance Program requirements related to prior events).
- 3.** Work with the Nebraska Attorney General, relevant professional associations (e.g., Nebraska State Home Builders Association), and University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to:
- Identify additional regulatory hurdles and potential solutions.
 - Determine which solutions should be prioritized for further research. As part of the decision about prioritization, consider which policies or waivers would impact local revenue sources and the potential impact to disaster recovery.
- 4.** Based on these collaborative research findings, determine which policy amendments should be made, if any, and how to structure the policies so that they are effective during emergencies. For instance, should certain waivers be tied to a governor's declaration of a state of emergency?



5. Partner with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and the Attorney General's Office to capture outcomes of the assessment in an official document, before presenting findings to the Office of the Governor.

Within five years of the disasters...

6. With the governor's approval, partner with the Nebraska Attorney General to coordinate across state agencies to enact policy changes.
7. Coordinate with the Office of the Governor to publicize policy changes to those that will be impacted.

Within ten years of the disasters...

8. Create a formal monitoring mechanism (e.g., a research partnership with state colleges and universities) that will help monitor adverse impacts after the policies are enacted. If adverse impacts to public safety, the environment, or the state's overall resilience are identified, the policies should be revised.
9. Consider, if any temporary policies are enacted for a disaster, whether they should be made permanent (i.e., applicable at all times, not only during emergencies).
10. Confirm that the state is comfortable accepting the level of risk associated with potential adverse impacts of policy changes by researching and evaluating potential consequences prior to implementation.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy requires long-term commitment from multiple senior-level staff, preferably those with policy experience. This strategy will analyze a robust array of policies for potential response hindrance, collaborate with policy stakeholders around the state (e.g., Local Impacts Group, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, Attorney General, etc.), and implement solutions to policy barriers. This strategy is unlikely to require expenses apart from staffing.



❗ Strategy 8.2

Build capacity to navigate regulatory hurdles that cannot or should not be amended through policy changes.

Lead:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

Partners:

- American Planning Association of Nebraska
- Disaster Assistance Training Nebraska
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Nebraska
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Nebraska Attorney General
- Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts
- Nebraska Planning and Zoning Administration
- Office of the Governor
- Professional Associations (e.g., Nebraska State Home Builders Association)
- State Fire Marshal
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Description

Some policies cannot be amended to expedite recovery without risks to public health, safety, or the environment. In these instances, it may be more beneficial to identify resources, tools, or processes that can help state officials and local government partners navigate these processes more efficiently. This strategy is intended to grow the capacity statewide to work within the existing regulatory environment to support response and recovery.

See *Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.7.5, pages 101–102, for more information.*

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. In coordination with the Local Impacts Group, catalog regulatory hurdles that previously impeded (or are likely to impede) disaster response and recovery.
 - If this has already been completed, use those findings to avoid duplicating efforts.
 - Refer to *Cross-Cutting Strategy 8.1* for a list of regulatory hurdles and potential solutions that have already been identified by the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery.
2. Identify or develop resources and trainings for state and local government officials that can explain the justification behind regulatory requirements and any disaster-related exemptions or requirements.
3. Using the process outlined in *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.1*, catalog the identified resources and house them on the state's designated information clearinghouse resource so they can be accessed statewide.
4. Identify opportunities to include regulatory trainings in the state's multi-year training and exercise plan, and regularly invite state and local government partners to attend.
 - Host discussion-based exercises (e.g., seminars, tabletop exercises) to learn how state agencies previously made ad-hoc arrangements during disasters and teach participants how to navigate regulatory challenges.
 - Use training and exercises to identify where additional resources (e.g., job aid checklists, manuals, standard operating procedures) are necessary to build personnel capacity and understanding of regulatory challenges. Partner with state and local government organizations to develop these resources.



Measures of Success:

- One training event or exercise is held by December 2020.
- 20 officials attend the offered training or exercise.
- Resources explaining regulatory requirements or justifications are identified by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- State/Local Budget

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (6/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society (0/14)

Within three years of the disasters...

5. Coordinate with state and local officials to identify actions they can take to increase staffing capacity over time, whether through contracting, mutual aid, or hiring additional full-time staff.
6. Identify additional training needs and resources on an annual basis.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require temporary full-time commitment from senior-level staff, preferably those with policy experience, with the potential for temporary contracted support. This strategy will analyze a robust array of policies for potential response hindrance, develop resources to train local officials in justifying such policies, and coordinate with state and local officials to identify actions they can take to increase staffing capacity over time. Costs associated with implementation can be lowered if informational resources are developed and disseminated virtually, rather than via print.



4.2 Infrastructure Systems

The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with infrastructure systems recovery and resilience-building. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by members and partners associated with the Nebraska Infrastructure Systems Recovery Support Function.

Goal:

Support the efficient assessment, restoration, and revitalization of infrastructure systems (including, but not limited to, roads, highways, dams, bridges, railways, tunnels, public drinking water systems, wastewater systems, sewer systems, electric generating facilities and transmission, fuel storage and associated pipelines, septic tanks, and levees).

Overview

 High Priority Items

Objective 1:

Support and work alongside federal, state, and local partners to rebuild and repair disaster-affected infrastructure in ways that reduce future vulnerability.

 **STRATEGY 1.1**

Leverage available funding programs to support mitigation measures that reduce future risk to infrastructure statewide while increasing local capacity to do the same in the future.

 **STRATEGY 1.2**

Evaluate and address drinking water and wastewater needs, impacts, and issues.

 **STRATEGY 1.3**

Continue to address restoration of flood control works.

STRATEGY 1.4

Identify remaining roads in need of repair, prioritize amongst those needing repair, and seek opportunities to address challenges (e.g., funding gaps, lack of contractors).



Objective 2:

Prepare for future flooding or other damaging disasters.

1 STRATEGY 2.1

Promote infrastructure resilience at the local level by providing education and technical assistance to build awareness of best practices.

STRATEGY 2.2

Assess critical infrastructure vulnerability to identify priorities for mitigation or relocation that will make vulnerable infrastructure less susceptible to damage during future disasters.

STRATEGY 2.3

Develop policies and procedures to increase the efficiency of response and recovery and effectively prioritize resources.

STRATEGY 2.4

Work with stakeholders and the state to manage, track, and identify gaps in supplies and materials for infrastructure repair projects before, during, and after disasters.

STRATEGY 2.5

Evaluate state capacity to manage debris removal.

STRATEGY 2.6

Develop and implement joint, interagency damage assessment teams.

STRATEGY 2.7

Evaluate opportunities to implement electrical upgrades (e.g., self-sufficient microgrids).





Objective 1: Support and work alongside federal, state, and local partners to rebuild and repair disaster-affected infrastructure in ways that reduce future vulnerability.

Strategy 1.1

Leverage available funding programs to support mitigation measures that reduce future risk to infrastructure statewide while increasing local capacity to do the same in the future.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Hazard Mitigation Task Force
- Silver Jackets
- University of Nebraska Extension
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

Measures of Success:

- Draft list of all funding opportunities for mitigation projects by March 2021.
- Work with key state officials and partners to develop ranking system that determines medium- to high-risk infrastructure for prioritization by December 2020.
- Complete infrastructure prioritization ranking by June 2021.

Description

Several funding programs (e.g., Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) can be utilized for mitigation to support infrastructure repair projects. At the time this plan was finalized, the state anticipated \$50.5 million in funding through Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program associated with the 2019 disasters. The state has prioritized a list of potential mitigation projects to use those funds (and others, as available) to reduce risk and help increase the state’s resilience to future disasters. By providing technical assistance and support to communities that are overwhelmed with disaster recovery, the state may be able to help identify more innovative and impactful mitigation measures, regardless of the impacted community’s capacity level.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3, page 26 and Section 2.7, pages 95–102 for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Work with local governments to collaboratively assess infrastructure gaps to better leverage all available funding sources to meet local needs.
 - Engage with local governments and state agencies to prioritize and distribute disaster recovery funds that can support repairs and hazard mitigation.
2. Coordinate with Governor’s Task Force for Mitigation to support development of projects and allocation of funding for prioritized infrastructure mitigation sites.
 - Work with local government to identify and prioritize resources and technical support for new or improved infrastructure development within those communities that were hit hardest.
3. Continue coordinating with local communities to provide guidance and technical assistance on applications submitted (or under development) for hazard mitigation funding associated with the 2019 disasters:
 - Host webinars providing a basic overview of Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (e.g., Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities).
 - Organize trainings to provide instruction and best practices on application development.
 - Develop and distribute frequently asked questions resources/handouts.



Measures of Success (Cont.):

- Engage with local government and state agencies to develop plan to move forward with mitigation of selected high-risk infrastructure by December 2021.
- Work with key agencies and partners to identify objectives and develop training documents for two webinars to provide overview of hazard mitigation and resilience-building best practices by December 2020.
- Reach out to community leaders, utility directors and all other key individuals to promote free training at least four weeks in advance of webinar.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- Community Development Block Grants–Disaster Recovery
- Community Development Block Grants
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Public Assistance
- Rehabilitation and Inspection Program
- Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects

- Identify a state email, phone line, or other resource that can be dedicated to programmatic questions from local communities.

4. Once projects have been selected for the current round of funding, consider developing a handout summarizing thematic flaws in applications across the state, intended to raise awareness about why projects were denied, and how applicants can improve their applications in the future.
5. Promote the use of Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery funds to support local match requirements for infrastructure recovery and mitigation projects to the extent possible and within the context of larger programmatic rules (e.g., requirements to focus spending in “most impacted and distressed” areas).

Within five years of the disasters...

6. Collect and utilize accurate, timely flood mapping, geographic information system capabilities, and disaster impact data to identify and evaluate opportunities to relocate or elevate critical infrastructure facilities out of or above at-risk areas. Coordinate with the University of Nebraska to assist with data-gathering and research.
7. Continue building the state’s administrative and technical capacity to support program execution:
 - Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Region VII to organize training on the latest Federal Emergency Management Agency Application Review Tool.
 - Identify administration and grant management courses for state personnel to attend to continue learning policies, regulations, and requirements (e.g., training on procurement).
 - Identify trainings, courses, and conferences for state personnel to attend to continue expanding their understanding of mitigation project types, eligibility, and how to align projects with federal funding.
8. Deliver guidance and technical assistance to help local communities identify viable projects before disasters through the hazard mitigation planning process:
 - Identify case studies that highlight infrastructure mitigation projects that have worked in Nebraska and neighboring states to share with local officials.
 - Provide guidance on strategic programmatic goals to help inform project identification at the local level.
 - Partner with the Nebraska Silver Jackets, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to develop robust guidance for local governments about hazard mitigation.

Implementation Considerations

The state has already brought on temporary surge support to help address some of the tactics in this strategy. Concurrently, the state has secured additional full-time personnel in support of hazard mitigation efforts



Resilience-Building Value:

- Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
- Infrastructure & Ecosystems (9/13)
- Health & Wellbeing (6/14)
- Economy & Society..... (4/14)

suggesting that an increase in current staffing capacity is not necessary at this time. This strategy will require the use of webinar technology, a designated state email for inquiries, and other resources. Some state agencies already have designated webinar platforms. Even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide a source of funding to meet grant matching requirements.



❗ Strategy 1.2

Evaluate and address drinking water and wastewater needs, impacts, and issues at state, community, and individual levels.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Office of the Governor

Description

Drinking water and wastewater systems were significantly disrupted by the 2019 disasters, with 51 public water systems experiencing negative disaster impacts (e.g., extensive damage, shutoffs) across the state. Additionally, 81 wastewater treatment facilities were affected by the 2019 disasters. After the flooding, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy found that floodwaters carried harmful bacteria (e.g., coliform and *E. coli*) into wells. Although the state monitors the damage and contamination (e.g., bacteria and parasites) of public water systems, it typically has a limited role in monitoring private wells (beyond testing submitted samples in the state-run laboratory). While funding opportunities exist for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure repair (e.g. State Revolving Loan Fund), there is a need to evaluate and address drinking water and wastewater challenges exposed during the 2019 disasters to enhance the resilience of the state.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3.6.2, pages 39–41, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Engage local officials to assess drinking water and wastewater needs, impacts, and issues related to the 2019 and future disasters.
2. Locate and leverage federal, state, and local grant programs, low-interest loans, and other funding sources (e.g., State Revolving Loan Fund) to meet financial gaps and unmet needs and compile them on a public website (e.g., Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy).
3. Create a formal record of the services provided to supplement well water testing after the 2019 disasters, to include information and guidance on overcoming any challenges and lessons learned in the event the state needs to support well water testing in the future.

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Research the viability of regionalizing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems. Consider the potential resilience tradeoffs of creating regional systems.
 - Publish research findings from the previous tactic in an official report or memorandum.
 - Present the findings to the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery and the Local Impacts Group
 - state partners, to begin developing an implementation strategy and timeline.



Measures of Success:

- Engage local government staff from more than 50% of communities impacted by 2019 disasters by December 2020.
- Present research on the viability of regionalizing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems to the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery by June 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund
- Community Development Block Grant
- Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund
- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects
- Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program
- Water Sustainability Fund

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (5/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (3/14)
 Economy & Society (5/14)

- To leverage Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, include the project in the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan*.
- Identify and secure necessary resources to complete necessary upgrades or changes to water infrastructure to regionalize services, adhering to state and federal contracting/procurement guidance.
- Regularly report and record progress until completion.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may require an increase in current staffing capacity. This strategy requires collaboration with local government officials, identification and compilation of funding resources for water-specific needs, documentation of well water testing practices, and extensive research about the viability of regionalizing drinking and wastewater systems. Significant enhancements to drinking water infrastructure would likely require extensive, long-term investments.



Strategy 1.3

Continue to address restoration of flood control works.

Partners:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service

Description

Damage to water control facilities related to the 2019 disasters was extensive. Dams, levees, and other flood control works were breached, overtopped, or otherwise compromised. However, the full extent of damage to water control facilities in the state is not yet known. Progress has been made on restoration of flood control works (at the time of this plan's development, the United States Army Corps of Engineers awarded 17 different contracts related to repairs to levee systems) but the entire system has not yet been fully repaired.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3.4, pages 35–37, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with federal partners, including the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to identify authority and funding for repairs.
2. Of the flood control works identified for repair and improvement, determine which should be prioritized so they are addressed first.
3. Create informational materials to teach farmers how to take individual-level actions to mitigate flood risk (e.g., importance of maintaining safe distance between plantings and flood control structures).

Ongoing – Within five years of the disasters...

4. Identify opportunities to use non-structural measures to reduce flood risk in vulnerable areas. When non-structural measures are not feasible, identify and implement new or additional flood control measures to reduce risk, partnering with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to identify funding sources. Consider specifically how the state can begin to resolve or address vulnerabilities of privately developed or maintained levees based on the information collected.



Measures of Success:

- Preliminary database of flood control works is compiled and published.
- Informational materials for farmers are developed and publicized.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant
- Emergency Advance Measures for Flood Prevention
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Rehabilitation and Inspection Program
- Water Sustainability Fund

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(10/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(4/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(2/14)
Economy & Society.....	(4/14)

Within five years of the disasters...

5. Develop comprehensive database of flood control works, in partnership with local government officials, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.
 - Evaluate the feasibility of developing an incentive program that would encourage farmers and ranchers to share information about privately constructed water control facilities on agricultural lands. When identifying potential incentives, consider the implications for local revenue streams to minimize impact to local governments engaged in active recovery from the floods and COVID-19.
 - Consider partnering with trusted agricultural entities (e.g., Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association, Nebraska Farm Bureau, University of Nebraska Extension) to engage the agricultural community.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may require an increase in current staffing capacity, from mid- to senior-level staff. This strategy identifies flood control works in need of repair, prioritizes repairs, develops informational material for farmers about flood mitigation, identifies methods of flood mitigation without infrastructure development, and develops a comprehensive list of flood control works. This strategy may require costs in informational material development and staffing. Funding for critical flood control works projects may be supplied by a federal partner, if they possess authorization or responsibility for the flood control works (e.g. United States Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency), but state and local governments may still need to contribute a non-federal share to remain eligible for funding.



❗ Strategy 1.4

Identify remaining roads in need of repair, prioritize those needing repair, and seek opportunities to address challenges (e.g., funding gaps, lack of contractors).

Partners:

- Nebraska Association of County Engineers, County Highway Superintendents, and County Surveyors
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Description

The repair of the state highway system was a key priority after the 2019 disasters. At the time the Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report was completed, local communities were still in process of assessing damage and implementing repairs to return to normal after the disasters, though significant progress had been made toward the restoration of the state highway system. The state is actively working with local communities to address infrastructure recovery needs (particularly for roads and bridges) by providing support conducting damage assessments and confirming eligibility of road and bridge segments. This strategy is intended to promote continued efforts to restore and harden road systems across the state.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3.3.2, page 34, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Continue working with impacted local communities to identify and repair local roads damaged during the disaster.
2. Determine which of these are eligible for Federal Highway Administration funding versus those that are eligible for Public Assistance or must be shouldered by the impacted community.
3. In partnership with the impacted communities, determine how to appropriately layer funding to address as many local needs as possible through available federal funding.
4. Create a strategy for prioritizing and distributing funding to impacted areas and supplementing funding to areas that are likely to still face funding gaps even after aid has been distributed.

Ongoing – Within five years of disasters...

5. Continue working as a group to identify challenges that arise and develop potential solutions to help coordinate the provision of resources to impacted local communities. For instance:
 - There is an ongoing need for contractor support that will likely be compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. By leveraging the expertise of this working group, the state could explore opportunities to help local governments meet this need (e.g., by providing technical assistance to support group purchasing arrangements to secure contract support).



Measures of Success:

- Establish comprehensive catalog detailing which roads are eligible for Federal Highway Administration or Public Assistance funding.
- Finalize a strategy for prioritizing and distributing funding.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
- Federal Highway Administration – Emergency Relief
- Public Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (6/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society..... (4/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy is unlikely to require new staffing additions. This strategy identifies remaining roads in need of repair across the State of Nebraska, determines which of those roads are eligible for Federal Highway Administration or Public Assistance funding, establishes partnership with local communities to assist in funding acquisition, and forms an ongoing work group to address continuous needs. Even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide a source of funding to meet grant matching requirements.



Objective 2: Prepare for future flooding or other damaging disasters.

Strategy 2.1

Promote infrastructure resilience at the local level by providing education and technical assistance to build awareness of best practices.

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Silver Jackets
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

Description

Some local communities lack expertise, detailed plans, and/or personnel necessary to support sustained long-term recovery activities and resilience-building related to infrastructure systems. This strategy is intended to help build capacity in these areas, empowering local leaders to enact infrastructure resilience-building activities within their own communities, with minimal support from the state.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.7.1, pages 95–96, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Identify training topics that could be beneficial for local officials to learn about, as informed by response and recovery from previous disasters. Potential topics may include:
 - The difference between infrastructure recovery under United States Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief and Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance programs.
 - Efficient collection and/or maintenance of documentation to support reimbursement under federal programs.
 - Best practices related to debris management while avoiding ineligible activity.
 - Best practices for identifying/selecting hazard mitigation projects that are likely to be selected for their alignment to state priorities.
 - Best practices for documenting sufficient maintenance of infrastructure systems.
 - Considerations for long-range planning (e.g., capital improvement project identification) that will promote resilience.
2. Develop an approach for scheduling/organizing training events based on capacity and interest levels. For instance, virtual webinars are less time-consuming, but in-person trainings are more effective for complex topics where participants are likely to have questions. Determine whether there are any specific communities that need targeted guidance in a particular subject area.
3. Set a schedule for conducting training events and publicize upcoming events via email, state websites, and/or word-of-mouth to promote attendance.



Measures of Success:

- Support at least two virtual or in-person training events prior to the Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities application period, which opens in late 2020.
- Disseminate at least one relevant handbook and/or resource guide by June 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (10/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(4/14)
 Economy & Society(6/14)

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Execute training events, keeping record of the number of attendees, and using surveys to evaluate comprehension upon conclusion of the event. Consider using surveys to identify future topics for training.
5. Develop handbooks and/or resource guides detailing best practices, protocols, and program requirements for local communities and organizations.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be executed by permanent part-time mid-level staff; this strategy will not require an increase in staffing. This strategy requires the identification of response and recovery training topics, the facilitation of training events, marketing for events, and the development of educational materials. This strategy will likely accrue minor costs associated with the development of educational materials and potentially the cost of video conferencing software (if not already in possession, or if capacity needs to be increased).



Strategy 2.2

Assess critical infrastructure vulnerability to identify priorities for mitigation or relocation that will make vulnerable infrastructure less susceptible to damage during future disasters.

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

Description

To help the state better prepare for future disasters, a series of activities can be undertaken through the state's ongoing preparedness and mitigation programs. For instance, the 2020 update of the state's Hazard Mitigation Plan (undertaken through an existing state program), will assess risk posed by natural hazards statewide and identify strategies to reduce future risk to state-owned assets, including critical infrastructure. Additional efforts to study and understand risk to critical infrastructure can not only mitigate the effects of future disasters but also support more efficient restoration and enhancements in the future.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3, pages 26–41, and 2.7, pages 95–102, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Develop a universal, statewide interagency definition of critical infrastructure.
2. Identify key infrastructure susceptible to damage during future disasters that is not currently being considered for repair or improvement under existing disaster recovery funds. Consider the entire universe of infrastructure assets, not just those impacted in the 2019 disasters.
3. Collaborate with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and Governor's Mitigation Task Force to identify and develop potential critical infrastructure mitigation projects that should be included in the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan* (so they can be fast-tracked for funding should the state receive a presidential disaster declaration in the future).

Within two years of the disasters...

4. Collect and utilize accurate, timely flood mapping, geographic information systems capabilities, and disaster impact data as a means to identify potential mitigation projects.
5. Develop a strategy for prioritizing these projects for mitigation when funding is available in the future. When developing the prioritized list of projects, consider:
 - Timelines, resource needs, and capacity requirements for stakeholders throughout each stage of application development, review, and revisions;
 - Likelihood of the asset being impacted by a future disaster (e.g., where were there "close calls?");



Measures of Success:

- Establish and publicize a statewide definition of critical infrastructure.
- Develop a list of key transportation routes for critical infrastructure.
- Solicit input from the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery in updating critical infrastructure mitigation project priorities in *State Hazard Mitigation Plan* updates.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant
- Federal Highway Administration – Emergency Relief
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems(8/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(7/14)
 Economy & Society(5/14)

- Assets that are newly susceptible to risk due to changing patterns of use post-disaster;
- Anticipated long-term changes (e.g., outmigration, slowed development);
- Cost of mitigation and value of reduced risk over the useful life of facilities;
- Alignment with available federal funding sources;
- Likelihood of projects being implemented with funding from other sources; and
- Potential economic benefit for the state economy.

6. Coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Transportation to develop a list of key transportation routes providing access to critical infrastructure to prioritize for mitigation and repairs following future disasters.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy is unlikely to require an increase in staffing capacity. This strategy requires development of a universal definition of critical infrastructure, identification of susceptible infrastructure, identification of projects to be added to the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, and the development of a prioritization method for projects. This preliminary assessment may not require additional funding to implement aside from time contributed by existing staff but may also identify the need for more detailed or comprehensive studies or assessments.



Strategy 2.3

Develop policies and procedures to increase the efficiency of response and recovery and effectively prioritize resources.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Measures of Success:

- Establish “living” database of infrastructure systems.
- Utilize more than 90% of funding streams available to support infrastructure repairs following future presidentially declared disasters.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Performance Grant
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(7/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(11/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(5/14)
Economy & Society	(5/14)

Description

The 2019 disasters revealed challenges monitoring the status of some infrastructure repairs (e.g., lack of comprehensive data about privately built levees), which complicated infrastructure recovery efforts that resulted in delayed infrastructure response and recovery. Identifying vulnerabilities that may impede response activities is vital to continued resilience-building throughout the state.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3.1, pages 27–28 for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. During disasters, leverage the lifeline approach to broadly prioritize efforts across sectors, and use the database to identify specific needs within the impacted Community Lifeline.
 - Note: another infrastructure strategy (*Infrastructure Strategy 2.2*) calls for the establishment of a universal, statewide interagency definition of critical infrastructure. This should be considered as it relates to infrastructure response and recovery prioritization.
2. As the event continues and transitions out of response and into long-term recovery, coordinate across state partners overseeing funding streams to prioritize eligible infrastructure repairs, leverage available funds for match or repairs, while minimizing duplication of benefits.
3. Coordinate with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, and Nebraska Department of Transportation to prioritize recovery of specific assets within a Community Lifeline.
4. Develop and maintain an accurate database of infrastructure systems, to the extent possible (e.g., locations of private levees may not be included). Consider each asset’s connection to the Community Lifelines (as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by mid- or senior-level staff. During disasters, this strategy will likely turn into a full-time commitment. This strategy entails the prioritization of response efforts cross-sector, coordination with state partners responsible for funding streams, and the development of an infrastructure systems database. This strategy will not likely require costs other than staffing.



Strategy 2.4

Work with stakeholders and the state to manage, track, and identify gaps in supplies and materials for infrastructure repair projects before, during, and after disasters.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Description

After the 2019 disasters, supply chain interruptions made it challenging to acquire raw materials and to move raw materials from storage. Lack of raw materials delayed rebuilding and repairing of infrastructure (e.g., roads) leaving it susceptible to additional damage, as well as hindering recovery in other sectors (e.g., agriculture and economy). This strategy is intended to promote pre-disaster coordination and staging that may help improve access to raw materials post-disaster.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3.3.2, page 34, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Develop a list of raw materials providers in the state that can provide essential resources such as rock, lumber, and concrete and include it in Knowledge Center (i.e., software platform used at the State Emergency Operations Center).
2. Consider engaging these providers ahead of time to determine whether the state can procure a portion of raw materials pre-disaster that can then be distributed to the most impacted communities. Consider the cost and longevity of keeping these items in storage, in the event the state's next disaster is several years away.
3. As a state, engage with other states, especially those outside of the immediate regional area, to evaluate opportunities for resource-sharing or agreements to quickly deploy or acquire resources during a disaster.
4. Develop and/or distribute guidance to local governments suggesting they leverage pre-disaster contracts and mutual aid agreements to secure materials necessary for response and recovery.

During response...

5. During disaster response, coordinate with infrastructure partners to identify gaps or shortages of resources and collaboratively address resource shortages or supply chain interruptions.

Within one year of the state's next natural disaster...

6. In the future, after disasters, revisit policies and agreements related to acquisition of raw materials and determine whether any amendments should be made.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may require a permanent full-time mid-level staff member, preferably a staff member with supply chain management or contract writing experience. This strategy develops a list of raw materials, coordinates with



Measures of Success:

- Develop list of raw material providers and add it in Knowledge Center.
- Begin distributing guidance regarding pre-disaster contracts and mutual aid agreements.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Advance Measures for Flood Prevention
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....(6/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....(4/13)
 Health & Wellbeing.....(3/14)
 Economy & Society.....(5/14)

raw material providers, develops guidance for local governments, and continued amendment of raw material agreements. If materials are acquired prior to a disaster, there will be costs associated with the acquisition, storage, and staging of raw materials. If materials are acquired after a disaster, there will be costs associated with acquisition and staging (storage costs may be eliminated or reduced).



Strategy 2.5

Evaluate state capacity to manage debris removal.

Partners:

- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Measures of Success:

- Complete assessment of existing capacity and identify opportunities for improvement.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant

Resources:

- Environmental Protection Agency's "Planning for Disaster Debris" guide

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(6/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(5/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(3/14)
Economy & Society	(3/14)

Description

The 2019 disasters warranted unprecedented debris removal (e.g., animal carcasses, sand, silt) requiring direct involvement of state agencies. The state's involvement was required because of the types of debris that were generated—animal carcasses and other hazardous materials were removed after the 2019 disasters through a coordinated effort of state and federal partners. As the state looks to build its capacity to recover from future disasters, understanding its capacity to manage debris removal is an important next step.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.1, pages 19–20, and Section 2.5.2.2, pages 71–72, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to perform a basic assessment of the state's capacity to manage debris generated as a result of emergencies. Consider the unique requirements or considerations surrounding the following:
 - Animal carcasses;
 - Hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos);
 - Extensive amounts of assorted debris (e.g., from homes destroyed in a tornado); and
 - Marine debris.
2. Identify potential pain points, where additional capacity is necessary to efficiently dispose of debris while maintaining documentation needed to claim reimbursement through federal programs.

Within five years of the disasters...

3. If state or local personnel require additional knowledge or training, organize an event (or series of events) to provide the required training.
4. Consider updating the state's debris management plan and submitting it for review with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to create opportunities for additional funding post-disaster.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require part-time commitment from mid-level staff. This strategy assesses the state's ability to remove debris, identifies pain points of debris removal, attempts to acquire federal funding for debris removal, and hosts an event (or a series) for local and state personnel. There may be costs associated with the training event or events, should it be determined necessary. Facilitating a virtual training may require virtual conferencing software, which can range from \$20-\$25 per month. It may be cost efficient to utilize a free ticketing platform, like Eventbrite, to oversee the registration process.



Strategy 2.6

Develop and implement joint, interagency damage assessment teams.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska State Electrical Division – State Electrical Inspectors

Description

Infrastructure repairs may be eligible for reimbursement under multiple federal assistance programs, each with varied damage assessment processes. By proactively identifying the requirements of each of the major programs and conducting a single, comprehensive assessment, the state can streamline the damage assessment process and help reduce duplicative efforts. This strategy promotes the efficient assessment and prioritization of infrastructure repairs while helping the state seek reimbursement through the correct federal funding program.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3, page 26, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Determine the necessary components of damage assessments, noting any distinct differences between assessments for each program (e.g., Public Assistance and Federal Highway Administration – Emergency Relief Fund) for situational awareness.

Within three years of the disasters...

2. Develop a standard operating procedure describing the necessary steps to assess infrastructure damage, and to quickly determine eligibility for an appropriate program. Consider details, such as:
 - Best practices;
 - Personnel assigned to assessment teams;
 - Equipment needed (e.g., cameras, vehicles, laptops);
 - Designated staging areas;
 - Route mapping; and
 - Necessary documentation or forms.

3. Validate the standard operating procedure with key partners to capture important aspects of each process.

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Organize a training event to teach personnel the new procedure. Record any feedback on the process that should be amended.

Within one year of the state's next damage-generating disaster...

5. Modify the procedure and employ during the next disaster.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require part-time commitment from mid-level staff or temporary contracted support. This strategy will also require the development of inter-agency damage assessment teams, so on-call commitment of trained internal staff from various agencies will be required. This strategy determines the necessary components of damage



Measures of Success:

- Draft Standard Operating Procedure is provided to key state agencies for review by December 2020.
- Corresponding federal program validates and approves of Standard Operating Procedure by June 2021.
- Fifty percent of key personnel from each state agency is trained on the new process by December 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society (2/14)

assessments, develops standard operating procedures to assess infrastructure damage, and organizes training to teach selected personnel new standard operating procedures. There will likely be variable travel costs absorbed by involved agencies (in order to send personnel to infrastructure for assessment), as well as costs associated with training and development of standardized procedures. If a third-party is used, development of the operating procedure and training could range from \$50,000-75,000 depending on the size of the group involved and receiving the training.



Strategy 2.7

Evaluate opportunities to implement electrical upgrades (e.g., self-sufficient microgrids).

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Public Power Districts

Description

Microgrids can help to increase the resilience of the energy sector by minimizing the impacts of disruptions to localized areas by operating independently from the power system (i.e., off-grid), creating a self-sufficient system. Implementing microgrids could help secure and harden utility across the state, further improving Nebraska's electrical resilience.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.3.6.1, pages 38–39, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Engage the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery and other stakeholders in a preliminary conversation about the viability of implementing major electrical upgrades (such as microgrids). Some considerations for this initial discussion include:
 - Have any communities expressed an interest in this technology?
 - What would an upgrade like this cost?
 - Where should use of this technology be prioritized or piloted (e.g., critical connecting fire, police, or municipal buildings)?

Within three years of the disasters...

2. If there is an interest from state leadership, develop a strategy to conduct outreach to potential pilot communities to gauge interest in piloting some innovative approaches to electrical resilience-building. If a substantial number of communities are interested, consider establishing a formal application process based on criteria that could predict the jurisdiction's capacity to secure funding and/or execute the project.
3. Select jurisdictions to pilot innovative electrical upgrades based on the established criteria. Provide technical assistance, to the extent possible, to help them prepare their funding applications (if applicable) and develop an implementation schedule and procurement of design and construction.

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Maintain contact with the implementing jurisdiction(s) to understand progress and understand challenges that arise. Note that any deviation from agreed upon scopes of work will need to be supported with documentation and properly vetted with the funding agency (if applicable).
5. Upon completion of the pilot effort, develop a report in coordination with the pilot communities that summarizes:
 - The purpose of and need for the effort;



Measures of Success:

- Evaluate the viability and interest in implementing major electrical upgrades across the state.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Federal Investment and Production Tax Credits
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- State Energy Bonds or Tax Credit Programs

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(7/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(4/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(2/14)
Economy & Society.....	(4/14)

- The value of implementing these types of upgrades (i.e., how they promote resilience and will minimize disruptions during future events);
- The funding sources used and/or funding sources available to interested communities;
- Necessary or recommended indicators of local capacity (prior to undertaking an effort similar to this one); and
- Major challenges encountered during the design and implementation process (and their solutions).

6. Publicize the report and encourage other interested communities to undertake similar efforts.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require permanent full-time commitment from mid-to senior-level staff for multiple years. The staff member will be responsible for collaboration with the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery on the viability of implementing major electrical upgrades, developing outreach strategies for potential pilot communities, developing a funding application process, ongoing support for pilot communities, and publication of the pilot communities' experiences. This strategy is likely to require significant time and cost investments associated with: assigning state personnel responsibility for oversight, evaluating sites/locations for viability for electrical upgrades, executing required technological upgrades, traveling to monitor the installment of new electrical upgrades in pilot communities, developing marketing materials, and if desired, replicating the process in other communities.

4.3 Housing



The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with housing recovery and resilience-building. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by members and partners associated with the Nebraska Housing Recovery Support Function.

Goal:

Design and implement interim, temporary, and permanent housing recovery solutions that effectively support the needs of the whole community. Return housing to a stable, resilient state and develop new opportunities for housing and neighborhood growth.

Overview

High Priority Items

Objective 1:

Restore damaged housing to ensure Nebraskans have livable (safe, secure, and sanitary) housing.

STRATEGY 1.1

Develop and implement a program to provide free or subsidized rehabilitation inspections for damaged residential properties.

STRATEGY 1.2

Identify and remedy urgent housing repair, recovery, and rehabilitation needs through coordinated use of disaster recovery resources.

STRATEGY 1.3

Establish a program to support new developments of prefabricated manufactured houses that are eligible for traditional 30-year mortgage financing without any underwriting discount.



Objective 2:

Support local housing-related mitigation, community-development, and resilience initiatives statewide.

❗ STRATEGY 2.1

Purchase, demolish, and replace homes destroyed by flooding with innovative and affordable housing types outside of known high-risk areas.

❗ STRATEGY 2.2

Create public campaigns that educate homeowners, landlords, and renters on National Flood Insurance Program requirements, emphasizing the importance of maintaining flood insurance coverage.

❗ STRATEGY 2.3

Develop post-disaster housing recovery guidance for the state and local governments.

STRATEGY 2.4

Identify and promote innovative individual and community-level mitigation measures to protect housing.

Objective 3:

Assist impacted households in obtaining temporary and/or permanent livable housing, including both displaced households and households who remain in their damaged homes.

❗ STRATEGY 3.1

Provide housing solutions that enable individuals and families to secure housing within their home communities.

STRATEGY 3.2

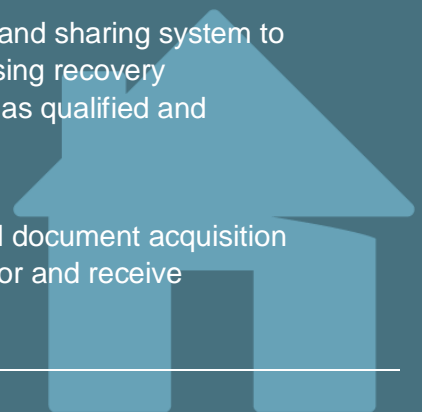
Identify affordable housing solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness (or at risk of homelessness).

Objective 4:

Develop a cross-agency, secure data and document acquisition and sharing system to target, focus, and accelerate delivery and documentation of housing recovery resources, labor, and financing to clients and projects discerned as qualified and ready to proceed.

STRATEGY 4.1

Explore the feasibility of developing a coordinated data and document acquisition and sharing system to help households more easily apply for and receive disaster housing assistance.





Objective 1: Restore damaged housing to ensure Nebraskans have livable (safe, secure, and sanitary) housing.

❗ Strategy 1.1

Develop and implement a program to provide free or subsidized rehabilitation inspections for damaged residential properties.

Leads:

- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)

Partners:

- Community Action Partnerships
- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Habitat for Humanity
- Local Impacts Group
- Long-Term Recovery Groups

Description

Many homes in the eastern part of the state were damaged during the 2019 disasters. To properly repair or rehabilitate these homes, building inspections must be performed before repairs can begin, which can slow the process of rebuilding. Guidelines for home inspections are set at the local level (by municipalities or the county) and some areas may have just a handful of employees that are qualified to perform building inspections. After a disaster, it is challenging for impacted communities to scale-up their building inspections processes to accommodate the surge in permitting needs, which can slow the overall pace of recovery. This strategy is intended to identify solutions that could increase this capacity and promote more expeditious home repairs and rehabilitation. At the time this document was published, there does not appear to be an urgent need for home inspections; this strategy is intended to build future capacity.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Work with long-term recovery groups and non-profit entities to identify challenges related to completing rehabilitation inspections for damaged residential properties.
 - Determine the primary barriers to entry for performing inspections for damaged residential properties.
 - Coordinate with non-profit entities actively providing repair and rehabilitation support to homeowners within the state to help augment existing (debris removal, cleanup, and repair) services.
 - Work to increase the availability of inspection support in the immediate future while longer-term solutions are in progress by identifying or creating incentives or programs that will help reduce the cost of performing home inspections.
 - Engage other Recovery Support Functions and the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery for assistance as additional barriers are identified.

Within four years of the disasters...

2. Pursue the following strategies to increase capacity for building inspections depending on the needs of the impacted community(ies).
 - Establish a program making state-contracted on-call inspectors available to support post-event and pre-repair inspections, as needed.



Measures of Success:

- Within 12 months of the disasters, at least 70% of known housing inspection needs have been met.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant
- Dollar and Energy Savings Loan Program
- Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program
- HOME Investment Partnerships Fund
- HOME Housing Study
- Housing Study Grant Program
- Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- State/Local Budgets

Resources:

[Larimer County, CO Remote Inspection Model](#)

[Tucson, AZ Remote Inspection Model](#)

[North Las Vegas, NV Remote Inspection Model](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (12/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (7/14)
 Economy & Society..... (5/14)

- Evaluate the existing capacity and outstanding need for building inspection services across the state to determine the scope of services that needs to be procured.
- Develop a request for proposals to solicit services to cover the intended service area and scope of work that complies with federal and state procurement regulations.
- Select a vendor and engage with them to develop a work plan based on the areas that need support.
- Implement the work plan until inspections are complete or the scope of work is completed.
- Develop online process for remote, digital home inspections. This could reduce the burden on local communities to provide robust inspection services by enabling inspectors from across the state to connect with communities in need.

3. Disseminate information to local government and community organizations about new housing inspection resources and programs.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require an increase in current staffing capacity to collaborate with long-term recovery groups, non-profit entities, and to establish a state program for free housing inspection. This need may be addressed by hiring full-time mid- or senior-level staff. This strategy will also require a cadre of state-contracted on-call inspectors available to support post-event and pre-repair inspections, as needed. This strategy will require expenses related to added staffing, hiring state-contracted on-call inspectors as needed, and the augmentation of existing (debris removal, cleanup, and repair) services offered by non-profit entities. On average, home inspections cost \$400-\$600 and contracts for stand-by support are usually structured to charge for time and materials as resources are used, with a maximum amount not to be exceeded.

**Strategy 1.2**

Identify and remedy urgent housing repair, recovery, and rehabilitation needs through coordinated use of disaster recovery resources.

Leads:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Partners:

- Community Organizations Active in Disaster
- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)
- United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development
- Community Action Partnerships

Measures of Success:

- Housing Task Force is established by January 2021.
- Housing Task Force convenes once by January 2021.
- Resilient construction/repair guidance is published.
- Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery housing funding is fully utilized within six years of Action Plan approval.
- Guidance on resilient construction is developed by March 2022.

Description

Though Federal Emergency Management Agency Individual Assistance Program funds were available to many residents whose homes were damaged, many applicants were denied or did not receive enough assistance to complete repairs. Applications for housing assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance Program indicated that roughly 56% of applicants were inhabiting damaged dwellings at the time of the application. At the same time, some residents are faced with the decision to rebuild in an area with known risks of flooding, and some are attempting to relocate to less hazardous areas. Many Nebraskans can benefit from additional assistance (e.g., physical, financial, or administrative assistance) to initiate and complete repairs.

As of July 2020, more than \$12.2 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds has been prioritized for demolition and acquisition projects to remove homes and other structures from hazardous areas, representing more than 25% of the total funds allocated to the state through Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for DR-4420.

This strategy is intended to help address the urgent housing needs of Nebraskans across the state by maximizing available programs, funding, and capacity for both owner- and renter-occupied housing units affected by natural disasters.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4, pages 46–47, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with the state's "Housing Task Force," a strike team intended to rapidly identify housing needs, deploy resources, and facilitate repairs, rehabilitation, and new construction in more developed and rural areas with extensive unmet housing needs.
2. In partnership with the Housing Task Force, professional organizations (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Nebraska Homebuilders Association), and interested university systems or community colleges, develop guidance for promoting increased resilience through sustainable building practices and the use of resilient materials.

Within six years of the disasters...

3. Leverage the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Relief program to design and implement housing support programs that will empower local governments, non-profit entities, and community organizations

**Potential Funding Sources:**

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
- Dollar & Energy Savings Loan Program
- Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program
- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- HOME Investment Partnerships Fund
- Homebuyer Loan Programs
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and Nebraska Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program
- Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Housing Study Grant Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Rural Community Development Initiative
- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program
- Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants
- Small Business Administration Disaster Loans

Resources:

State of Nebraska Recovery Action Plan

State Hazard Mitigation Plan

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....(6/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems.....(1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(4/14)
 Economy & Society.....(6/14)

to support repairs and rehabilitation of damaged housing for renters and owners.

4. Continue promoting housing assistance programs (e.g., Homebuyers Assistance Program, First Home Program) that pre-date the 2019 disasters to restore and enhance the state's housing stock available to renters and owners.
5. Work with local government and community leaders in rural areas to identify homes with rehabilitation needs that can undergo repairs on similar timeframes to attract contractors, prioritizing repairs in heavily impacted areas first.
6. Coordinate with Community Organizations Active in Disaster and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster at both the state and local level to serve as a conduit connecting external volunteers and volunteer organizations to areas in need of reconstruction or repair support, prioritizing repairs in heavily impacted areas first.
7. Identify opportunities for Community Organizations Active in Disaster to take on increased responsibility working with community members in rural areas to improve access to contractor and other housing resources beyond recovery activities.
8. Engage volunteer organizations and philanthropy groups to identify opportunities for sustained volunteering and donations during the pre-disaster (i.e., preparedness) phase to prime them for appropriate and sustained interventions during the post-disaster recovery phase.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require temporary full-time commitment from a mid-level staff member, which could be augmented with temporary contracted support. The staff member will need to collaborate with the state's "Housing Task Force" and other partners (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Nebraska Homebuilders Association). The strategy also requires leveraging grant funding to fund housing support programs, promotion of housing assistance programs, the identification of damaged housing in rural areas, and collaboration with volunteer organizations. Executing this strategy completely will require significant investments of time and funding. This strategy leverages federal grant funding, of which the state has already received over \$12.2 million in funds for demolition and acquisition projects in 2020. However, even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide a source of funding to meet grant matching requirements, and these funds may not cover the full extent of housing repair, recovery, and rehabilitation needs.

**❗ Strategy 1.3**

Establish a program to support new developments of prefabricated manufactured houses that are eligible for traditional 30-year mortgage financing without any underwriting discount.

Lead:

- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Partners:

- American Planning Association of Nebraska
- Governor's Task for Disaster Recovery
- HomeNE Learning Network
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)
- United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

Description

With available land and requisite infrastructure in place, prefabricated manufactured homes can be purchased, transported, and set up rapidly to provide livable housing for individuals and families. However, historically these homes have not been eligible for traditional mortgage financing, thereby reducing the affordability of and increasing the barriers to homeownership for Nebraskans. While this plan was in development, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority was actively working in support of this strategy.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Provide technical assistance to support community efforts to use blight designations to support demolition and removal of irreparably damaged housing.
2. Encourage the use of tax increment financing programs to finance infrastructure development needed for the placement of new prefabricated manufactured houses in areas outside of known hazard areas.
3. Identify funding sources to subsidize mortgage payments for low-income residents to further increase affordability.

Within seven years of the disasters...

4. Track and catalog successful local efforts to establish these new developments, including lessons learned and best practices.
5. Use established learning networks, regional Economic Development Districts, conferences, trainings, and other information sharing platforms to provide examples of successful prefabricated development projects and teach others how to implement similar efforts.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require temporary full-time commitment from mid-level staff, or temporary contracted support. This strategy aids community efforts to demolish irreparably damaged housing, seeks financing for the placement of new safe prefabricated manufactured houses and sources to subsidize mortgage payments for low-income residents. Staff will also document successful efforts to establish prefabricated homes and subsidized mortgage payment programs; documentation of successful efforts will be used to train others on the implementation of similar programs.



Measures of Success:

- Ten manufactured homes financed through the program.
- One training (or other information-sharing focused) event is hosted by March 2024.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- State/Local Budgets

Resources:

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development:
[Buy, Build, or Repair a Home Programs](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (6/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (1/14)
 Economy & Society..... (7/14)

This strategy will require costs associated with establishing pre-manufactured homes and subsidization of mortgages, however, the strategy encourages the use of tax increment financing programs and the utilization of other funding sources. Leveraging relevant grants and existing state funding mechanisms, the cost of implementing this strategy may be reduced, but it may still be necessary for or local governments to contribute funding.



Objective 2: Support local housing-related mitigation, community-development, and resilience initiatives statewide.

❗ Strategy 2.1

Purchase, demolish, and replace homes destroyed by flooding with innovative and affordable housing types outside of known high-risk areas.

Leads:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Partners:

- Governor's Task Force for Hazard Mitigation
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

Description

Housing damaged by disasters and left unrepaired can rapidly become a burden to the surrounding community. Similarly, repetitive loss properties can create downstream administrative burdens for the state and local communities. This strategy is intended to increase livability and resilience of disaster-impacted communities by facilitating the removal of irreparable structures and relocation of homes out of identified hazardous areas while promoting affordable housing development in safer locations.

Tactics

Within four years of the disasters...

1. Support local community buyouts of impacted flood-prone properties from homeowners willing to voluntarily sell, leveraging Hazard Mitigation Assistance and other grant programs to remove individuals and structures from these areas.
2. Use Hazard Mitigation Workgroup Notice of Interest review process to connect proposed projects to alternate funding sources when appropriate.
3. Provide technical assistance to support community efforts to use blight designations to support demolition and removal of irreparably damaged housing.

Within six years of the disasters...

4. Leverage existing outreach and education channels to provide communities with information and technical assistance to prepare to successfully access funding (including actively-available, annual, and disaster-related sources) to buy out homes in high-hazard areas from willing sellers. This should include:
 - Helping community members understand localized natural hazard risk.
 - Supporting local, county, and regional efforts to compile lists of homeowners in high-hazard areas potentially interested in buyout programs to support future acquisition projects.
 - Providing information about programmatic requirements and assisting with funding application development, identification of local grant match sources, grant management, and project implementation.
5. Work with local governments to engage property owners in discussions about potential acquisition projects and develop lists of willing sellers.

**Measures of Success:**

- One hundred and forty homes removed from known hazard areas.
- Twenty percent of future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds are prioritized for demolition and acquisition projects.
- Ninety percent of DR-4420 funds for demolition and obligation projects are obligated within 36 months of federal fund obligation.
- Ten communities receive information about available funding programs through briefings on post-disaster grant programs.
- List of willing sellers is developed by March 2023.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
- Mortgage Insurance for Disaster Victims Section 203(H)
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (9/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems..... (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society..... (8/14)

6. Seek opportunities to marry tax incentives and other forms of financial support to encourage homeowners to voluntarily sell flood-prone properties.
7. Support effective transition for sellers to new housing through policy, education, and programs (e.g., low-income tax program that provides a mechanism for individuals to enter rent-to-own agreements when needed to reduce barriers to purchasing a new home).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require permanent full-time commitment from mid- to senior-level staff. This strategy is intended to increase livability and resilience of disaster-impacted communities by facilitating the removal of irreparable structures and relocation of homes out of identified hazardous areas while promoting affordable housing development in safer locations. Local community buyouts, demolition, and home replacement will likely be funded through recently acquired and future federal funds (e.g., DR-4420. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds). However, even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide a source of funding to meet grant matching requirements. Additional costs may also be incurred through the development of supplemental informational materials.



❶ Strategy 2.2

Create public campaigns that educate homeowners, landlords, and renters on National Flood Insurance Program requirements, emphasizing the importance of maintaining flood insurance coverage.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Partners:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Local Impacts Group
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Professional Insurance Agents of Nebraska & Iowa
- University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

Description

Homeowners and renters insurance policies typically do not cover damage resulting from flooding. While more than 400 Nebraska communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, among Individual Assistance Program applicants in 2019, fewer than 20% of homeowners and less than two percent of renters had flood insurance coverage. Raising awareness about flood risk and flood insurance can help increase understanding of insurance policies and encourage uptake of flood insurance policies.

Tactics

Annually, by December 31...

1. Conduct public outreach campaign and public relations campaign around annual National Flood Insurance Day, including:
 - Posting temporary signage in designated flood zones;
 - Targeting insurance agents by providing outreach materials from Federal Emergency Management Agency, other flood insurance carriers, and Nebraska state agencies asking agents to promote flood insurance through their communications with customers (e.g., using social media, email, website postings);
 - Holding flood insurance webinar training for insurance agents;
 - Posting on social media from state agency accounts;
 - Distributing newsletter and email outreach through Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster; and
 - Creating inserts for use in utility bills or utility newsletters.

Within three years of the disasters...

2. Send direct mailers with information about flood risk and flood insurance to residents in mapped floodways and floodplains.
3. Offer education and training for Nebraska insurance agents to meet continuing education requirements (e.g., webinar training on National Flood Insurance Day, in-person training at annual conferences and events).
4. Develop and facilitate webinars for local government officials focused on different flood insurance topics through [HomeNE Learning Network](#) and other information sharing platforms.
5. Integrate flood insurance discussions into Nebraska Investment Finance Authority lender training.



Measures of Success:

- Two percent increase in National Flood Insurance Program enrollment (over 2018 or 2019 baseline).
- One webinar for insurance agents is conducted by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(8/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(3/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(2/14)
Economy & Society	(6/14)

6. Educate residents about flood risk and flood insurance (including what is and is not covered by homeowner’s and renter’s insurance) through multiple forums such as:
 - Social media posts throughout the year;
 - Public outreach campaign around National Flood Insurance Day;
 - Offering free “aerial photographs of your property” showing floodplain boundaries at county fair booths staffed by local floodplain administrators and/or Silver Jackets representatives; and
 - Posting consumer education tools on professional websites.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require temporary part-time commitment from mid-level staff, or temporary contracted support. This strategy is intended to promote and market National Flood Insurance through insurance companies, collaboration with local officials, and public outreach campaigns. This strategy will require development of various educational resources and the distribution of information through various channels. There will be costs associated with the development of public educational resources.

The strategy suggests the development of utility bill inserts, direct mailers, newsletters, and marketing at local fairs or other events; each page of printed materials typically costs \$0.50-0.75 at a commercial printer depending on the type of paper and ink used. Marketing via social media can be done with minimal costs. For example, Facebook charges about \$0.27 per click, or \$7.19 per thousand impressions; on Facebook, you can add your total budget cap in and select your ad schedule as well. On Instagram, an ad costs about \$5 per 1,000 visitors.



❶ Strategy 2.3

Develop post-disaster housing recovery guidance for the state and local governments.

Lead:

- Legal Aid of Nebraska

Partners:

- American Planning Association of Nebraska
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Department of Insurance
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association

Description

While many state and local jurisdictions do not have disaster housing plans, they play a critical role in housing recovery. That role has only grown over time as the trend toward federally supported, state-managed, and locally executed disaster recovery continues. Developing a housing recovery plan or framework can help prepare the state and local communities to act swiftly and decisively to deploy immediate, interim, and long-term housing solutions. Developing a statewide framework would not just empower the state to navigate housing needs more efficiently but could also serve as a guide for local communities.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.7.4, pages 99–101, for more information.

Tactics

Within four years of the disasters...

1. Survey local jurisdictions and housing authorities to collect information on existing housing plans and frameworks in Nebraska.
2. Identify best practices from response plans from neighboring states and throughout the country (e.g., *San Diego County's Post-Disaster Housing Plan*).
3. Leverage the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing recovery guidance to develop a state post-disaster housing recovery framework.
 - Convene housing stakeholders as part of the planning process, such as housing authorities, non-profit entities, and developers. Partner with local governments, organizations, and stakeholders that can provide insight on the unique needs of each area of the state.
 - The strategy should reflect lessons learned during recovery from the 2019 disasters as well as any relevant findings from subsequent disasters (i.e., COVID-19 pandemic).
 - Ensure that the post-disaster strategy includes strategies to create or restore affordable housing, which will offer greater protection to the state's socially vulnerable populations.
 - Upon implementation of the strategy, consider leveraging the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority's Housing Study Grant Program to enhance understanding of housing needs in disaster-affected areas.
 - Emphasize housing mitigation projects in the state's hazard mitigation planning process, to the extent possible.



Measures of Success:

- Draft of Statewide Housing Recovery Strategy is developed by September 2022.
- Planning guidance is developed and distributed to local communities in March 2023.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Housing Study Grant Program
- State/Local Budgets

Resources:

[United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pre-Disaster Planning for Housing Recovery](#)

Nebraska Housing Impact Assessment – DR-4420

[Planning Considerations: Disaster Housing](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (9/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society..... (5/14)

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Provide technical assistance to help communities develop local housing recovery plans.
 - Create job aids, templates, examples, and other resources to support development and implementation of local housing recovery plans.
5. Disseminate resources to local governments and community organizations through existing information sharing networks (e.g., regional Economic Development Districts).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require temporary full-time commitment from mid-level staff, or temporary contracted support. This strategy requires the identification of existing housing recovery plans in local jurisdictions across Nebraska, the centralization of best practices from throughout the country, and the development of a state-wide post-disaster housing recovery framework. Once the state-wide post-disaster housing recovery framework is developed, it must be distributed to all local jurisdictions and support must be provided to help them adapt the framework. Developing a statewide housing recovery plan could range in cost from approximately \$100,000-\$125,000 depending on the level of detail in the strategy, the extent of stakeholder engagement, and means of stakeholder outreach.



Strategy 2.4

Identify and promote innovative individual and community-level mitigation measures to protect housing.

Lead:

- Legal Aid of Nebraska

Partners:

- American Planning Association of Nebraska
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Local Emergency Management Agencies
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Department of Insurance
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association

Description

Many homes in Nebraska that were damaged during the 2019 disasters were located in areas prone to flooding, but it is challenging to move vast numbers of residents out of hazardous areas with limited funding resources. Though the state is encouraging efforts to relocate away from hazardous areas, with limited funds available to support relocations, many residents cannot afford the move, while others simply do not wish to relocate. For those that do not relocate, guidance on how to mitigate future damage from flooding or other disasters can help make housing stock more resilient. This strategy is intended to help identify and promote best practices in mitigation and resilience outside of relocation.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.3, pages 53–60, for more information on housing damage and available assistance.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Contact counterparts in neighboring and nearby states (e.g., Missouri, Iowa) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to learn about innovative or effective mitigation measures implemented in other communities.
2. Develop a preliminary set of case studies documenting different types of mitigation projects that have been implemented throughout the state, including:
 - How projects were identified and developed;
 - What partners were part of project development and implementation;
 - Project costs and funding mechanisms considered or used; and
 - Challenges encountered and lessons learned.
3. Use existing communication channels to promote case studies showcasing effective mitigation measures (e.g., Mitigation Showcases developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency). This should include tailored outreach for both local jurisdiction officials and individual property owners.
 - Integrate case studies into future funding announcements to encourage more innovative mitigation projects.



Measures of Success:

- The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency holds a meeting with Missouri, Iowa, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to discuss successful mitigation measures implemented in other communities by March 2022.
- The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency updates *State Hazard Mitigation Plan* during the five-year approval window to include newly identified community strategies.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(12/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(1/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(2/14)
Economy & Society.....	(4/14)

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Review and revise mitigation strategies included in the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan* during five-year update process and annual plan reviews to document progress. Confirm that identified strategies are relevant and accurately reflect state mitigation needs.
5. Engage with local and regional mitigation plan development and update efforts to provide technical assistance in identifying and developing appropriate mitigation measures to reduce risks to housing.
6. Work with local governments to determine how and when they should engage property owners in hazard mitigation project development during the planning process.
7. Continue documenting and publicizing mitigation measures that have been prioritized, funded, and implemented over time.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require permanent part-time commitment from mid-level staff and could be supplemented through temporary contracted support. This strategy requires collaboration with external experts, consolidation of successful mitigation case studies, promotion of mitigation case studies through various communication channels, updates to the *State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, and continuous engagement in local and regional mitigation plan updates. Costs associated with this strategy may include staff time to: facilitate and participate in meetings, research best practices, and develop and promote innovative mitigation approaches using educational materials.



Objective 3: Assist impacted households in obtaining temporary and/or permanent livable housing, including both displaced households and households who remain in damaged homes.

! Strategy 3.1

Provide housing solutions that enable individuals and families to secure housing within their home communities.

Lead:

- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Partners:

- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Measures of Success:

- Ten contacts made within communities with the intent of sharing technical assistance.
- Five percent of approved low-income housing applications provided to individuals impacted by a disaster.

Potential Funding Sources:

- HOME Investment Partnerships Fund
- Homebuyer Loan Programs
- Housing Study Grant Program
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and Nebraska Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program
- Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Rural Community Development Initiative
- Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program
- Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants

Description

Disasters can force low- and moderate-income families to permanently relocate to other, neighboring communities if they cannot afford to secure housing in their home communities. Damage to the state’s housing stock caused by the 2019 disasters has reduced the overall availability of affordable housing and driven up housing costs, compounding pre-disaster housing affordability issues in the state. To better protect the state’s low- and moderate-income families, this strategy is intended to promote the identification of housing solutions that are geographically appropriate—empowering Nebraskans to continue residing in their pre-disaster communities. *See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.2.2.3, page 51, for more information.*

Tactics

Within six years of the disasters...

1. Provide technical assistance to communities to help study and understand localized needs.
2. Work with local communities to develop policies and programs that can help rebuild and expand supply of safe and affordable single-family and duplex-unit rental housing.
3. In rural areas where development is more costly, identify opportunities to bundle multiple new construction projects to help achieve economies of scale necessary to attract developers and labor.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require temporary part-time commitment from mid- to senior level staff. The staff member responsible for implementing this strategy will provide technical assistance to local communities to understand localized need, aiding in the development of policies and programs that increase the supply of safe and affordable housing, and will actively be identifying opportunities to bundle new construction projects. The costs associated with advocating for development in home communities are nominal, largely requiring support from existing personnel.

Resilience-Building Value

Leadership & Strategy	(8/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(0/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(3/14)
Economy & Society.....	(9/14)



Strategy 3.2

Identify affordable housing solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness (or at risk of homelessness).

Leads:

- Continuum of Care Groups
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health)
- Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Partners:

- American Red Cross
- Homeless Shelter Associations and Organizations
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Housing and Homelessness Commission
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Description

Disasters can lead to increased homelessness due to direct impacts (damaged or destroyed housing) and indirect impacts (lost jobs or lost wages resulting in inability to pay monthly rent or mortgage). At the time this plan was published, many of the individuals' acute housing needs resulting from the 2019 disasters were addressed. Homelessness and risk of homelessness was exacerbated across the state with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated business closures and job losses. This strategy is intended to provide support to individuals that have emerging and urgent issues with homelessness, or imminent risk of homelessness.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.4.2.2.5, pages 52–53, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Work with homeless shelter associations and organizations and long-term recovery groups to identify individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness as a result of the disaster.

Within five years of the disasters...

2. Continue to work with the American Red Cross and Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster partners to identify, track, and meet operational gaps and capacity issues with homeless shelter and support organizations where needed.
3. Gather and organize resources and links to additional information about programs to support individuals experiencing homelessness, such as: subsidized apartments, public housing, housing choice voucher, and other assistance programs.
4. In alignment with *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.1*, identify an appropriate location (e.g., Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website, Nebraska Housing and Homelessness Commission website) and entity responsible for hosting appropriate, accurate, and up-to-date resources and information related to homelessness, both for these individuals directly and the organizations and government agencies seeking to provide assistance.
5. Publicize these resources, providing accurate and up-to-date information to individuals and entities engaging directly with residents experiencing or at risk of with homelessness.

**Measures of Success:**

- Analysis of "disaster-related homelessness" is conducted.
- Ninety percent of identified individuals experiencing homelessness (or at risk of homelessness) are connected with representatives of non-profit entities or other support services.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant Program
- Continuum of Care Program
- Emergency Solutions Grants Program
- HOME Investment Partnerships Fund
- Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program
Homeless Assistance Trust Fund
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources

Resources:

[HUD Exchange – Disaster Recovery Homelessness Toolkit;](#)
[Recovery Guide](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (8/12)
Infrastructure
& Ecosystems..... (0/13)
Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
Economy & Society..... (3/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require permanent part-time commitment from mid-level staff, preferably someone familiar with housing solutions for at-risk or homeless individuals. This strategy requires collaboration with homeless shelters, non-profits, and other organizations that provide shelter for homeless individuals to identify operational and capacity gaps. The staff member implementing this strategy will compile relevant resources on a public-facing website (e.g., Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website, Nebraska Housing and Homelessness Commission website) for organizations providing help and individuals who need help. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses other than staffing costs.



Objective 4: Develop a cross-agency, secure data and document acquisition and sharing system to target, focus, and accelerate delivery and documentation of housing recovery resources, labor, and financing to clients and projects discerned as qualified and ready to proceed.

Strategy 4.1

Explore the feasibility of developing a coordinated data and document acquisition and sharing system to help households more easily apply for and receive disaster housing assistance.

Leads:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Partners:

- Disaster Assistance Training Nebraska
- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Nebraska Planning and Zoning Administration

Measures of Success:

- Convene this working group again by January 2021.
- Define or agree to data-collection points and parameters for this effort.
- Develop a memorandum of understanding.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- State/Local Budgets

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (10/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society..... (4/14)

Description

Following a disaster event, individuals, families, and communities are required to provide documentation repeatedly to access response and recovery support programs overseen or managed by different entities. The lack of a coordinated data management system across the state adds duplicative steps that can present a significant obstacle to Nebraskans seeking support. This strategy is intended to alleviate the burden of applying for assistance multiple times across different programs by improving information-sharing and alignment of application requirements where possible across state agencies to streamline the assistance process. At the time this plan was developed, the strategy leads organized a meeting to formally initiate this effort.

Tactics

Within four years of the disasters...

1. Assess common data needs of disaster recovery organizations.
2. Determine common documentation elements needed across programs.

Within five years of the disasters...

3. Execute a cross-authority memorandum of understanding to authorize scoping, development, and deployment of a common data system within the state, if deemed feasible and appropriate.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require temporary part-time commitment from mid-to senior level staff. This strategy consolidates and unifies requirements for housing assistance applications to reduce the burden of redundant applications; such will be achieved through developing a coordinated data and document acquisition and sharing system, if achievable. This strategy may require purchasing or building a data and document acquisition and sharing system and/or a client relationship management platform. There will be costs associated with the initial development and set-up of the platform as well as annual licenses for authorized users, which can range in cost from \$20-100 per month per user.



4.4 Economic

The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with economic recovery and resilience-building. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by members and partners associated with the Nebraska Economic Recovery Support Function.

Goal:

Return economic and business activities to a healthy state and develop new business and employment opportunities that contribute to a sustainable and economically viable community.

Overview

 *High Priority Items*

Objective 1:

Improve private-sector hazard preparedness and support economic resilience-building.

 **STRATEGY 1.1**

Conduct outreach to business owners to help increase awareness of hazard vulnerability and risk-reduction activities.

 **STRATEGY 1.2**

Expand statewide flood, cyber, and business interruption insurance outreach and education programs for businesses.

 **STRATEGY 1.3**

Establish centralized location hosting risk-reduction resources for business entities.

 **STRATEGY 1.4**

Target key businesses driving economic vitality (e.g., major businesses, essential businesses) or providing vital goods and services in individual communities across the state to encourage preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery planning.

 **STRATEGY 1.5**

Implement programs to increase small businesses' resilience to future disasters.

STRATEGY 1.6

Encourage entrepreneurship and startups intended to address known community needs or leverage identified regional or local growth opportunities.



Objective 2:

Promote workforce development, particularly in building trades, to support economic development and recovery.

❗ STRATEGY 2.1

Provide career training for those in disrupted industries and in support of the recovery of impacted communities.

STRATEGY 2.2

Develop incentive program (e.g., Kansas Rural Opportunity Zones) subsidizing student loan payments, housing costs, or other costs of living to encourage the return and retention of college- and trade-educated individuals to rural communities.

Objective 3:

Help address revenue losses and economic recovery in impacted rural communities.

❗ STRATEGY 3.1

Leverage state and federal loans and grants and other sources to help local governments bridge revenue gaps.





Objective 1: Improve private-sector hazard preparedness and support economic resilience-building.

Strategy 1.1

Conduct outreach to business owners to help increase awareness of hazard vulnerability and risk-reduction activities.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Partners:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development Field Staff
- Nebraska Department of Revenue
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

Description

Many businesses experienced both property and profit losses related to the 2019 disasters. Nearly 1,400 businesses applied for assistance through the Small Business Administration after the 2019 disasters. While some of these businesses received financial assistance, some were ineligible for support, others received less than they requested, and many others did not pursue funding through known relief funding programs. These factors created economic revitalization needs across the state, which were compounded by COVID-19. This strategy is intended to promote private sector resilience by increasing business owners' understanding of hazard risk and risk-reduction techniques.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.5, pages 76–79, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Develop a list of businesses in the floodplain and other identified hazardous areas.
2. Assess the impacts of United States Army Corps of Engineers' planned water control facility design changes on business risk and coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to decide what information should be relayed to small business owners.
3. Disseminate information about available funding and assistance programs, as well as available training programs, promoting small business resilience according to the outreach strategy.

Within three years of the disasters...

4. Develop a strategy for conducting outreach about (1) funds available to promote small business resilience and (2) potential changes to business risk based on changes to water control facilities. The strategy should include:
 - Responsible parties for each activity;
 - Specific timelines for completion of activities;
 - Key messages and talking points for different types of businesses;
 - Guidance for the individuals conducting outreach (i.e., how to approach individuals); and

Measures of Success:

- Help 50 businesses apply for Paycheck Protection Program loans and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding.
- Five percent of click-throughs for email newsletter links to programs.
- Information disseminated to 70% of businesses identified in Tactics 1–3.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (11/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (3/14)
 Economy & Society..... (6/14)

- An aggregated list of pre-existing outreach and leave-behind resources to continue promoting long-term economic growth;

5. Validate the proposed strategy with key stakeholders (e.g., Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Regional Officials Council). Adjudicate and integrate feedback prior to finalization of the strategy.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require support from entry- to mid-level staff. This strategy will require assessing water control facility designs and their potential impacts on communities, which will be performed by a third-party. It will also require increased coordination with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and other relevant state agencies to develop and conduct effective outreach strategies. If educational materials are developed, distributed, or publicized (e.g. via social media) there may be additional costs associated with this strategy.

❗ Strategy 1.2

Expand statewide flood, cyber, and business interruption insurance outreach and education programs for businesses.

Leads:

- Nebraska Department of Insurance
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Partners:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- GROW Nebraska
- Nebraska Association of Certified Public Accountants
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Department of Revenue
- Professional Networks for Private Insurance Agents

Description

Typical insurance policies carried by business owners do not protect against losses resulting from flooding. While there is financial assistance available for impacted businesses in the form of low-interest loans, less than 1,400 businesses applied for assistance after the 2019 disasters. COVID-19 has compounded economic hardships for businesses across the state, making insurance coverage imperative for the businesses to protect against additional losses in the future.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.5, pages 76–78, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Work with private insurance agent networks to encourage insurance agents to stress the value and specific types of coverage available through flood, cyber, and business interruption insurance. Use these interactions to address common misconceptions and identify and address barriers to obtaining additional insurance coverage.
2. Coordinate across state agencies, academic entities, and non-profits engaged in business preparedness activities to conduct risk assessments and outreach to small businesses focused on increasing understanding of natural hazard risk, with an emphasis on flood frequency and severity, and the insurance options available to “buy down” risk.
 - Develop email and social media campaigns targeted to member agency personnel asking them to promote flood and other hazard insurance through their communications with customers (e.g., social media, email, website ads).
 - Use materials provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, insurance carriers, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and Nebraska state agencies to support outreach.
 - Create landing pages on private insurance agent network websites dedicated to flood insurance and consumer education tools for members to use. Coordinate with Nebraska Business Development Center to inform members how to access these resources (see *Economic Strategy 1.3*).
 - Develop and promote flood continuing education webinars for insurance agents and housing developers (alone and/or in cooperation with strategy partners).

Measures of Success:

- Twenty percent increase in business purchase of flood insurance within the first year.
- Four or more annual consumer educational promotion efforts by leads or partners.
- Sampling survey indicates any percentage of uptake of flood, cyber, and business interruption insurance.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Supplemental Funding

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (11/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems..... (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society..... (6/14)

- Host live flood insurance seminars at conferences and events attended by private insurance agents.
- Coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to publish a schedule of upcoming webinars and live presentations to more effectively promote learning opportunities to members.

3. Encourage insurance agents to advise clients to revisit business plans, apply for loans, and meet with Certified Public Accountants.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by mid- to senior-level staff, an increase in current staffing will not likely be necessary. This strategy will require developing flood and flood insurance education materials and disseminating relevant information to the public. It will also require increased coordination with state agencies, academic entities, non-profits, and private insurers to develop and execute effective outreach strategies. Printed materials may range in cost from \$0.50-\$0.75 per page, depending on the paper and ink used.

❗ Strategy 1.3

Establish centralized location hosting risk-reduction resources for business entities.

Leads:

- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Partners:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Nebraska Bankers Association
- United States Small Business Administration

Measures of Success:

- Website established and promoted to business community.
- The website is accessed by at least 100 new users by June 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society (5/14)

Description

There is not a current centralized location for up-to-date risk-reduction resources for business entities in Nebraska. Developing a central location for these resources can help deconflict information and increase accessibility to economic resilience-building resources throughout the state. At the time this plan was developed, the Nebraska Business Development Center had already completed a grant application for United States Economic Development Administration funds in support of this strategy.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Provide appropriate, accurate, and up-to-date information for the business sector through a centralized, state-managed website (e.g., Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website).
2. Coordinate with the Nebraska Business Development Center Procurement Technical Assistance Center Group to alert business owners about information available on a centralized, state-managed website (e.g., Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website) through existing communication channels (i.e., Nebraska Host Link).
 - Store information on the Nebraska Department of Economic Development website under "DED Resources" until the Nebraska Business Development Center created and launched a "Sourcelink" website, which will be funded through a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant.
3. Set a schedule for periodically reviewing the resources available online to evaluate whether the content is pertinent to users. Identify and include new resources as needed.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by entry- to mid-level staff, an increase in current staffing will not likely be necessary. This strategy will require increased coordination with Nebraska Business Development Center Procurement Technical Assistance Center Group and disseminating updates of relevant resources to business entities. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses beyond staff time.

① Strategy 1.4

Target key businesses driving economic vitality (e.g., major businesses, essential businesses) or providing vital goods and services in individual communities across the state to encourage preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery planning.

Lead:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Partners:

- Nebraska Business Development Center Procurement Technical Assistance Center Group
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Insurance
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Revenue
- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Service Corps of Retired Executives

Description

The businesses that drive economic vitality and provide essential goods and services vary widely across the state. What might be considered a small business in a large community may represent an essential business in a smaller or more isolated community. With economic impacts related to the 2019 disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic expected to last for multiple years, stabilizing and minimizing future economic disruptions to key businesses is particularly important. This strategy is intended to encourage targeted efforts to increase the resilience of these key businesses statewide. At the time this plan was developed, the Nebraska Business Development Center was already supporting efforts to identify risks to business supply chains and develop enterprise resilience plans in support of this strategy.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.1, page 64, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Work with Nebraska Business Development Center and Nebraska Preparedness Partnership to develop talking points, pre-scripted messages, and other outreach materials to help clearly demonstrate the value proposition (i.e., “What is in it for me?”) to businesses.
2. Develop a list of key businesses using the Nebraska Department of Economic Development’s existing list as a starting point, with support from the Nebraska Business Development Center and Nebraska Regional Officials Council.
3. Work with Nebraska Preparedness Partnership to identify planning support needs in developing Continuity of Operation Plans for agricultural and non-agricultural businesses.
4. Work with the Nebraska Preparedness Partnership, Nebraska Business Development Center, and Nebraska Regional Officials Council to develop or disseminate guidance on private sector preparedness for larger businesses.
5. Identify minimum suggestions for planning documentation for mid- to large-sized businesses and identify resources or examples that will be instructive for those developing the documents.
6. Encourage private sector organizations to attend exercises and attend or utilize available trainings (e.g., The Nebraska Department of Labor On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program) to help reinforce the value of planning for disasters. Engage state and local emergency

Measures of Success:

- At least 50 businesses receive an offer of planning support or information about continuity planning.
- Twenty percent of agricultural and non-agricultural small businesses establish continuity of operations plans in first year.
- Twenty percent of large businesses establish preparedness plans.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Rural Community Development Initiative
- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding

Resources:

Federal Emergency Management Agency Private Sector Preparedness Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(10/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems(2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(1/14)
 Economy & Society.....(10/14)

management agencies to identify these types of opportunities and share them with local businesses.

7. Develop or disseminate guidance on hazard mitigation techniques of assorted cost that can improve the capacity of businesses to withstand physical or cyber disruptions.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by mid- or senior level staff, an increase in current staffing will not likely be necessary. This strategy will require increased coordination with multiple state agencies, but especially Nebraska Business Development Center and Nebraska Preparedness Partnership, to develop effective outreach strategies and materials. It will also require engaging the private sector to disseminate developed information. Apart from staffing, there may be costs associated with this strategy if educational materials are developed and disseminated to encourage preparedness and planning.

① Strategy 1.5

Implement programs to increase small businesses' resilience to future disasters.

Leads:

- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership

Partners:

- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Insurance
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Revenue
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Service Corps of Retired Executives
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Description

Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to the economic volatility associated with hazard events, even when facilities, staff, and business assets suffer no direct impacts. It is important to engage these smaller entities while the impacts of the 2019 disasters and COVID-19 pandemic are still fresh to provide information, resources, and guidance about how they can prepare for and recover from disaster events. As of July 2020, the Nebraska Business Development Center began development of its Resilience Program with a Small Business Administration grant and is striving to expand it statewide by leveraging Economic Development Administration funds.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Develop or disseminate guidance on low-cost hazard mitigation techniques tailored to small businesses that can improve their capacity to withstand disruptions from all hazards.

Ongoing – Within three years of the disasters...

2. Work with different local, state, and academic programs already working with businesses on preparedness to offer trainings and provide resources (e.g., healthcare coalitions, Nebraska Business Development Center, Nebraska Preparedness Partnership, Nebraska University Connection, Nebraska On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program).
3. Support targeted investments supporting small business expansion in desired areas of growth (i.e., industries where expansion is desired) throughout the state and in sectors that comprise a majority of small businesses.
4. Work with the Nebraska Business Development Center to conduct cash flow analyses and provide support to small business owners regarding best practices to preserve cash during and following disaster events.
5. Provide technical assistance to small business owners to support disaster funding applications.
6. Consider establishing a grant program through Community Development Block Grants to provide technical and implementation assistance to increase small business resilience.

Measures of Success:

- Securing grant and match requirements to execute strategy (subsequent activity is dependent on this activity).
- Cashflow analysis is conducted for 10 businesses.
- At least 15 businesses receive technical assistance during disaster recovery.
- At least two trainings are offered by June 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant
- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- United States Small Business Administration Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Lending Program

Resources:

Federal Emergency Management Agency Private Sector Preparedness Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (1/14)
 Economy & Society (9/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may require a significant commitment from existing entry-, mid-, and/or senior level staff. This strategy will require coordination with the Nebraska Business Development Center and state, local, and academic programs working with businesses on preparedness. It will also require the development of outreach materials, use of cash flow analysis programs, and supporting technical assistance to small business owners. Printed outreach materials may range in cost from \$0.50-\$0.75 per page, depending on the materials used. Additionally, cash flow analysis programs range in cost from \$25-\$250 per month depending on the number of authorized users and forecasting capabilities.

Strategy 1.6

Encourage entrepreneurship and startups intended to address known community needs or leverage identified regional or local growth opportunities.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Partners:

- Center for Rural Affairs
- Invest Nebraska
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Bankers Association
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Private Industry
- Rural Enterprise Assistance Project
- Service Corps of Retired Executives
- Small Business Administration – Nebraska District Office

Description

While the state's agricultural sector is an integral part of the overall economy, the concentration of jobs, wage-earning, and tax-revenue within one sector can hurt the state's resilience, as evidenced by the devastating economic impacts of the 2019 disasters in this sector. Stimulating entrepreneurship and new businesses in targeted areas can support wage growth, job creation, and economic diversification while simultaneously increasing the workforce in identified areas of need.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Sections 2.5 and 2.6, pages 64–70, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Provide funding supporting businesses intended to catalyze job creation in rural areas (e.g., The Combine Initiative).
2. Increase awareness of or enrollment in the Service Corps of Retired Executives program to pair executives from established large employers with small rural businesses.
3. Pursue public-private partnerships to stimulate job creation and economic development (e.g., Google Impact Challenge).

Within five years of the disasters...

4. Partner with colleges, universities, and entrepreneur support organizations to offer trainings and resources to help reduce barriers to entry for potential entrepreneurs.
5. Work with the Chamber of Commerce and Regional Economic Development Districts to disseminate information about funding opportunities, technical assistance, and other programs and resources available.
 - Encourage businesses to register with the System for Award Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Industry Liaison Program to increase the pool of local companies eligible to bid for state and federal response and recovery contracts.
6. Identify opportunities to provide startup trainings and support small business incubators to promote small business expansion.
7. Convene stakeholders from entrepreneurial support organizations to increase statewide understanding of programs and opportunities to improve coordination.

Measures of Success:

- At least one training event for entrepreneurs/startups is held prior to March 2022.
- At least one business expansion training is held prior to March 2022.
- Ten business start-ups supported through incubators by March 2027.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- Gallup Business Leadership Training Grant
- Nebraska Broadband Grant Program
- Workforce Retraining Initiative

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (5/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (3/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (4/14)
 Economy & Society (10/14)

8. Emphasize entrepreneurial education and outreach opportunities in rural areas.
9. Identify business service gaps (e.g., healthcare, construction, project management) in rural communities and target these gaps for business growth.
10. Support development and strengthening of business infrastructure (e.g., human resources, broadband access, supply chain resilience) necessary for development of new businesses.
11. Continue and expand programs providing start-up funding for new businesses, prioritizing areas with high levels of unemployment and low economic diversity (e.g., Nebraska Seed Investment Program).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require temporary commitment from existing entry- and mid-level staff. This strategy will require coordination with the Chamber of Commerce and Regional Economic Development Districts and establishing public-private partnerships to support economic growth. It will also require the development and emphasis of entrepreneurial education and outreach for small businesses. This strategy will incur costs when expanding programs providing start-up funding for new businesses, which may be able to be offset through grant funding.



Objective 2: Promote workforce development, particularly in building trades, to support economic development and recovery.

❶ Strategy 2.1

Provide career training for those in disrupted industries and in support of the recovery of impacted communities.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Labor

Partners:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Association of School Boards
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
- Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)

Description

Employment rates remained fairly stable following the 2019 disasters, but preexisting workforce shortages in certain sectors that support recovery (e.g. electrical, plumbing, construction) were exacerbated by the events. This lack of skilled workers in these areas may delay recovery, and unemployment due to COVID-19 may have further impacts to the availability of workers in these industries. This strategy is intended to support workforce development in key industries to promote economic recovery.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.3, pages 74–75, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Provide on-the-job training programs and other skill-building classes and trainings through high schools, community colleges, and employers focused on disrupted industries:
 - Identify disrupted industries across the state, in light of the 2019 flooding disasters, as well as COVID-19.
 - Develop a strategy to engage community colleges and employers focused in these areas to gauge interest and availability in supporting trainings.
 - Provide best practices, technical assistance, incentives.
 - Offer support by promoting awareness of new training and skill-building opportunities through existing networks (e.g., advertising on Economic Development District websites and newsletters).
2. Develop Youth Rehabilitation Training Center pre-apprenticeship program. Expand apprenticeships and training availability throughout the state with an emphasis on construction-related jobs.
 - Increase awareness of and encourage participation in the Nebraska Department of Labor pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs, and any other relevant apprenticeship programs that already exist within the state.
 - Coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to determine whether there are opportunities to add new trainings or apprenticeships to their offerings.
 - Help identify an organization or entity to assume ownership of designing and having the training program

Measures of Success:

- An increase of at least five percent of employers enrolled in on-the-job training programs annually.
- At least 75-100 individuals enrolled in on-the-job training programs annually.
- At least 50 percent of program [participants attain credentials.
- Annual increase in median earnings exceeds annual cost of living increases (at least 3.5 percent).
- A net increase of at least one quality pre-apprenticeship programs.
- A net increase of at least one quality pre-apprenticeship programs.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Workforce Retraining Initiative
- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- National Dislocated Worker Grants

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(8/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems.....	(5/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(5/14)
Economy & Society.....	(10/14)

or offering apprenticeships in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services requirements.

- Execute the program, evaluate its success, and determine whether additional programs should be added as the community evolves and additional economic needs are identified.
3. Develop a training program to prepare non-violent inmates in prisons for construction jobs upon release.
 - Coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services to determine whether there are opportunities to add new trainings or expand existing trainings or programs preparing inmates for positions in construction or other trades upon release.
 - Help identify an organization or entity to assume ownership of designing and having the training program approved and implemented in accordance with relevant requirements.
 - Execute the program, evaluate its success, and determine whether additional programs should be added as the community evolves and additional economic needs are identified.
 4. Provide training and support to Nebraskans who are underemployed (i.e., employed at less than full-time or employed at jobs that are inadequate with respect to their training or economic needs).
 - Identify industries or areas where Nebraskans are underemployed.
 - Develop a strategy to engage individuals that are underemployed, through marketing, online surveys, or in-person events (e.g., job fairs).
 - Provide best practices, technical assistance, and information about training to help the underemployed identify or seek out better job opportunities.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing as many of these programs have already been established within the state and others could fit into existing programs with minor modifications. This strategy will require coordination with multiple state agencies, but especially the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Labor. Facilitating a pre-apprenticeship program would cost, on average, \$40,000 a year per apprentice (actual costs may vary by \$15,000 per apprentice); a pre-apprenticeship program would encourage retainment post-apprenticeship and increase available trade workers. A pre-apprenticeship program would also reduce the cost of labor, as opposed to hiring more tenured labor. Costs may vary for non-violent prison inmate and community college pre-apprenticeship programs, depending on the agreements established between involved parties.

Strategy 2.2

Develop incentive program (e.g., [Kansas Rural Opportunity Zones](#)) subsidizing student loan payments, housing costs, or other costs of living to encourage the return and retention of college- and trade-educated individuals to rural communities.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Partners:

- Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Association of School Boards
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
- University of Nebraska Alumni and Endowment Associations
- University of Nebraska Extension

Description

Outmigration of educated workers to other major cities was a pre-existing concern for Nebraska, which may have been compounded by the 2019 disasters. Concerted efforts are needed in rural communities throughout Nebraska to combat these trends to grow and retain a high-quality workforce. This strategy is intended to encourage targeted population retention to increase the availability and quality of labor in impacted communities through establishment of incentive zones (e.g. [Kansas Rural Opportunity Zones](#)).

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.4, pages 75–76, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with the Office of the Governor and the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery to determine what types of incentives can realistically be made available, while minimizing impacts to local revenue streams.

Within three years of the disasters...

2. Coordinate across relevant agencies to formally adopt or enact incentive programs, while promoting and publicizing the program to potential users.
3. Develop a strategy for engagement/outreach (e.g., utilizing university alumni distribution lists) that will reach the intended audience (i.e., college- and trade-educated) publicizing the rollout of the incentive program and describing the process for registering or applying.
4. Target recruitment of students and workers with areas of expertise relevant to business sectors prioritized for growth in local and regional economic development plans.
5. Coordinate with community colleges and other professional development entities to increase availability of trainings building skills in impacted industries throughout the state.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require a significant ongoing commitment from an existing staff member. This strategy will require coordination with the Office of the Governor, the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery, and other relevant state agencies to determine incentives and develop the program. Collaboration with community college and other professional development entities,

Measures of Success:

- Incentive developed by December 2020.
- Recruit 20 students into the incentive program by December 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding
- State/Local Budgets

Resources:

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies

[Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (3/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (4/14)
 Economy & Society..... (10/14)

students, and those with relevant business experience will be required to effectively implement the incentives.

For example, 77 cities in the State of Kansas provide incentives to recent graduates through the Rural Opportunity Zones Program; incentives include a five-year state tax waiver and up to \$15,000 in student loan repayments. The cost of developing a similar program is hard to estimate, due to its variability based on the number of participants, average annual state taxes per individual, and the amount of student loan debt acquired by those participating. However, over 70% of those taking advantage of the State of Kansas’ program relocated to the State of Kansas purely due to the Rural Opportunity Zone Program; similar programs prove effective in the recruitment and retention of college and trade-educated individuals.



Objective 3: Help address revenue losses and economic recovery in impacted rural communities.

❗ Strategy 3.1

Leverage state and federal loans and grants and other sources to help local governments bridge revenue gaps.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Labor

Partners:

- Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery
- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Association of School Boards
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
- Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Regional Officials Council (Economic Development Districts)

Description

There are several state and federal financial opportunities to address local governments’ revenue gaps following the 2019 disasters. For instance, Community Disaster Loans are often used after disasters to help local governments meet operating costs. Disaster-related revenue gaps have been exacerbated by COVID-19 related business closures and tax revenue losses, underscoring a greater need to help local governments navigate restricting budgets. This strategy is intended to evaluate relevant funding programs collectively to align programs to project needs and layer funding so the state can stretch available funding further.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Explore ways to help communities pay for local share of recovery and mitigation projects, in partnership with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development:
 - Consider distributing the funding resources appendix of this document with local communities to increase their awareness of available funding opportunities.
 - Develop a solution for identifying new funding sources as they become available or are identified (e.g., create a dedicated time to discuss funding streams during Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery meetings).
 - Publicize available funding opportunities and associated deadlines to local governments to promote increased participation in major programs (e.g., Community Development Block Grants, Hazard Mitigation Assistance).
 - Encourage local government and community organizations to participate in review and comment on the *State of Nebraska Recovery Action Plan* during the public comment period in summer 2020.
2. To the extent possible, provide technical assistance or support to local communities that are seeking federal funding. Provide guidance and recommendations to help them claim the full amount to which they are entitled.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require an ongoing commitment from an existing entry-, mid- and senior level staff. This strategy will require coordination with the Nebraska Emergency

Measures of Success:

- Provide technical assistance to at least five local governments in support of disaster recovery annually.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grants – Disaster Recovery
- Community Disaster Loans
- Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy..... (9/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems..... (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society..... (6/14)

Management Agency and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. It will also require intensive collaboration with local communities to identify and share new funding opportunities. Even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide a source of funding to meet grant matching requirements.

4.5 Agricultural



The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with agricultural recovery and resilience-building. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by members and partners associated with the Agricultural Recovery Support Function.

Goal:

Support the efficient restoration and revitalization of agricultural systems after a disaster by ensuring that the public sector has the necessary systems in place to support disaster recovery and that the agricultural community can access the information, funding, and resources necessary to recover.

Overview

! High Priority Items

Objective 1:

Build capacity of agricultural information sharing network to encourage preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

! STRATEGY 1.1

Develop tools to collect and organize information and resources that will help farmers, ranchers, and agricultural goods processors respond and recover from disasters.

! STRATEGY 1.2

Develop a master list of stakeholders that can support information collection about agricultural and livestock production and impacts (e.g., state senators, University of Nebraska Extension county offices, commodity associations, drone users).

! STRATEGY 1.3

Promote the uptake of crop, livestock, and equipment, wind, hail, and other types of insurance relevant to agricultural producers.





Objective 1: Build capacity of agricultural information sharing network to encourage preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

❗ Strategy 1.1

Develop tools to collect and organize information and resources that will help farmers, ranchers, and agricultural goods processors respond to and recover from disasters.

Leads:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- University of Nebraska Extension

Partners:

- Commodity Grower Associations
- Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Farm Bureau
- United States Department of Agriculture

Description

The 2019 disasters generated significant losses of grain, cattle, and other agricultural goods across the state. Many of these producers were already facing hard economic conditions due to low commodity prices, which has been compounded by the emergence of COVID-19. The agricultural economy of the state is a core feature of its identity and therefore a major focus of disaster recovery efforts. This strategy aims to empower farmers and ranchers to recover by making important resources easily accessible during response and recovery.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.2, pages 65-68, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Coordinate with state, federal, academic, and non-profit partners to identify and compile key information relevant for agricultural communities during disaster response and recovery. Include information on topics such as:
 - Economic intelligence that informs agricultural decision-making (e.g., United States Department of Agriculture reports and futures prices, University of Nebraska–Lincoln CropWatch).
 - Information about Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Floodplain Easement Program, and other agricultural recovery programs.
2. Host identified resources on a public facing website (e.g., Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, University of Nebraska Extension websites).
 - Advertise the website that is selected to house informational resources to increase the agricultural community's awareness of important information.

3. Evaluate the tools and resources identified to determine whether there are any missing resources.

Within three years of the disasters...

4. Identify and assign responsibility for maintaining and updating information and resources.
5. Build the needed resources, validate them with strategy partners, and add them to the resource library.



Measures of Success:

- Key agricultural resources are identified and hosted on a public-facing website.
- Key resources are uploaded to Knowledge Center.
- Information about disaster recovery and response is distributed at 75% of the state’s pesticide applicator training events (held January through April each year).

Potential Funding Sources:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Pesticide Safety Education Funds Management Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (3/14)
 Economy & Society (8/14)

6. Partner with University of Nebraska Extension to develop marketing materials that can be disseminated at fairs, conferences, or other public gatherings where University of Nebraska Extension will already be present.
7. Partner with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to determine which informational resources can or should be integrated into operations at the State Emergency Operations Center and/or hosted on Knowledge Center (i.e., the software platform used in the State Emergency Operations Center).
8. Identify valuable topics for training events and identify a stakeholder or partner to help facilitate these types of events across the state, so that state and local officials as well as the general public have an opportunity to learn more about these funding sources.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff but may require a temporary commitment from an existing staff member, or temporary contracted support. This strategy will require evaluating and building upon existing tools and resources. It will also require increased collaborations with the University of Nebraska Extension and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Apart from staffing, there may be costs associated with this strategy if printed outreach materials are developed and disseminated. Printed outreach materials may range in cost from \$0.50-\$0.75 per page at a commercial printer, depending on the materials used.



❶ Strategy 1.2

Develop a master list of stakeholders that can support information collection about agricultural and livestock production and impacts (e.g., state senators, University of Nebraska Extension County Offices, commodity associations, drone users).

Leads:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- University of Nebraska Extension

Partners:

- Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Farm Bureau
- Restaurant and Grocery Store Industry Associations
- United States Department of Agriculture

Description

After the 2019 disasters, information about impacts to the agricultural sector was difficult to gather—particularly information about commodity losses that could better inform strategies for long-term recovery. This strategy is intended to promote information-gathering before and after future disasters by leveraging existing agricultural networks within the state. Additional information about disaster-related losses would empower the state to develop more informed strategies that are uniquely tailored to address the impacts of the disaster and promote resilience-building efforts going forward.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5, pages 62–75, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Determine what information should be collected and captured by this group during disaster preparedness, response, and recovery (i.e., specific metrics) that will empower local, state, and community-based organizations to track, share, and compare impacts across counties.
2. Convene a preliminary working group to compile existing information-collection resources, processes, and capacity.
 - Review existing agency reports, contracts, or agreements to identify resources for data collection that already exist and could be leveraged to support data collection (e.g., data gathering performed by United States Department of Agriculture, University of Nebraska Extension).
3. Identify challenges associated with collecting the desired information such as permits or licenses required for drone flights, or unwillingness to share information about crops or head of livestock.
4. Develop strategies to secure resources needed to overcome challenges as soon as possible.
5. Engage partners to determine what tools or resources can be developed ahead of time, to help speed up information-gathering. Consider pre-scripted communications, survey tools, and damage assessment transmittal systems.
6. Identify and assign responsibility for maintaining and updating information and resources so they can be accessed by stakeholders before, during, and after a disaster.



Measures of Success:

- Key stakeholder list is developed.
- One tool to facilitate information-gathering (e.g., survey, job aid) is developed.
- Key stakeholders receive training on at least one resource, process, or tool that will improve their understanding of information collection processes or best practices.

Potential Funding Sources:

- State/Local Budgets

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(7/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(1/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(3/14)
Economy & Society	(5/14)

7. Coordinate with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency to determine whether stakeholders from this data gathering group should support the State Emergency Operations Center during activations.
 - If so, properly train and credential those individuals, and invite them to participate in any exercises.
8. Leverage student volunteer programs to help provide recovery assistance through the University of Nebraska Extension.
 - Students could assist with information-gathering, maintaining the resource library, or developing tools or resources to support response and recovery.
9. Develop standard operating procedures and job aids necessary to promote consistent and reliable information collection and sharing.
10. Organize training events or use exercises to periodically test or review information gathering procedures and practice using relevant tools so that the skills stay sharp regardless of staff turnover.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff but may require a temporary commitment from an existing staff member. This strategy will require increased collaborations with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, University of Nebraska Extension, and other stakeholders to develop and maintain the stakeholder and resource database. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses other than staffing costs.



① Strategy 1.3

Promote the uptake of crop, livestock, and equipment, wind, hail, and other types of insurance relevant to agricultural producers.

Leads:

- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- University of Nebraska Extension

Partners:

- Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Farm Bureau
- Restaurant and Grocery Store Industry Associations
- United States Department of Agriculture

Description

According to United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency, approximately 94% of corn, wheat, and soybean crops were covered by crop insurance in Nebraska in March of 2019. Insurance to protect against prevented plantings, damaged crops, and low yields resulting from flooding, hail, and other hazards serves to protect farmers from potentially devastating impacts. Crop and livestock insurance payouts helped to offset direct losses for those with insurance coverage, providing a necessary stop gap. Producers without insurance may benefit from additional guidance, resources, or information about the value of insurance.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.5.2.1 and 2.5.2.2, pages 70–73, for more information

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Engage insurance agents/representatives and relevant state agencies (e.g., Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen's Association) in preliminary conversations to begin identifying potential solutions to encourage uptake of crop, livestock, and equipment insurance.
2. Engage the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to support brainstorming/strategy development, given the agency's work toward a similar goal (i.e., increasing uptake of insurance of businesses).
3. Determine whether there are regions, communities, or types of farms or ranches that should be targeted.

Within three years of the disasters...

4. Partner with local communities and officials to share resources and information that would empower them to promote the uptake of insurance at the local level. Consider:
 - Offering training to community leaders;
 - Attending community events to engage farmers and ranchers in one-on-one conversations; and
 - Distributing educational materials at convenient locations for farmers and ranchers.
5. Document the proposed strategies in a memorandum or other document, to create accountability and shared understanding. Implement the approach in accordance with the agreed upon strategies.



Measures of Success:

- Information about insurance is disseminated through six existing agricultural organizations.
- Information about crop insurance is distributed at 25% of the state’s pesticide applicator training events (held January through April each year).

Potential Funding Sources:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Pesticide Safety Education Funds Management Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems(2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(2/14)
 Economy & Society.....(5/14)

6. Conduct an assessment six months to a year after implementation, to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign. Determine whether the effort should continue, whether changes to the style or manner of outreach should be made, and make necessary adjustments.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff but may require a temporary commitment from an existing staff member. This strategy will require coordination with insurance agencies and relevant state agencies to develop and implement strategies. It will also require engaging local communities in resource and information sharing. Apart from staffing, there may be costs associated with this strategy if printed outreach materials are developed and disseminated, or insurance is promoted via a traditional marketing or social media campaign. Commercial printing will cost less than \$1 per page depending on the materials used, and social media advertising may range from \$5-\$8 per thousand impressions.



4.6 Health and Social Services

The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with health and social services recovery and resilience-building. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by members and partners associated with the Nebraska Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function.

Goal:

Restore services that protect health and safety and restore the mental, social, and physical health of the impacted population through the mitigation of disaster-created impacts.

Overview

 *High Priority Items*

Objective 1:

Provide Nebraskans with needed social services support.

 **STRATEGY 1.1**

Support long-term recovery groups to strengthen disaster case management and match identified needs to available funding programs and other support mechanisms.

 **STRATEGY 1.2**

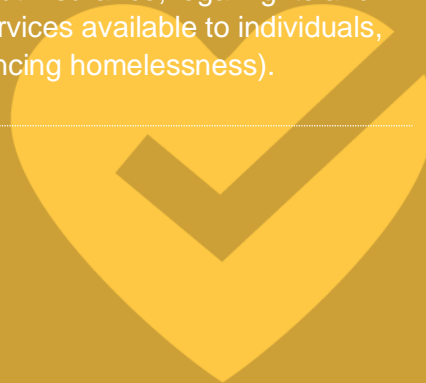
Using existing resource lists, create a disaster survivor resource database that is accessible to all Nebraska long-term recovery groups, Nebraska disaster case managers, and Nebraskans.

 **STRATEGY 1.3**

Encourage local jurisdictions to work with local stakeholders (e.g., businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations) to incorporate activities related to individual and community-level well-being and resilience and local recovery efforts into local programs and events.

STRATEGY 1.4

Promote available services and deconflict information about insurance, legal rights and responsibilities, grant programs, and other funding and services available to individuals, including vulnerable populations (e.g., individuals experiencing homelessness).



Objective 2:

Increase utilization of treatment programs and services for behavioral health issues to promote individual resilience.

❗ STRATEGY 2.1

Promote suicide awareness and prevention to reduce stigma surrounding behavioral health issues through outreach campaigns in schools and impacted areas, particularly rural and frontier areas.

❗ STRATEGY 2.2

Monitor behavioral health impacts and needs as they evolve over time.

Objective 3:

Increase capacity of behavioral health treatment programs to meet the demand for services with evidence-based, trauma-informed care to increase institutional resilience.

STRATEGY 3.1

Increase behavioral health treatment availability statewide, including pastoral care and telehealth.

STRATEGY 3.2

Increase treatment capacity for providing evidence-based, trauma-informed care.





Objective 1: Provide Nebraskans with needed social services support.

Strategy 1.1

Support long-term recovery groups to strengthen disaster case management and match identified needs to available funding programs and other support mechanisms.

Lead:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Partners:

- Faith-Based Organizations
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- [Nebraska State Data Center](#)
- Philanthropic Community
- Salvation Army

Description

Shortages of disaster caseworkers and disaster case managers have been a persistent challenge after the 2019 disasters. This need increased after the emergence of COVID-19, which placed significant economic and emotional strain on families across the state. Disaster caseworkers help survivors by providing early intervention to address immediate needs and by connecting them to available resources and services. Caseworkers are an essential aspect of individual recovery from disasters as they help individuals and households secure resources that make them whole again. This strategy is intended to increase the number and availability of caseworkers across the state, ensuring that Nebraskans everywhere get the support they need.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.6.2.3, pages 85–86, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Provide funding to disaster case management efforts to better support the hiring and training of qualified disaster case managers to meet local disaster case management needs.
2. Support ongoing training for long-term recovery groups and disaster case managers (e.g., United Methodist Committee on Relief's three-day disaster case management training).
3. Provide long-term recovery groups with resources and collaborative opportunities (e.g., organizing and facilitating Local Impacts Group calls).
4. Institute a monthly virtual meeting among all disaster case managers, across long-term recovery groups, in the state to share lessons learned and collaboratively problem solve. Meetings might include:
 - A training component in which participating disaster case managers take turns selecting topics and leading trainings to provide a comprehensive look at statewide concerns/needs;
 - Guest speakers from different state agencies to provide updates on time-sensitive resources, programs, or events;
 - Disaster case managers from other states sharing best practices or lessons learned in recovering from disasters in other communities; and
 - A "round robin" to discuss challenges, questions, and concerns and work together to problem solve and identify solutions.

**Measures of Success:**

- Statewide disaster case management coordination system is established.
- The number of case managers statewide with more than 35 active cases is reduced between March 2020 and March 2021.
- At least two case management trainings are delivered by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(9/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(1/13)
Health & Wellbeing.....	(4/14)
Economy & Society	(5/14)

- Use the Local Impacts Group to monitor resource shortfalls using first-hand knowledge and input from local government representatives (e.g., using the Periodic Needs Assessment) and to connect entities with resources (e.g., non-profits, philanthropic organizations, funding program managers) to local needs.

5. Monitor, maintain, and model disaster case manager caseload/workload to follow recommended best practices.
6. Collect disaster case management statistics from local entities and catalog at the state level on a monthly basis to support a living repository of information on the number of active cases statewide and held by individual case managers at once.

Within three years of the disasters...

7. Develop a coordinated, statewide disaster case management system, complete with unified documents, protocols, procedures, and committees.
8. Create a state-certified disaster case manager basic training and refresher training to be offered across the state.

Within four years of the disasters...

9. Work with information technology experts to build a living database that can accept inputs online and serve as a data visualization dashboard (e.g., number of active cases, cases closed).

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may require an increase in staffing capabilities in different stages. The strategy implementation task of building a living database may require the hiring temporary support, or they could be delegated to an existing staff member. However, oversight of the strategy as a whole will likely require ongoing commitment from mid- or senior level staff. This strategy will require increased collaboration with disaster case managers, long-term recovery groups, Local Impacts Group, and information technology professionals. This strategy will also require the development of a living database and disaster case management system and increased information sharing of best practices. There will be costs associated with the initial development and set-up of the platform as well as annual licenses for authorized users, which can range in cost from \$20-100 per month per user.



❗ Strategy 1.2

Using existing resource lists, create a disaster survivor resource database that is accessible to all Nebraska long-term recovery groups, Nebraska disaster case managers, and Nebraskans.

Lead:

- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Partners:

- Information Technology External Support
- Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Nebraska 2-1-1 Resource Hotline
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- University of Nebraska Extension

Measures of Success:

- Identify stakeholders with resources and information.
- Collect information from stakeholders.
- Categorize and organize resources so they can be easily found by Long-Term Recovery Groups, Disaster Case Managers, and Nebraskans when searching the digital resource.
- Identify gaps in collected resources and fill in gaps, as possible.
- Make resources available through an interactive chatbot and a webpage or dedicated website.

Description

Accessing disaster survivor resources can be a challenge to all survivors, including those working in response and recovery. A centralized resource database can help to reduce stigma related to seeking disaster survivor resources and help Nebraskans to easily access the resources they need to increase personal and community resiliency.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.6.3.3, pages 90–92, for more information.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Collect and accurately summarize the services and resources available to individuals, disaster case managers, and long-term recovery groups.
2. Assign personnel to do a weekly search of updated, or outdated, services and resources to maintain information in near-real-time.
3. Work with information technology experts to build a searchable, open source database that can be searched by open field text entries or by clickable category.

Continued on next page....



Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resources:

[Nebraska Children and Families Foundation COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)

[Nebraska Children and Families Foundation COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Missouri Extension Toolkit and Resources](#)

[United States Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Behavioral Health Resources](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

- Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
- Infrastructure & Ecosystems (1/13)
- Health & Wellbeing (3/14)
- Economy & Society (2/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will likely require commitment from existing entry- or mid- and senior level staff. This strategy will require increased collaboration with disaster case managers, long-term recovery groups, and information technology professionals. This strategy will also require the development and intermittent updating of a living database. There will be costs associated with the initial development and set-up of the database as well as annual licenses for authorized users, which can range in cost from \$20-100 per month per user.

**Strategy 1.3**

Encourage local jurisdictions to work with local stakeholders (e.g., businesses, non-profits, faith-based organizations) to incorporate activities related to individual and community-level well-being and resilience and local recovery efforts into local programs and events.

Leads:

- Local Impacts Group
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Partners:

- Citizen Corps
- Inter-Church Ministries of Nebraska
- Local Healthcare Facilities
- Local Food Banks
- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Ministerial Associations
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- University of Nebraska Extension

Description

Through Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function meetings, health and social services providers across the state have identified the need to continue building the resilience of local communities so they are better equipped to deal with disasters and emergencies in the future. This strategy aims to achieve this outcome by strengthening connections between state and local organizations and promoting community resilience-building through engagement at the local level. At the time this plan was developed, the strategy leads had already begun meeting regularly to achieve the tactics presented below.

Tactics

Ongoing – Annually by December 31...

1. Provide technical assistance and toolkits for local stakeholders interested in implementing community activities, including sample activities and the materials, personnel, and information needed to host the activities.

Within two years of the disasters...

2. Develop and disseminate information to local stakeholders about above-listed community activities, summarizing the purpose, providing examples of potential engagement, and explaining the benefits within the context of disaster recovery.
3. Provide healthy outlets for youth post-disaster, including arts, music, and recreational therapies.
4. Coordinate with long-term recovery groups to find ways to integrate well-being, resilience, and local recovery efforts with community-level planning activities.

**Measures of Success:**

- Convene partner calls to facilitate peer information sharing.
- Provide communication toolkit to community collaboratives and other partners with ideas for preparedness, recovery, and resiliency activities.
- Provide toolkit to community collaboratives and other partners to help implement preparedness, recovery, and resiliency activities in programming.
- Conduct outreach to local jurisdictions and local stakeholders to encourage them to include preparedness and resiliency programming in their community.
- Provide technical expertise to local stakeholders on implementing programming.
- Provide local stakeholders with a communication toolkit for National Preparedness Month.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (2/14)
 Economy & Society (4/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff but may require temporary commitment from existing mid-level staff post-disaster. This strategy will require providing increased technical assistance to local stakeholders and engaging with local communities and long-term recovery groups. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses other than staffing costs.



Strategy 1.4

Promote available services and deconflict information about insurance, legal rights and responsibilities, grant programs, and other funding and services available to individuals, including vulnerable populations (e.g., individuals experiencing homelessness).

Lead:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Partners:

- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Insurance
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- University of Nebraska Extension
- State Agency Public Information Officers

Description

Health and social services can be difficult to access and navigate, especially while the individual needing support is facing compounded post-disaster distress (e.g., jointly navigating complicated home repair and medical treatment processes). Complex requirements and changing availability of services leads to frustration and/or confusion that may preclude disaster survivors from accessing the support they need. This strategy is intended to cut through the complexity of these processes and help survivors learn about and access health and social services support systems.

At the time this plan was developed, the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function achieved the following milestones in support of this strategy:

- Nebraska Legal Aid compiled and posted information for disaster survivors on its website and is actively using social media to promote services
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster promotes available services through their member listserv and during weekly phone meetings.
- Long-term recovery groups use a Slack channel to share information.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster worked together to organize and support a Long-Term Recovery Group Summit in June of 2019 to inform impacted communities about long-term recovery groups, resources provided, and assistance in forming long-term recovery groups post-disaster.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.6.3.3, pages 90–92, for more information.

Tactics

Ongoing – Within one year of the disasters...

1. Engage insurance agents/representatives and relevant state agencies. Continue to monitor social media for questions and concerns that arise from community members and respond in near-real time; in addition, monitor social media to evaluate the effectiveness of messaging in reaching key populations, utilizing web metrics (e.g., number of clicks, personal information submitted for further information on available services).

**Measures of Success:**

- Post at least three social media updates related to recovery resources from Legal Aid of Nebraska by January 2021.
- Legal Aid of Nebraska: introduce one new (or less frequently used) style of online engagement by January 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funding
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources

Resources:

[HUD Exchange Disaster Recovery Homelessness Toolkit](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems(1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing(4/14)
 Economy & Society(4/14)

Within two years of the disasters...

2. Create a plain language communications campaign simply describing the steps disaster survivors in need should take to begin the process of receiving monetary and other forms of help, with an emphasis on a “one-stop-shop.”
3. Develop coordinated and culturally adaptable media strategies targeting disaster survivors using different methods (e.g., multiple social media platforms, newspaper, radio) and intentionally creating redundancy.
4. Improve local emergency managers’ and county officials’ awareness of health and social services available to their communities.
5. Create and share a “road show” presentation describing available health and social services, tailored by region, to be presented to emergency managers and county officials in person or remotely using interactive technology.
6. Generate a county-specific one-page document to accompany the road show, highlighting key details that can be easily distributed by county personnel.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff but may require a temporary commitment from existing entry- and mid-level staff to develop initial materials. This strategy will require increased awareness of communications and social media, and increased collaboration with local emergency managers and county officials. There will be costs associated with the initial development of materials and there may be additional costs associated with promoting awareness about those materials (e.g. advertising over social media, printing informational handouts).



Objective 2: Increase utilization of treatment programs and services for behavioral health issues to promote individual resilience.

Strategy 2.1

Promote suicide awareness and prevention to reduce stigma surrounding behavioral health issues through outreach campaigns in schools and impacted areas, particularly rural and frontier areas.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health)

Partners:

- Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska
- Individual Behavioral Health Regions
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Other Divisions)
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Non-Profit Entities
- University of Nebraska Extension
- University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

Description

Mental distress in rural communities was a persisting challenge in Nebraska before it was exacerbated further by the 2019 disasters. This strategy is aimed at reducing stigma, increasing the availability and use of mental health services, and preventing suicide to support disaster survivors, particularly for those in rural areas.

At the time this plan was developed, the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function demonstrated progress in the following ways:

- Worked with the Omaha Tribe on suicide awareness, crisis response, and prevention.
- Regions have conducted “Question – Persuade – Refer” (i.e., suicide awareness) and Mental Health First Aid trainings and funded programs working with students in community schools.
- Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health) continues to contract with the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline and offer the voucher program to help provide farmers and ranchers mental health services.
- Held meeting with staff from the Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health) and University of Nebraska Public Policy Center providing an overview of the Behavioral Health and Disaster Behavioral Health System for the director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.6.3.2.2, pages 89–90, for more information.

Tactics

Ongoing – Annually by December 31...

1. Continue evidence-based suicide presentation trainings through Behavioral Health Regions (e.g., Question – Persuade – Refer Trainings, Mental Health First Aid).
2. Coordinate with University of Nebraska Extension, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Other Divisions), Individual Behavioral Health Regions, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, and relevant non-profit entities to host behavioral health awareness and suicide prevention events and support ongoing programs focused on these efforts. Examples include:
 - Rural Stress and Wellness Workgroup Efforts, including:

**Measures of Success:**

- At least two regions conduct Question – Persuade – Refer and Mental Health First Aid trainings by March 2021.
- The number of vouchers given to farmers and ranchers through the Nebraska Rural Response Hotline increases by at least two percent.
- The number of providers who receive vouchers for mental health services increases by at least two percent.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Emergency Response Grant

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy(6/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems(1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing.....(5/14)
 Economy & Society(4/14)

- “Nebraska Needs You” social media campaign (youth focus);
- Neighbor-to-neighbor events and efforts;
- Wellness in Tough Times;
- Communicating with farmers under stress; and
- “Be Here Tomorrow” events.
- Annual Disaster Behavioral Health Conference scheduled for July 2020, “Long-Term Recovery — It’s Everyone’s Job.”
- Other targeted efforts.

3. Continue to enforce the LB923 requirement that key public school personnel complete at least one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training annually in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education.
4. Track the number of participants at each training event to assess the breadth of audiences reached and conduct post-training surveys for each training event to evaluate effectiveness and identify opportunities for improvement.
5. Bolster the capacity of supportive resource networks (e.g., Nebraska Rural Response Hotline, 2-1-1 Resource Hotline, Nebraska Family Helpline) to cope with increased requests for assistance/referrals.
6. Work with University of Nebraska Extension and/or Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster to identify additional volunteers to support the capacity of supportive resource networks.

Within three years of the disasters...

7. Identify or develop resources (e.g., “cheat sheets”) to support resource networks in appropriately triaging disaster-related requests for assistance.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require commitment from existing entry-, mid-, and/or senior level staff. This strategy will require increased coordination and increasing the capacity of supportive resource networks now and in preparation for disaster response and recovery. Outreach efforts would benefit from the distribution of digital or printed materials. Printed materials generally cost less than \$1 per page, depending on the materials used. Social media advertising ranges in cost from \$5-8 per 1,000 impressions or clicks depending on the sites used.

**Strategy 2.2**

Monitor behavioral health impacts and needs as they evolve over time.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health)

Partners:

- Long-Term Recovery Groups
- Nebraska 2-1-1 Resource Hotline
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Salvation Army
- University of Nebraska Extension

Description

At the time this plan was developed, many urgent behavioral health impacts had been addressed. However, public health experts predicted a surge in needs coinciding with the one-year anniversary of the disaster. Evidence from other disasters indicates that behavioral health issues can take even longer to manifest, underscoring the need for coordinated monitoring over time. As of early 2020, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health) is developing a needs assessment, scheduled to be conducted later in the year. Use of the behavioral health impact data gleaned from this assessment will help adapt efforts to better target identified behavioral health needs of Nebraskans over time while strengthening individual and community resilience.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.6, page 81, for more information.

Tactics

Ongoing – Annually by December 31...

1. Strengthen coordinated disaster case management and recovery task force efforts supporting disaster survivors, including:
 - Long-term recovery groups;
 - Disaster case management needs;
 - Rural Stress and Wellness Workgroup Programs;
 - Neighbor-to-Neighbor Events and Efforts;
 - Wellness in Tough Times;
 - Communicating with Farmers Under Stress;
 - Nebraska Rural Response Hotline; and
 - 2-1-1 Resource Hotline.
2. Collect and evaluate annual health and wellness data and share with stakeholders. Consider collection/evaluation through:
 - Nebraska Division of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health) consumer survey on wellness; and
 - Grant-funded crisis counselor-collected wellness/emotional data.

Within three years of the disasters...

3. Compare annual evaluations of health and wellness data to track trends over time, storing comparative results at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health).

**Measures of Success:**

- Development of a needs assessment by January 2021.
- At least one periodic needs assessment is completed by January 2021.
- Development of a strategic plan from data collected from needs assessment.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Emergency Response Grant

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (3/14)
 Economy & Society (4/14)

4. Work with University of Nebraska Extension to send out a quarterly “temperature check” questionnaire to non-profits, agricultural groups, and community organizations in rural areas to monitor and address outstanding behavioral health needs.
5. Coordinate with non-profits, agricultural groups, and community organizations in rural areas to address behavioral health needs throughout the state.
6. Elevate consolidated findings of the quarterly “temperature check” to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health) for visibility.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require intermittent, temporary commitment from entry- and/or mid-level staff. This strategy will require increased coordination with rural organizations, disaster case management groups, and recovery task force entities to address behavioral health needs throughout the state. This strategy will also require increased monitoring and evaluation of health and wellness data. This strategy does not require any foreseeable expenses other than staffing costs.



Objective 3: Increase capacity of behavioral health treatment programs to meet the demand for services with evidence-based, trauma-informed care to increase institutional resilience.

Strategy 3.1

Increase behavioral health treatment availability statewide, including pastoral care and telehealth.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health)

Partners:

- AmeriCares
- Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska
- [Community Action Partnership – Community Action of Nebraska](#)
- Nebraska Family Helpline
- Nebraska Rural Response Hotline
- University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
- University of Nebraska Marriage and Family Counseling Program
- Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
- Nebraska Broadband Grant Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Description

Disasters often strain healthcare networks by causing temporary healthcare disruptions and overwhelming the available systems of care. Though many of the state's healthcare providers have been able to reopen, the extensive need for behavioral health treatment warrants an enhanced network of care. This strategy promotes the use of telehealth and pastoral care to supplement the state's existing healthcare network to empower survivors to access the support they need.

At the time this plan was developed, two major milestones had already been achieved by the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function. First, Network of Care was available to show Nebraskans where they could access mental/behavioral health and substance use disorder services. Second, the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant provided funding for outreach workers in four of the six Behavioral Health Regions to connect individuals to services.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report sections 2.6.3.3, pages 88-92, for more information about behavioral health impacts and treatment availability.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Explore opportunities to deploy volunteer teams from faith-based groups sending licensed pastors to provide formal behavioral healthcare.
2. Participate in local meetings and existing forums to engage residents in discussions about behavioral health needs.
3. Provide information about telehealth services at existing internet access points (e.g., public libraries) for those who do not have smartphones or computers.

Within three years of the disasters...

4. Offer insurance-savvy "patient advocates" to support navigating coverage for those Nebraskans that are insured and seeking help.
5. Recruit a cadre of volunteer behavioral health professionals (e.g., licensed clinical social workers or psychologists) that will provide services pro-bono on an on-call rotation.

**Measures of Success:**

- The number of individuals being served by Department of Health and Human Services (Division of Behavioral Health) increased between March 2020 and 2022.
- The number of individuals served through telehealth services increased between March 2020 and March 2022.
- The number of individuals served through pastoral care increased between March 2020 and March 2022.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant
- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
- Nebraska Broadband Grant Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resources:

[University of Nebraska Medical Center – Munroe-Meyer Institute: Tele-Behavioral Health Consultation for Providers](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (6/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (5/14)
 Economy & Society (6/14)

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will require an increase in staffing capabilities, either as significant ongoing commitments from existing staff members to serve as “patient advocates,” or in the hiring of additional staff to solely serve in this role. This strategy will require an increased awareness of behavioral health needs and opportunities for volunteer teams to support those gaps. It will also require increased availability and access to information of telehealth services and/or providers. There may be costs associated with promoting awareness of telehealth services, securing equipment that can be loaned or provided to low- and moderate-income families, or promoting/securing broadband access to improve access to telehealth services.



Strategy 3.2

Increase treatment capacity for providing evidence-based, trauma-informed care.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Partners:

- Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska
- [Nebraska Post-Secondary Education Coordination Commission](#)
- Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- University of Nebraska Extension

Measures of Success:

- Number of providers trained in evidence-based trauma-informed care increases at least one percent from March 2020.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Services Block Grant Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Social Services Block Grant Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (3/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (7/14)
 Economy & Society..... (8/14)

Description

Healthcare experts within the state identified the need to continue building the resilience healthcare networks so they are better equipped to withstand future disasters. This is especially important in the wake of COVID-19, which has strained and overwhelmed many healthcare providers and systems across the nation. This strategy aims to increase the capacity of Nebraska's healthcare network to encourage healthcare providers to establish practices and treatment areas in underserved communities across the state.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report sections 2.6.3.3, pages 88-92, for more information about behavioral health impacts and treatment capacity.

Tactics

Within six years of the disasters...

1. Establish Health Professional Shortage Areas to incentivize professionals to move to underserved areas.
2. Explore Mental Health Private Practice Incubator model to encourage establishment of new private practices.
3. Create a clinical rotation for prospective licensed psychologists and clinical social workers to support behavioral health needs statewide.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require temporary commitment from mid- or senior-level staff. This strategy will require increased collaboration with health professionals and the development of health professional shortage areas and a clinical rotation for these professionals to support behavioral health needs statewide. There would be costs associated with supporting Health Professional Shortage Areas or Mental Health Private Practice Incubators. In addition, there will likely be additional costs associated with increasing treatment capacity, such as hiring additional staff, identifying new treatment locations, or providing treatment at temporary locations.



4.7 Natural and Cultural Resources

The following section presents the goal, objectives, strategies, and tactics associated with natural and cultural resources recovery and resilience-building. The activities described in this section will be overseen and implemented by members and partners associated with the Nebraska Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function.

Goal:

Protect natural, cultural, and historic places (e.g., parks, cemeteries, museums) through recovery projects to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore disaster-damaged resources.

Overview

 *High Priority Items*

Objective 1:

Increase availability and use of open space in floodplains and wetlands to reduce long-term flood risk while maximizing other beneficial uses.

 **STRATEGY 1.1**

Identify project areas where potential floodplain, stream, or wetland restoration is feasible.

 **STRATEGY 1.2**

Increase community-based understanding of the potential benefits of floodplain, stream, or wetland restoration projects.

Objective 2:

Facilitate the restoration and preservation of Nebraska's natural assets.

 **STRATEGY 2.1**

Use available grant funding and rebuilding opportunities to improve and expand Nebraska's parks and open spaces to reduce future vulnerability to disasters.



Objective 3:

Encourage the rehabilitation and mitigation of damaged historic buildings and resources.

❗ STRATEGY 3.1

Rehabilitate state-owned and community-owned resources and historical markers and implement measures to mitigate future risk.

STRATEGY 3.2

Develop and implement a program to help preserve and rehabilitate privately-owned historic resources.

Objective 4:

Integrate arts and culture throughout recovery to support whole community recovery efforts.

STRATEGY 4.1

Leverage public-private partnerships to incorporate artistic, cultural, landscaping, and other community-identified value-adding components to infrastructure projects.





Objective 1: Increase availability and use of open space in floodplains and wetlands to reduce long-term flood risk while maximizing other beneficial uses.

Strategy 1.1

Identify project areas where potential floodplain, stream, or wetland restoration is feasible.

Partners:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Measures of Success:

- Technical assistance is provided to at least two communities by March 2022.
- At least one training is provided to Natural Resources Districts.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (6/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (5/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society..... (3/14)

Description

Following the disasters of 2019, Nebraskans are more aware than ever of the risks posed by development in flood-prone areas. To support a resilient recovery, Nebraska can pursue multi-benefit projects that simultaneously reduce risk and provide other benefits. For example, projects to remove houses or farmland from frequently flooded areas can reduce the potential for flood losses. By designating this space for wetland restoration purposes or seasonal recreation uses, this project could simultaneously provide other benefits as well. This strategy is intended to help build understanding, interest, and capacity statewide for developing these types of multi-benefit projects.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Leverage best available flood data and tools to support public and local government understanding of risk. See *Cross-Cutting Strategy 6.2* for more information.
2. Provide technical assistance via local and regional mitigation plan update processes statewide to help identify strategic project areas (i.e., communities that stand to benefit the most) and key watersheds to prioritize for restoration projects.
3. Support local Natural Resources Districts in developing strong understanding of localized impacts and watershed management plans to develop system-wide and cohesive management and restoration of watersheds.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff, an increase in current staffing will not likely be necessary. This strategy will require providing technical assistance to mitigation projects, supporting local Natural Resources Districts, and ensuring outreach staff have access to and understand how to deploy the most relevant and available flood data and tools. The state should already have access to the equipment and resources necessary to execute this strategy.



Strategy 1.2

Increase community-based understanding of the potential benefits of floodplain, stream, or wetland restoration projects.

Lead:

- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Partners:

- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- Local Floodplain Administrators
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Association of Resources Districts
- Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

Description

Federal grant programs designed to support disaster recovery and hazard mitigation are increasingly equipped to include secondary benefits (e.g., recreational or ecological benefits associated with acquisition projects) in cost-benefit analyses. To facilitate the identification and development of these types of multi-benefit projects across local communities, increasing familiarity and understanding of concepts, both among government staff and residents, is important.

Tactics

Within two years of the disasters...

1. Develop guidance documents to support local outreach, including:
 - Project-type-specific job aids and frequently asked questions;
 - Locally relevant case studies; and
 - Lists or matrices aligning conceptually eligible projects appropriate in Nebraska with accessible funding programs.
2. Coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide trainings on Benefit-Cost Analysis Tools.

Within three years of the disasters...

3. Use existing outreach and education channels to deploy job aids, education materials, and grant announcements relevant for multi-benefit floodplain and wetland restoration projects.
4. Capture key information about new floodplain, stream, and wetland restoration projects, including:
 - Project origination;
 - Lead entity and project partners;
 - Project cost and funding mechanism used; and
 - Timeline and level of effort expended from identification through project scoping, development, funding, and implementation.
5. Seek opportunities to bring presenters from other states with successful floodplain, stream, and wetland restoration projects to share best practices and lessons learned and conferences and trainings.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff, an increase in current staffing will not likely be necessary. This strategy will require developing updated guidance documents to support local outreach and developing new resources that capture key information about floodplain,



Measures of Success:

- At least one guidance document is developed by March 2021.
- At least one training on Benefit-Cost Analysis is hosted by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (9/12)
 Infrastructure & Ecosystems (3/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society (6/14)

stream, and wetland restoration projects. This strategy will also require collaborating with Federal Emergency Management Association and surrounding areas to support information sharing of best practices and other trainings. This strategy may have costs associated with material development and production and sending staff to trainings or conferences but would not likely require significant additional funding.



Objective 2: Facilitate the restoration and preservation of Nebraska’s natural assets.

! Strategy 2.1

Use available grant funding and rebuilding opportunities to improve and expand Nebraska's parks and open spaces to reduce future vulnerability to disasters.

Partners:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Measures of Success:

- At least one training event held on environmental review processes by December 2021.
- Twenty percent of future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds are prioritized for demolition and acquisition projects.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community Development Block Grant
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (6/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (2/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society..... (2/14)

Description

Recovery presents an opportunity to shift land use patterns in ways that reduce long-term risk while also providing auxiliary community benefits. Multi-benefit projects with restoration or recreation design components can help support the state’s tourism and state park system while also reducing long-term natural hazard risk.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report pages 2.8.2 and 2.8.3, pages 105–107, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Encourage the development of acquisition projects to remove structures and acquire grazing rights in areas behind vulnerable levees and other water control facilities and designate land for perpetual use as parks, open spaces, or for seasonal recreational uses.
2. Support property acquisitions (including traditional structure buyout, demolition and removal projects as well as grazing land purchases) to reduce risk in flood-prone areas behind vulnerable levees using state-managed funding programs.
3. Work with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to provide grant applicants access to important information about required environmental review processes, including procedural guidance, the Conservation and Environmental Review Tool, traditional permit forms, and points of contact who can provide further information and technical assistance as needed.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy may be efficiently executed by current staff, an increase in current staffing will not likely be necessary. This strategy will require increased collaboration with grant applicants. Even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide a source of funding to meet grant match requirements.



Objective 3: Encourage the rehabilitation and mitigation of damaged historic buildings and resources.

! Strategy 3.1

Rehabilitate state-owned and community-owned resources and historical markers and implement measures to mitigate future risk.

Lead:

- History Nebraska

Partners:

- Certified Local Governments
- Nebraska Archaeological Society
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Description

The 2019 disasters forced dozens of closures to state parks and recreation areas, preventing and reducing entrance fees and demand for hunting and fishing permits, thereby interrupting key revenue streams for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. In addition to closures to parks and recreation areas, wildlife management areas, fisheries, and nature trails were also damaged. Repairing these and other community and state assets and undertaking efforts to reduce the risk of these sites to future impacts, is an important component of holistic recovery.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.8.1, page 105, and 2.8.3, page 106, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Create public-private partnerships to identify potential sites for historical structure and neighborhood repair, enhancement, and mitigation.
2. Disseminate information about conceptually eligible repair, recovery, and rehabilitation projects through available funding mechanisms and tax incentive programs. Where possible, include examples or case studies highlighting specific instances in which proposals were successfully developed, funded, and implemented.
3. Provide technical assistance to eligible Community Development Block Grant Program sub-applicants in developing appropriate and feasible proposals and projects to repair community- and state-owned resources and historical markers.
4. Provide technical assistance to support sub-applicants in developing mitigation project proposals to reduce the long-term risk to state- and community-owned resources and historical markers through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program.

Within four years of the disasters...

5. Promote efforts to recover, enhance, and protect state- and community-owned resources and historical markers through existing communication channels. These efforts should highlight:
 - Available funding programs to support repair, enhancement, and mitigation;
 - Successfully implemented projects and lessons learned; and



Measures of Success:

- Technical assistance is provided to at least two communities by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Federal Historic Tax Credit
- Nebraska Historic Tax Credit
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Valuation Incentive Program

Resources:

Building on the Future of Our Past – State Historic Preservation Plan for the State of Nebraska, 2017–2021

[Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory \(NeHRSI\)](#)

[Nebraska Archaeological Survey](#)

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (7/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (1/13)
 Health & Wellbeing..... (0/14)
 Economy & Society (6/14)

- Basic tips for historic building rehabilitation and non-structural mitigation measures.

6. Use the [Highway Cultural Resources Program](#) as a model to assess proposed state construction projects to support:

- Early identification of historic and archaeological sites; and
- Development of appropriate plans to preserve these assets through proposed projects.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require a significant ongoing commitment from an existing staff member. This strategy will require providing ongoing technical support to Community Development Block Grant Program sub-applicants and potential sub-applicants to support identification and development of appropriate projects. This strategy will also entail information sharing of project best practices and funding opportunities. Even with anticipated federal support, state and local governments may need to provide funding to meet grant requirements.



Strategy 3.2

Develop and implement a program to help preserve and rehabilitate privately-owned historic resources.

Lead:

- History Nebraska

Partners:

- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Measures of Success:

- Information about the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit Program is disseminated to stakeholders by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Nebraska Historic Tax Credit
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Valuation Incentive Program

Resources:

Building on the Future of Our Past – State Historic Preservation Plan for the State of Nebraska, 2017–2021

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy (8/12)
 Infrastructure
 & Ecosystems (0/13)
 Health & Wellbeing (0/14)
 Economy & Society..... (6/14)

Description

For historical resources that are privately owned, decisions about rehabilitation fall to the property owner. Repairs to historic buildings are often more cost-prohibitive and costs may be an important decision factor for the owner. By providing guidance, information, and creating awareness of incentive programs, the state may be able to help property owners preserve the integrity of historical assets.

See Baseline Conditions and Impact Assessment Report Section 2.8.2, pages 105–106, for more information.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Create public-private partnerships to identify potential sites for historical structure and neighborhood repair, enhancement, and mitigation and leverage the Nebraska Historic Tax Credit program to reduce project costs.
2. Disseminate information through existing learning networks about tax incentive programs that can help encourage rehabilitation of historic sites while retaining historic character.

Within four years of the disasters...

3. Provide technical assistance to help develop specific projects to repair, enhance, and mitigate future risk to privately-owned historic resources.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require a significant commitment from mid- or senior level staff. This strategy will require increased collaboration with private partners. The cost of implementation will vary significantly depending on the type of preservation or rehabilitation activity, materials used, and number of properties or facilities impacted. Program costs could be minimized by focusing on the provision of technical support, rather than the provision of services or labor to carry out rehabilitation efforts.



Objective 4: Integrate arts and culture throughout recovery to support whole community recovery efforts.

Strategy 4.1

Leverage public-private partnerships to incorporate artistic, cultural, landscaping, and other community-identified value-adding components to infrastructure projects.

Partners:

- History Nebraska
- Nebraska Archaeology Society
- Nebraska Arts Council
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Measures of Success:

- Effective public-private partnerships are identified.
- Technical assistance is provided to at least two communities by March 2021.

Potential Funding Sources:

- Civic and Community Center Financing Fund
- Community Development Block Grant
- Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program
- Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant
- Economic Impact Initiative Grants
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources
- Rural Community Development Initiative

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy	(9/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(3/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(0/14)
Economy & Society	(5/14)

Description

Infrastructure recovery and mitigation projects present an opportunity for residents to engage in planning discussions and contribute ideas about ways projects can be designed to meet the needs and priorities of local communities. Developing these projects collaboratively encourages a stronger sense of community. Given the state’s extensive infrastructure recovery needs, these opportunities are numerous. The purpose of this strategy is to encourage public-private partnerships that will promote civic engagement and ownership over long-term recovery while restoring the state’s infrastructure.

Tactics

Within three years of the disasters...

1. Identify effective public-private partnerships that have been used to integrate arts and culture into infrastructure projects.
2. Provide technical assistance to local government staff undertaking comprehensive or capital improvement planning to help identify feasible opportunities to incorporate arts and culture into prioritized projects.
3. Encourage engagement across tribal communities, neighborhood associations, and other community organizations to explore community-identified priorities.
4. Prioritize projects with artistic, cultural, landscaping, and other community-identified value-adding components through funding programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Implementation Considerations

This strategy will not likely require additional staffing but may require a temporary commitment from existing staff. This strategy will require increasing capabilities to provide technical assistance and increased engagement with tribal communities, neighborhood associations, and other community partners. The cost of implementing this strategy can vary widely depending on the type of desired artistic enhancements. Additionally, there may be opportunities to solicit donated resources (time, supplies) through public-private partnerships that could help reduce associated costs.

Appendix 1: Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery Membership

- American Red Cross
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Governor Rickett’s Office
- United Methodists Great Plains
- Habitat for Humanity of Omaha
- History Nebraska
- Housing Foundation for Sarpy County
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- National Guard
- Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Nebraska Business Development Center
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Labor
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Nebraska Preparedness Partnership
- University of Nebraska Extension
- University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
- United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Appendix 2: COVID-19 Impacts

The purpose of this appendix is to contextualize Nebraska’s long-term recovery from the 2019 disasters within the “new normal” presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Situation

In late 2019, COVID-19 was discovered in Wuhan, China, and spread among humans rapidly. By March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, meaning that there is worldwide spread of a new disease. As of the publication of the *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan*, there is active community spread—or the spread of an illness when the source of infection is unknown—in the United States, including Nebraska. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 spreads from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.³ There has been a massive global response to control the spread of the virus, including the implementation of strict community mitigation measures (e.g., social distancing), with downstream impacts to the global economy through travel restrictions, business closures, and more.

Due to the growing COVID-19 case counts across the United States—1,951,111 confirmed cases and 110,734 related deaths as of June 8, 2020⁴—the state has taken necessary actions to control the disease (i.e., Directed Health Measures). Directed Health Measures apply to places where people gather (e.g., churches, theaters, gyms, salons) and social events (e.g., weddings, funerals, concerts, athletic events). For instance, the State of Nebraska limited in-person events to 10 people. Other examples include the cancelation of any non-emergency dental or medical procedures, barring dine-in services at restaurants and bars, and ceasing all in-person educational instruction.⁵

COVID-19 is an infectious disease with clear health impacts, but the social and economic ramifications of the pandemic, due to Directed Health Measures and other factors, cannot be ignored. Nebraskans may be facing the following during this protracted disaster:

- Individuals and households have lost or may lose their job(s), and thus access to their main source(s) of income. This may contribute to inability to pay rent or mortgage and result in evictions or foreclosures—further stressing over-capacity homeless shelters and wraparound services.
- Local small businesses may lose a substantial amount of clientele and income, possibly requiring permanent closures.

³ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (April 2, 2020) “How COVID-19 Spreads.” Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

⁴ Johns Hopkins University, Center for Systems Science. (April 2, 2020) “Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases.” Retrieved from <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

⁵ Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. (April 2, 2020) “Directed Health Measure Order 2020-008.” Retrieved from <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/COVID-19-DHM-Blanket2020-008.pdf>

- Due to economic devastation, food banks, pantries, and kitchens are experiencing higher demand than ever. Communication is needed to raise awareness of available services and transportation to food distribution sites.
- With public school closures, vulnerable children have lost access to key free and reduced lunch services. All children may lack supervision and proper educational instruction. Students without access to internet at home may be particularly disadvantaged during school closures, without the ability to complete remote school work. School systems are experiencing difficulties in maintaining visibility on students experiencing hardships (e.g., homelessness).
- Seniors in rural areas are experiencing food insecurity and internet connectivity is limited. Lack of internet access makes working from home and accessing telehealth services unrealistic.
- Families may experience hardship due to the need to provide childcare while social distancing measures are in place or through having to care for a sick family member. Childcare providers are losing income due to low attendance while families continue to social distance, and providers may not be able to reopen after the peak of this crisis ends.
- Social networks and communities have been disrupted, with little to no allowance for physical interpersonal interactions. Older adults and people with pre-existing health conditions—the most susceptible to COVID-19—may be experiencing full isolation for an extended period of time.
- Children and adults alike are experiencing stress and accumulating trauma during this pandemic. It can be expected that mental/behavioral health support will be needed during and after this disaster due to witnessing mass fatalities and experiencing extended periods of isolation.
- Healthcare systems and medical facilities can expect to be overwhelmed with sick individuals, as well as possibly running short on necessary medical supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment). COVID-19 testing is still not widespread enough, especially given the prevalent asymptomatic nature of the disease.
- Uninsured Nebraskans may struggle to pay for COVID-19 testing or COVID-19-associated medical care. Typical chronic healthcare needs may go unaddressed in fear of contracting COVID-19 at medical facilities or economic instability (e.g., job loss) may lead to inability to pay for care.
- Workers supporting essential functions (e.g., healthcare personnel, grocery store employees) may be placed at higher risk given their line of work. Agricultural industry workers (e.g., meat processing plants) are at heightened risk for COVID-19 infection given their congregate work settings.
- Limited English proficient Nebraskans and others may experience difficulties in navigating public health guidance to protect themselves and their families, as well as the disaster aid landscape to receive crucial supplies and services.
- Prevalence of human trafficking and domestic violence are expected to increase, creating more need for already strained services. The complexity of these issues exacerbates

individual situations—for instance, survivors living with perpetrators of violence are not considered homeless and are therefore ineligible for many streams of assistance.

- Local philanthropists that financially drive community efforts on an annual basis may not be able to donate at levels the community is accustomed to.

Nebraska communities still struggling to recover from the 2019 disasters, occurring just over a year ago, have now been severely affected again, with no foreseeable end in sight. Experts' understanding of COVID-19 is still evolving and the hope is that measures taken now will serve to stop this wave of disease spread. Clear issues that arose from the 2019 disasters, such as psychosocial or economic concerns, are likely to be exacerbated by this pandemic.

Even when public health and medical professionals share that it is safe to gather again in groups of more than 10 people and that the disease is under control for the time being, the damage done (e.g., health-wise, socially, economic) will last for years to come. Although the path to recovery will not be easy, as was the case with the 2019 disasters, Nebraska will strive to remain strong and build back better as a unified community.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is part of an unfortunate sequence of events, especially given the ongoing recovery from the 2019 disasters, there is still forward momentum for the State of Nebraska. State actions taken or funding released in response to COVID-19 may also serve certain aspects of the 2019 disasters long-term recovery (e.g., renewed Crisis Counseling Program funding). However, it is possible that this pandemic may shift political and social will away from the 2019 disasters recovery and divert focus to the pandemic recovery. This is to be expected as the pandemic impacts every Nebraskan—anyone and everyone can be infected—while the flooding event and storm spared some individuals and households. COVID-19 presents society with a new normal that will not quickly dissipate. It will take concerted effort to keep the 2019 disasters long-term recovery at the forefront for both the public and decision-makers.

Funding Opportunities

Due to the grave health, economic, and social needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, both the State of Nebraska and the Federal Government have put funding toward the response.

State COVID-19 Funding

On March 25, 2020, Governor Pete Ricketts signed bill LB 1198 to provide emergency funding to address COVID-19.⁶ Highlights of how the emergency funding package will be used include:

⁶ State of Nebraska. (March 25, 2020) "Gov. Ricketts Thanks Legislature for Approving COVID-19 Emergency Funds, Temporarily Suspends Evictions for Impacted Nebraskans." Retrieved from <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/gov-ricketts-thanks-legislature-for-approving-covid-19-emergency-funds-temporarily-suspends-evictions-for-impacted-nebraskans/>

- Purchasing personal protective equipment;
- Hiring staff at local public health departments, ramping up call center operations, and making technology purchases (e.g., laptops, servers);
- Expanding epidemiology staffing and providing resources for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing;
- Covering overtime costs and surge staffing for veterans' homes and state care facilities;
- Hiring lab personnel and purchasing equipment and systems for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (e.g., reagents); and
- Maintaining flexible funds (\$25 million) to allow the state to respond in an agile way as the pandemic progresses.

On May 27, 2020, Governor Pete Ricketts announced four new economic development grant programs funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.⁷ Highlights of how the funding will be used include:

- Aiding Nebraska small businesses by providing working capital;
 - **Small Business Stabilization Grant:** \$330 million in working capital allocated to Nebraska's small businesses and livestock producers to help cover operating expenses.
- Providing retraining for the un- and underemployed;
 - **Workforce Retraining Initiative:** \$16 million allocated to support unemployed and underemployed Nebraskans in gaining new or improved skillsets.
- Providing new training for business leaders; and
 - **Gallup Business Leadership Training Grant:** \$1 million allocated for senior managers to take a 30-week online course to learn techniques for leading through challenges.
- Increasing rural broadband access.
 - **Nebraska Broadband Grant Program:** \$40 million allocated to provide internet access to underserved communities to enable opportunities such as remote work, telehealth, education, entertainment, and more.

⁷ State of Nebraska. (May 27, 2020) "Economic Development Grant Programs." Retrieved from <https://getnebraskagrowing.nebraska.gov/>

Federal COVID-19 Funding

As of June 3, 2020, federal appropriations for Nebraska, related to COVID-19, amount to \$7.8 billion⁸—including supplemental allocations for individuals, families, non-profit organizations, private businesses, education, and government entities. Funding is available through the sources found below.

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act⁹

- On March 27, 2020, President Donald Trump signed a \$2 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, the CARES Act.¹⁰
 - Nebraska individuals and families received a total of \$1.6 billion.
 - The State of Nebraska’s Coronavirus Relief Fund received \$1.25 billion.

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act¹¹

- On March 6, 2020, this bill was signed into law to support the domestic and international response to COVID-19.¹²

Families First Coronavirus Response Act¹³

- On March 18, 2020, this bill was signed into law to address the domestic outbreak, including paid sick leave, insurance coverage of COVID-19 testing, nutrition assistance, and unemployment benefits.¹⁴

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act¹⁵

- On April 24, 2020, this bill was signed into law to address the COVID-19 pandemic by providing additional funding for small business loans, health care providers, and COVID-19 testing.¹⁶
 - The State of Nebraska has \$6.4 billion earmarked.

⁸ State of Nebraska. (June 3, 2020) “Federal COVID-19 Supplemental Appropriations.” Retrieved from <https://budget.nebraska.gov/assets/COVID-19/FederalCovid-19SupplementalAppropriations.pdf>

⁹ United States Government. (March 27, 2020) “H.R. 748: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.” Retrieved from <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819239-FINAL-FINAL-CARES-ACT.html>

¹⁰ Kaiser Family Foundation. (April 9, 2020) “The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: Summary of Key Health Provisions.” Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-act-summary-of-key-health-provisions/>

¹¹ United States Government. (March 6, 2020) “Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020.” Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ123/PLAW-116publ123.pdf>

¹² Kaiser Family Foundation. (March 11, 2020) “The U.S. Response to Coronavirus: Summary of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020.” Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/the-u-s-response-to-coronavirus-summary-of-the-coronavirus-preparedness-and-response-supplemental-appropriations-act-2020/>

¹³ United States Department of Labor. (2020) “Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employer Paid Leave Requirements.” Retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employer-paid-leave>

¹⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation. (March 23, 2020) “The Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Summary of Key Provisions.” Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/the-families-first-coronavirus-response-act-summary-of-key-provisions/>

¹⁵ United States Government. (April 24, 2020) “Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.” Retrieved from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/266/>

¹⁶ Kaiser Family Foundation. (May 1, 2020) “The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act: Summary of Key Health Provisions.” Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-paycheck-protection-program-and-health-care-enhancement-act-summary-of-key-health-provisions/>

Appendix 3: Resilience-Building Value

Following the disasters of 2019, the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery sought to develop a plan that would not only provide a roadmap for recovery from recent events, but also serve to promote long-term resilience. Thus, each of the draft strategies developed for inclusion in the *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* were analyzed for their resilience-building value. This analysis was organized across four dimensions: health and wellbeing, economy and society, infrastructure and ecosystems, and leadership and strategy.

Each category included a series of binary evaluation statements that received a score of zero or one. For instance: Does the strategy advance access to safe and affordable housing? If the strategy being evaluated helps to promote safe and affordable housing, it received a score of one. If it does not promote safe and affordable housing, it receives a score of zero. There are 14 evaluation statements for health and wellbeing, 14 evaluation statements for economy and society, 13 evaluation statements for infrastructure and ecosystems, and 12 evaluation statements for leadership and strategy. The final score in each category is displayed as a fraction, where the first number equals the raw score and the second number represents the total possible score.

For example, *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.1* received a score of nine in leadership and strategy (out of 12); one in infrastructure and ecosystems (out of 13); four in health and wellbeing (out of 14); and six in economy and society (out of 14). The resilience-building value of *Cross-Cutting Strategy 1.1* is therefore displayed as:

Resilience-Building Value:

Leadership & Strategy.....	(9/12)
Infrastructure & Ecosystems	(1/13)
Health & Wellbeing	(4/14)
Economy & Society.....	(6/14)

These categories and evaluation statements were selected the City Resilience Index, a widely used assessment method to test resiliency.¹⁷ The Resilience Building-Value Assessment is intended to display how each strategy meets certain resiliency indicators and allow for easier understanding of the importance of utility of each strategy. Additional detail about the resilience assessment process is available upon request.

¹⁷ Citi Resilience Index. (September 2019). *CRI Evaluating Resilience Toolkit*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/3t347qf29n55o12/CRI%20Evaluating%20Resilience%20Toolkit.pdf?dl=0>

Appendix 4: Funding Opportunities

This appendix provides a resource for the State of Nebraska to understand funding opportunities available to implement recovery and resilience actions. This will serve as a living resource to contextualize the funding landscape and provide additional information about funding sources referenced in this plan. Available sources for financing recovery recommendations may include the following:

- **Local, State, and Federal Grant and Loan Opportunities:** A wide range of state and federal programs are available to provide financial assistance to recovery efforts.
- **Commercial/Small Business Administration Loans:** These loans are a source of support for funding economic revitalization and the return of businesses and jobs and are secured through private institutions, often local banks.
- **Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources:** Donations and funding opportunities from charitable organizations, community foundations, or private donors are options to fund recovery actions.
- **Tax Incentives:** Programs that provide tax credits can be used to support economic revitalization.
- **State/Local Budgets:** In some instances, there may not be an opportunity to leverage external funding through grants, loans, or other sources, requiring use of the state's or local government's operating budgets to enact long-term recovery initiatives.

The following table provides an overview of the funding sources referenced in the *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* including descriptions of funding opportunities, their sources, program descriptions, amounts, and timelines (and eventually applicable *Long-Term Recovery and Resilience Plan* strategies). When possible, language was copied verbatim from source descriptions or paraphrased as closely as possible.

The information available may vary and therefore the categories and/or information included under each funding opportunity listed in the table is not uniform. More information can be accessed by clicking the website link provided for most of the funding opportunities (hyperlinks are indicated with underlining).

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT)</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Transportation Office of Hazardous Material Safety</i></p> <p>The ALERT grant promotes hazmat response training for volunteer or remote emergency responders. Response activities include the transportation of crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids by rail consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2019:</i> \$1.3 million</p>	<p>Unknown.</p> <p>Contact hmep.grants@dot.gov for more information.</p>
<p><u>Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>BRIC will support states, local communities, tribes and territories, as they undertake hazard mitigation projects reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new Federal Emergency Management Agency pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation program and is a result of amendments made to Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by Section 1234 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. The Federal Emergency Management Agency intends to publish a proposed BRIC policy in the Federal Register for public comment in the spring of 2020.</p>	<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates the program will have around \$300–500 million annually</p> <p><i>Note: BRIC is nationally competitive</i></p>	<p>To be announced.</p> <p>Notice of Funding Opportunity anticipated in Summer/Fall 2020 with application window opening Fall 2020.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF)</u> <i>Source: Nebraska Department of Economic Development</i></p> <p>CCCCF grants of state aid are awarded to municipalities to encourage and foster quality of life in Nebraska communities. Eligible applicants include governmental subdivisions, public housing authorities, community action agencies, and community/neighborhood/ reservation-based nonprofits. Examples of projects include libraries, recreation and wellness centers, gathering spaces, parks, convention centers, town squares, museums, and cultural centers. Projects include conversion, rehabilitation, or reuse of historic buildings. The grant may also be used for preliminary planning related to the development or rehabilitation of eligible projects.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$5,397,775</i></p> <p><i>Grant Ranges:</i></p> <p>Planning – \$3,000 to \$15,000</p> <p>Construction – \$15,000 to maximum as determined by statutory grant schedule (varies)</p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>
<p><u>Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF)</u> <i>Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority</i></p> <p>The CWSRF program provides low interest loans and small community matching grants to municipalities for construction of wastewater treatment facilities and sanitary sewer collection systems to alleviate public health and environmental problems. The loan principal repayments go into new loans and interest earnings on the Fund is used to (1) pay off the state match bond issues and (2) make new loans.</p>	<p><i>Federal Fiscal Year 2019 CWSRF Capitalization Grant for Nebraska: \$8.1 million</i></p>	<p>Complete the Needs Survey by December 31 each year.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) <i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Nebraska Department of Economy Development</i></p> <p>The federal (CDBG) program provides funding for community and economic development projects to encourage additional federal, state, and private resources. Communities receiving CDBG funds use those grants to provide safe and sanitary housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) administers the CDBG program for most of the state. Due to population size, some cities in Nebraska are the administrators of the CDBG program in their communities. DED receives federal funds for CDBG from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on an annual basis. Communities can apply to use those funds for the planning and construction of projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit low and moderate-income persons. • Prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions. • Solve catastrophic health and safety threats. 	<p>Varies</p>	<p><i>Program Application Deadlines:</i></p> <p>Downtown Revitalization: September 15, 2020.</p> <p>Economic Development: Open cycle, begins July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Emergent Threat: Open cycle, begins July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Owner Occupied Rehabilitation: Required pre-application – July 30, 2020, 1:00 p.m. Central Time. Full application – September 30, 2020, 6:00 p.m. Central Time.</p> <p>Planning: Full application – August 30, 2020.</p> <p>Public Works: Full application – August 15, 2020.</p> <p>Tourism Development: Open cycle, begins July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Youth Job Training: Open cycle, begins July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Water/Wastewater: Open cycle, begins July 1, 2020.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)</u> <i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Nebraska Department of Economic Development</i></p> <p>Flexible grants to help cities, counties, and states recover from presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations.</p> <p>The federal CDBG-DR program provides assistance to Nebraska communities recovering from disasters. To help mitigate damage from flooding and other weather-related incidents in 2019, federal funds have been allocated to be administered throughout some of the hardest hit areas in Nebraska.</p>	<p>Total: \$108.9 million</p>	<p><i>Unmet Needs Assessment and Action Plan: 90–120 days after allocation.</i></p> <p><i>Date of Funding Award: To be announced.</i></p>
<p><u>Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program</u> <i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. Public bodies, community-based nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized tribes can apply. Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and to pay related project expenses.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Applications for this program are accepted year-round.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>Eligible applicants will be in a rural area of 20,000 or less in population for both programs. Eligible recipients are public entities, private non-profit organizations and federally recognized tribes. Funding priority will be made to organizations that have experience providing technical assistance and training to rural entities. Recipients may use the funds help rural communities identify financial resources, improve community facilities' management functions, and prepare reports, surveys and applications.</p>	<p><i>Maximum Grant Award: \$150,000</i></p> <p><i>Note: Grant funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process</i></p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>
<p><u>Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Disaster Relief Supplemental Funds</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services</i></p> <p>On June 6, 2019, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 was signed into law. This provided \$25 million in disaster supplemental funds to the CSBG Program for nationwide distribution. The Office of Community Services (OCS) will allocate the funds to states, territories, and tribes based on assessment of need. States, in turn, will issue grants to CSBG-eligible entities to support disaster recovery activities for individuals and families with low incomes.</p> <p>OCS will be allocating the funds in a three-stage process: Stage 1) initial planning, needs assessment and cost documentation grants; Stage 2) interim recovery efforts; and Stage 3) longer term recovery efforts.</p>	<p><i>Total: Approximately \$433,188 (eligible for entire state)</i></p> <p>The Nebraska State CSBG Office was awarded \$100,000 on February 14, 2020 based upon the submitted Stage 1 application</p>	<p><i>Stage 2 Application Due to OCS: March 12, 2020.</i></p> <p>Funds may be expended by eligible Community Action Agencies through September 30, 2022.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p>Continuum of Care (CoC) Program <i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development</i></p> <p>The (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>
<p>Cooperative Technical Program (CTP) <i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>“The (CTP) Program exists to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The goals of the CTP Program are to primarily support the mission and objectives of the NFIP’s Flood Hazard Mapping Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s flood hazard identification and risk assessment programs, including the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning initiative.”</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP)</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services</i></p> <p>Part of the Individual Assistance Program, the CCP is a short-term disaster relief grant. CCP grants are awarded after a presidential disaster declaration. CCP funding supports community-based outreach, counseling, and other mental health services to survivors of natural and human-caused disasters.</p> <p>The CCP consists of two types of grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Immediate Services Program grants provide funds for up to 60 days of services immediately following a Presidential declaration of a disaster that includes Federal Emergency Management Agency Individual Assistance. • The Regular Services Program grants provide funds for up to nine months of additional crisis counseling services. 	<p><i>Total: \$2.9 million</i></p> <p><i>Remaining: \$1 million</i></p>	<p><i>Immediate Service Program Application Deadline: 14 days from date of major disaster declaration with Individual Assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Regular Service Program Application Deadline: 60 days from date of major disaster declaration with Individual Assistance.</i></p> <p>Nebraska has these funds until May 17, 2020.</p>
<p><u>Disaster Assistance for State Units on Aging (SUAs) and Tribal Organizations in Major Disasters Declared by the President</u></p> <p><i>Source: Administration for Community Living</i></p> <p>Grants awarded under this announcement are to provide disaster reimbursement and assistance funds to those SUAs and federally- recognized tribal organizations who are currently receiving a grant under Title VI of the Older Americans Act, as amended. These funds only become available when the president declares a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and may only be used in those areas designated in the disaster declaration issued by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$450,000</i></p> <p><i>Note: Seven anticipated awards</i></p>	<p><i>Deadline: September 7, 2020.</i></p> <p>Funding is for 12 months.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Dollar and Energy Saving Loan Program (DESL)</u> <i>Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy</i></p> <p>The DESL program provides low interest loans for eligible energy conservation projects (e.g., HVAC systems, insulation, appliances, alternate energy systems). Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy works with Nebraska-based lending institutions and covers a portion of the total loan. This enables loans to be provided below market value. In response to the 2019 floods, the DESL program helped provide loans at a one percent interest rate.</p>	<p><i>Total: Approximately \$7 million annually</i></p> <p><i>Note: This is a revolving loan, amounts available vary</i></p>	<p>Varies.</p>
<p><u>Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)</u> <i>Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy</i></p> <p>The WAP program utilizes federal funds to low-income households (to be eligible a client must be within 200% of the federal poverty level). Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy works with seven Community Action Partnerships and Habitat for Humanity – Omaha as sub grantees for the program. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy passes funds to the subgrantees who are responsible for contracting or performing the weatherization services.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$5.2 million</i></p> <p><i>Note: The funds available in WAP are committed to designated sub grantees</i></p>	<p>Varies.</p>
<p><u>Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF)</u> <i>Source: Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services</i></p> <p>The DWSRF program provides low-interest loans and loan forgiveness to owners of public drinking water systems. The loan principal repayments go into new loans and interest earnings on the fund is used (1) to pay off the state match bond issues and (2) to make new loans.</p>	<p><i>Federal Fiscal Year 2019 DWSRF Capitalization Grant for Nebraska: \$11 million</i></p>	<p>Available annually.</p> <p>DWSRF Needs Survey must be completed by December 31 to be eligible the following year.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Funding</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Economic Development Administration</i></p> <p>The Economic Development Administration’s disaster supplemental funding helps communities and regions recovering from federally declared disasters devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects. Eligible activities may include supporting the creation of new businesses and jobs, facilitating access to private capital investment, implementing job creation and economic diversification, and facilitating and promoting market access for goods and services manufactured by businesses in impacted areas.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$587 million</i></p>	<p>Applications accepted on a rolling basis.</p>
<p><u>Economic Impact Initiative Grants</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>This program provides funding to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. An essential community facility is one that provides an essential service to the local community; is needed for the orderly development of the community; serves a primarily rural area; and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>Applications for this program are accepted year-round.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance</i></p> <p>The JAG Program is the leading federal source of criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states, territories, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court, prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives, and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$34 million</i></p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>
<p>Emergency Advance Measures for Flood Prevention</p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i></p> <p>Technical and direct assistance to protect against loss of life and damage to property prior to an imminent threat of unusual flooding, such as snowmelt from abnormally high snowpack, dam or levee safety concerns, and changed conditions due to wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Always available.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants</u> <i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>This program helps eligible communities prepare for, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. A federal disaster declaration is not required.</p>	<p>Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply</p> <p>Water source grants up to \$500,000 are to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility</p>	<p>Applications for this program are accepted year-round through the local Rural Development office.</p>
<p><u>Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)</u> <i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>The EMPG Program is one of the grant programs that constitute the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency’s focus on all-hazards emergency preparedness. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by DHS. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the 2018 DHS Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, EMPG supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2020 (State of Nebraska):</i> \$3,904,262</p> <p><i>Note: COVID-19 Supplemental Funding is available</i></p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p>Emergency Operations Flood Response and Post Flood Response</p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i></p> <p>Technical and direct assistance provided during or following a flood, coastal storm, or other disaster event. Direct assistance is limited to flood fight materials such as sandbags and, in rare cases, pumps. The assistance provided is temporary and supplemental to local and state efforts.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Always available.</p>
<p><u>Emergency Solutions Grants Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Exchange</i></p> <p>The ESG program provides funding to (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street, (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families, (3) help operate these shelters, (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, and (6) prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2020 Total: \$280 million</i></p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>
<p><u>Environmental Literacy Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Education</i></p> <p>The Environmental Literacy Program provides grants and in-kind support for programs that educate and inspire people to use Earth system science to improve ecosystem stewardship and increase resilience to environmental hazards. The program builds capacity for institutions and networks through formal (K-12) and informal education at national, regional, and local levels.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2018: \$4.3 million</i></p>	<p>Available annually; fiscal year 2020 deadline has passed.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</i></p> <p>The EWP Program allows communities to quickly address serious and long-lasting damage to infrastructure and to the land. The EWP Program authorities offer NRCS the flexibility to act quickly to help local communities cope with adverse impacts resulting from natural disasters. EWP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state officials for program assistance to begin, but ultimately, partial funding must be provided by the sponsor.</p>	<p>Determined by Congress</p>	<p>Funding through the EWP program is determined by the NRCS and does not require a disaster declaration from state or federal officials.</p>
<p><u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</i></p> <p>The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers to address natural resources concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Contact local NRCS office.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief (ER)</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Highway Administration, United States Department of Transportation</i></p> <p>The FHWA ER program is designated for the “repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage as a result of (1) natural disasters or (2) catastrophic failures from an external cause.” It “supplements the commitment of resources by States, their political subdivisions, or other Federal agencies to help pay for unusually heavy expenses resulting from extraordinary conditions.</p> <p>The applicability of the ER program to a natural disaster is based on the extent and intensity of the disaster. Damage to highways must be severe, occur over a wide area, and result in unusually high expenses to the highway agency. Applicability of ER to a catastrophic failure due to an external cause is based on the criteria that the failure was not the result of an inherent flaw in the facility but was sudden, caused a disastrous impact on transportation services, and resulted in unusually high expenses to the highway agency.”</p>	<p><i>Total: \$100 million annually, subject to vary depending on the extent of disaster-related damages</i></p>	<p>States are required to submit an application for ER funding to FHWA within two calendar years of the date of the disaster.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Federal Historic Tax Credit</u></p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office</i></p> <p>A National Park Service program managed by our Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, the Federal Historic Tax Credit program provides a 20% federal tax credit to property owners who substantially rehabilitate a historic building while maintaining its historic character. Basic requirements for eligibility include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building must be listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or be considered a contributing building within a historic district. • The building cannot be a private residence. It must be intended for use as an income-producing property. • The project must have a minimum cost of \$5,000, or the adjusted basis of the property, whichever is greater. • Substantial work needs to have occurred within 24 months of approval or 60 months total if the project is phased. 	<p>Not available</p>	<p>The application for the Federal Historic Tax Credit is available on a rolling basis annually.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Federal Investment and Production Tax Credits</u> <i>Source: United States Department of Energy, Other Federal Agencies</i></p> <p>“The Production Tax Credit (PTC) allows owners and developers of wind energy facilities (land based and offshore) to claim a federal income tax credit on every kilowatt-hour of electricity generated for the power grid annually for a period of 10 years after a facility is placed into service.</p> <p>“The Investment Tax Credit (ITC) is a federal income tax credit for capital investments in renewable energy projects. Unlike the PTC, this one-time credit is based on the dollar amount of the investment and earned when the equipment is placed into service.” It also provides a credit for “12–30 percent of investment costs at the start of the project and is especially significant for the offshore and distributed wind sectors because such projects are more capital-intensive and benefit from the up-front tax benefits.”</p>	<p>Tax credit varies</p>	<p>If construction began by December 31, 2019, the estimated allowable tax credit is one cent/kWh.</p> <p>If construction begins by December 31, 2020, the estimated allowable tax credit is one point five cents/kWh.</p> <p>For more information, see the United States Wind Industry Federal Incentives, Funding, and Partnership Opportunities fact sheet.</p>
<p><u>Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act</u> <i>Source: Federal Highway Administration, United States Department of Transportation</i></p> <p>The FAST Act was signed into law on December 4, 2015 and provides long-term funding for surface transportation infrastructure planning and investment. Specifically, it authorizes funding for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs.</p>	<p>Total: \$305 billion from fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2020</p>	<p>The funds resulting from the final fiscal year (2020) apportionment for the FAST Act are available for obligation until September 30, 2023 – Any amounts not obligated by the State on or before September 30, 2023, shall lapse.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>Grant program providing funding to states, territories, federally recognized tribes, local communities for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program.</p>	<p><i>Total Nationwide: \$160 million</i></p>	<p><i>Fiscal Year 2019 Application Period Opened: September 30, 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Applications Due to the Federal Emergency Management Agency: January 31, 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Funding Awarded: December 30, 2020.</i></p>
<p><u>Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>The HMA program encompasses the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program.</p>	<p><i>Total: Variable annually</i></p>	<p><i>See FMA, HMGP, and BRIC information.</i></p>
<p><u>Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>The Federal Emergency Management Agency awards hazard mitigation grants following a presidential disaster declaration in the areas of the state, tribe, or territory requested by the governor or tribal executive.</p> <p>On March 21, 2019, Federal Disaster Declaration DR-4420-NE opened HMGP funding statewide. HMGP funding is available for hazard mitigation plan updates and projects for all eligible sub-applicants. Eligible sub-applicants include state agencies; county and city governments; public power districts; certain 501(c) nonprofit organizations; and tribal governments who have fully participated in a local hazard mitigation plan.</p>	<p><i>Total: Approximately \$45.8 million</i></p>	<p><i>Notice of Interest Due to State: July 1, 2019</i></p> <p><i>Final Applications Due to Nebraska Emergency Management Agency in July 2020.</i></p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Office of Hazardous Material Safety</i></p> <p>The HMEP grant program was established in 1990 by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act. In 1993, PHMSA began issuing grants to assist states, territories, and Native American tribes to "develop, improve, and carry out emergency plans" within the National Response System and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986. The HMEP grant program is designed to allow grantees the flexibility to implement training and planning programs that address differing needs for each location based on demographics, emergency response capabilities, commodity flow studies, and hazard analysis.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2019 Total: \$1.5 million</i></p>	<p>Annual; deadline for fiscal year 2020 passed.</p>
<p><u>HOME Investment Partnerships Fund (HOME)</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Nebraska Department of Economic Development</i></p> <p>HOME funds provide performance-based grants and loans to eligible applicants to assist with purchasing and rehabilitating housing units and constructing new units, along with the construction or rehabilitation of rental units. Projects are selected annually through competitive application cycles.</p>	<p><i>Total: Approximately \$3 million annually</i></p>	<p><i>Application Deadline: September 30, 2020.</i></p>
<p><u>Homebuyer Loan Programs</u></p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority</i></p> <p>NIFA has several loan programs (Military Home Program, Homebuyer Assistance Program, First Home Program, First Home Targeted Program) for first-time homebuyers and qualified veterans. NIFA also offers down payment and closing cost assistance with one of their loan programs. Maximum household income and purchase price limits described in the Eligibility section apply to all programs.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Not available.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Housing Study Grant Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority</i></p> <p>The Housing Study Grant Program is used to stimulate ideas for comprehensive development plans encompassing housing, community, and economic development opportunities in Nebraska.</p> <p>Eligible applicants include any housing or economic development entity, profit or non-profit, without direct access to property tax revenues. Applicant will be required to provide a minimum of 50% of the total project study cost in cash matching funds and 70% for a study completed as part of a comprehensive plan.</p>	<p><i>Total: Up to \$200,000 in funds available annually</i></p> <p><i>Maximum Grant Award: \$60,000 per project</i></p>	<p><i>Fiscal Year 2020 Application Deadlines Round 3: March 3, 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal Year 2021 Application Deadlines Round 1: July 17, 2020. Round 2: October 23, 2020.</i></p>
<p><u>Individual Assistance (IA) Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>The IA program provides a range of housing and other assistance for people affected by disasters, including the Individuals and Households Program, the Mass Care and Emergency Assistance programs, and the Community Services programs.</p>	<p><i>Total Approved: \$27,112,088.47</i></p> <p><i>Maximum Amount for Individual or Household (Individuals and Households Program): \$34,900</i></p> <p><i>Note: 100% of costs are provided for some aspects of IA, while others are only covered at 75%, with the state responsible for the remainder</i></p>	<p>Assistance is limited to 18 months following the date of the presidential disaster declaration; however, the period of assistance may be extended due to extraordinary circumstances.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program</u> and Nebraska Affordable Housing Tax Credit Program</p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Nebraska Department of Economic Development</i></p> <p>Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) is a dollar-for-dollar credit against the federal income tax liability of the owner (developer or investor) of a low-income housing development. LIHTCs that are allocated to a development are claimed in equal amounts for a 10-year period. The rental property generating the LIHTC must remain in compliance with the program guidelines and rent restriction requirements for a period of not less than 30 years from the first taxable year of the LIHTC credit period.</p> <p>Nebraska Affordable Housing Tax Credits automatically flow in an annual amount equal to the federal credit and are for a six-year period.</p>	<p><i>Total: Approximately \$5.4 million annually</i></p> <p><i>Remaining: Approximately \$2.5 million for 2020</i></p>	<p><i>Threshold Application Due Date: April 6, 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Final Application Date: May 11, 2020.</i></p>
<p>Mortgage Insurance for Disaster Victims Section 203(H)</p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Housing Administration</i></p> <p>The Section 203(h) program allows the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to insure mortgages made by qualified lenders to victims of a major disaster who have lost their homes and are in the process of rebuilding or buying another home. Through Section 203(h), the Federal Government helps victims in presidentially designated disaster areas recover by making it easier for them to get mortgages and become homeowners or re-establish themselves as homeowners.</p>	<p><i>Insurance</i></p>	<p>Disaster Declarations.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs)</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Labor</i></p> <p>DWGs are “discretionary grants discretionary grants awarded by the Secretary of Labor, under Section 170 of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). DWGs provide resources to states and other eligible applicants to respond to large, unexpected layoff events causing significant job losses. This funding is intended to temporarily expand capacity to serve dislocated workers, including military service members, and meet the increased demand for WIOA employment and training services, with a purpose to reemploy laid off workers and enhance their employability and earnings. Disaster DWGs provide funding to create temporary employment opportunities to assist with clean-up and recovery efforts, when an area impacted by disaster is declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or otherwise recognized by a federal agency with authority or jurisdiction over federal response to the emergency or disaster.”</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Varies.</p>
<p><u>Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund</u></p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska Department of Economic Development</i></p> <p>Funds are distributed to support the provision of decent, affordable housing statewide. Eligible activities include new construction, housing rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance (including down payments on new homes), housing demolition, infrastructure, acquisition, technical assistance funds, and activities provided in Section 58-706 of the Nebraska Affordable Housing Act. Beneficiaries are required to be at or below 120% of Area Median Income. Pre-applications are required to be submitted to be eligible for funding.</p>	<p><i>2020 Annual Cycle:</i> \$10.3 million</p>	<p><i>Pre-Applications:</i> 6:00 p.m. Central, March 12, 2020.</p> <p><i>Full Applications:</i> 6:00 p.m. Central, May 13, 2020.</p> <p><i>Contract Term:</i> Two years.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Nebraska Historic Tax Credit (NHTC)</u></p> <p><i>Source: History Nebraska</i></p> <p>NHTC was initiated in 2015 under the Nebraska Job Creation and Main Street Redevelopment Act. The NHTC provides a state tax credit of up to 20% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures. The availability of the NHTC has encouraged investment in historic resources in rural communities and urban cores throughout Nebraska.</p>	<p>Annually, \$15 million is allocated by the Nebraska Legislature on the first day of the calendar year</p> <p>Individual projects are capped at \$1 million</p>	<p>The NHTC program consists of a five-part application process.</p>
<p><u>Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) Homeless Assistance Trust Fund</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services</i></p> <p>NHAP is a grant program comprising the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Trust Fund and the Emergency Solutions Grants program.</p> <p>The Homeless Assistance Trust Fund is state funding that is based on a 25% set-aside on each \$1,000 of the value of real estate sold in Nebraska and collected via the documentary tax stamp on real estate sales.</p> <p>The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services funds all areas of the state with the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund dollars. Allocations are based on a formula. The formula is determined using a minimum funding amount for all regions, population base, poverty data, and a pro-rata percent. The formula and funding process emphasize equitable distribution as well as quality projects and programs. Recommendations from review teams inform all funding decisions.</p>	<p><i>Total for 2019 Program Year:</i> \$48,721.99</p> <p><i>Expended in 2019 Program Year:</i> \$16,572.88</p> <p><i>Total for 2020 Program Year:</i> \$17,514</p> <p><i>Note: The available funding for 2021 is less than in recent years</i></p>	<p>Not available.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Nebraska Strong Campaign</u></p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska Preparedness Partnership</i></p> <p>Nebraska Preparedness Partnership was the 501(c)(3) designated to manage and distribute donations received through the Nebraska Strong donation portal.</p> <p>In addition to funds stipulated to be used in certain counties, cities, towns, or villages, these funds were given to the following organizations as requested by each donor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Red Cross • Nebraska Farm Bureau • Nebraska Cattlemen’s Association • United Way of the Midlands • Nebraska Preparedness Partnership • Lutheran Family Services • Salvation Army <p>Checks were distributed to each of the above-named entities.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$132,500</i></p> <p><i>Remaining: \$0</i></p>	<p>Not available.</p>
<p><u>Pesticide Safety Education Funds Management Program (PSEP)</u></p> <p><i>Source: Environmental Protection Agency, The eXtension Foundation</i></p> <p>PSEP supports pesticide applicator education and training for certified applicators of restricted use pesticides. Sub-awardees for the program are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to share one educational deliverable for the purposes of enhancing PSEP programs both regionally and nationally. • Submit progress reports every six months using a standard online webform. • Attend a minimum of one one-hour training webinars for the reporting system. 	<p><i>Base Amount: \$17,200 plus an additional five percent of the funds divided proportionally based on the percentage of the number of certified applicators in each state or territory</i></p>	<p>The application deadline has passed.</p> <p><i>Anticipated training webinar dates:</i></p> <p>January 31, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. EST; May 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. EST; September 30, 2020 at 3 p.m. EST and; December 2, 2020 at 3:00 pm EST.</p> <p><i>Funding Period:</i></p> <p>January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p>Private, Non-Profit, and Other Sources <i>Source: Private Donors (e.g., individuals, businesses), Non-Profit Organizations</i></p> <p>Various funding sources have provided donations (e.g., via direct donations, crowdsourcing, fundraising). For example, a campaign by Subway in most Subway franchises across the State resulted in a donation of \$17,000 to Nebraska Preparedness Partnership.</p> <p>Additional donations received via check from the private sector via individuals and businesses for the 2019 disasters effort totaled \$5,000.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Not available.</p>
<p><u>Public Assistance (PA)</u> <i>Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency</i></p> <p>PA is a reimbursement program that provides federal funding to help communities respond to and recover from disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reimburses state and local governments and certain types of private nonprofit organizations for the cost of disaster-related debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed infrastructure. There is a regimented specific process related to applying, verification of damage, and documentation.</p>	<p><i>Total Damage:</i> Approximately \$366 million</p> <p><i>Local Cost Share:</i> \$91.5 million</p> <p><i>Note:</i> PA is a cost-sharing program that reimburses applicants at least 75% of eligible costs. The remaining 25% share is equally covered by the State of Nebraska (12.5%) and local governments (12.5%)</p>	<p>Applicants submit within 30 days of the disaster declaration.</p> <p>Applicants must submit their completed damage inventory within 60 days of the Recovery Scoping Meeting, the first substantive meeting of the Public Assistance delivery process between the applicants, state, and federal government.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i></p> <p>The PHEP cooperative agreement provides health departments with guidance and technical assistance. The aim of PHEP is to build the capacity of health departments to respond to public health threats, from infectious diseases to disasters. In response to particular emergencies, Congress may appropriate funding for a Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2019 total for Nebraska: \$5.3 million</i></p>	<p>Discretionary; recurring.</p>
<p><u>Rehabilitation and Inspection Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Army Corps of Engineers</i></p> <p>Under Public Law 84-99, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has authority to supplement local efforts in the repair of both federal (Corps-constructed, locally operated and maintained) and non-federal (constructed by non-federal interests or by the Works Projects Administration) flood risk management projects damaged by flood. Repairs are limited to restoration to pre-flood levels of protection.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>If a Public Sponsor believes that a project may qualify for Rehabilitation Assistance, a written request must be submitted.</p>
<p><u>Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects (Revolving Fund Program)</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>This program helps qualified non-profits create revolving loan funds that can provide financing to extend and improve water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.</p>	<p><i>Maximum Loan Per Borrower: \$100,000</i></p> <p><i>Maximum Term: 10 years</i></p> <p><i>Match: The applicant must contribute at least 20%</i></p> <p><i>Note: The interest rate is determined by utility district borrower and non-profit that manages the revolving loan fund</i></p>	<p><i>Application Deadline: June 12, 2020.</i></p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Rural Community Development Initiative</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>This program provides funding to help non-profit housing and community development organizations support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.</p>	<p><i>Minimum Grant Award: \$50,000</i></p> <p><i>Maximum Grant Award: \$250,000</i></p> <p><i>Note: Grant funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process</i></p>	<p>Applications are accepted on an annual basis through a Notice of Funding Availability in the Federal Register.</p>
<p><u>Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>The Section 502 Guaranteed Loan Program assists approved lenders in providing low- and moderate-income households the opportunity to own adequate, modest, decent, safe and sanitary dwellings as their primary residence in eligible rural areas. Eligible applicants may purchase, build, rehabilitate, improve or relocate a dwelling in an eligible rural area with 100% financing. The program provides a 90% loan note guarantee to approved lenders in order to reduce the risk of extending 100% loans to eligible rural homebuyers.</p>	<p><i>Note: Interest rates vary and are determined by individual lenders</i></p>	<p>Not available.</p>
<p><u>Single Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes or provides grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. Loans may be used to repair, improve, or modernize homes or to remove health and safety hazards. Grants must be used to remove health and safety hazards. Generally, eligible areas are rural areas with a population less than 35,000.</p>	<p><i>Maximum Loan Amount: \$20,000</i></p> <p><i>Maximum Grant Amount: \$7,500</i></p> <p><i>Note: Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$27,500 in assistance</i></p>	<p>Approval times depend on funding availability in the area.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Small Business Administration Disaster Loans</u></p> <p><i>Source: Small Business Administration</i></p> <p>The Small Business Administration offers disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans to businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.</p>	<p><i>Maximum for Renters and Homeowners to Repair or Replace Personal Property: \$40,000</i></p> <p><i>Maximum for Homeowners to Repair or Replace Disaster Damaged Residence: \$200,000</i></p> <p><i>Maximum for Businesses to Repair or Replace Damaged Property or Economic Injury: \$2 million</i></p> <p><i>Note: Interest rates vary</i></p>	<p>Varies.</p>
<p><u>Social Services Block Grant Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Administration for Children and Families</i></p> <p>Flexible block grant funding that can be broadly applied to social services intended to improve economic self-sufficiency; prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, exploitation of children and adults; prevent inappropriate institutionalization. May be appropriated with specific disaster designations.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2020 (State of Nebraska): \$9,377,354</i></p>	<p>Annual.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fire Administration</i></p> <p>The SAFER Grants were created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710 and/or NFPA 1720). For details, review the National Fire Protection Association's codes and standards.</p>	<p><i>Fiscal year 2018 Total: \$350 million</i></p>	<p>Recurring, annual; fiscal year 2020 deadline passed.</p>
<p><u>State Damage Prevention Program Grants</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety</i></p> <p>The purpose of the State Damage Prevention Program Grants is to establish comprehensive state programs designed to prevent damage to underground pipelines in states that do not have such programs and to improve damage prevention programs in states that do.</p>	<p><i>Maximum for a single grant: \$100,000</i></p>	<p>Fiscal year 2020 deadline passed; annual.</p>
<p><u>State Energy Bonds or Tax Credit Programs</u></p> <p><i>Source: Federal Tax Programs, State Bonds, State Budget</i></p> <p>Development of renewable energy (e.g., wind) projects can be strategically supported using public assets and financial mechanism (e.g., bonds, tax credits) to reduce high costs and risk involved in renewable energy investment for developers. Nebraska may consider offering tax incentives for renewable energy projects.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Varies.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>State/Local Budget</u> <i>Source: Local Budget, State Budget</i> Local and State budgets can be reallocated for various community and government needs to support disaster and emergency response efforts as needed.</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>Varies.</p>
<p><u>Valuation Incentive Program</u> <i>Source: Nebraska Historic Preservation Office</i> This long-term saving plan freezes your assessed property evaluation (at the prehab value) for eight years after you have rehabilitated your building. Your property taxes increase by 25% each year for four years after the initial eight years. Your county will assess your building at its full value after 12 years. Also, the freeze will remain in place if the property changes ownership. Basic requirements for eligibility include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your property must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as contributing to a historic district. Buildings locally landmarked by a Certified Local Government, also qualify. • Your property must be taxable. • The cost of the rehabilitation must be 25% or greater of the “base-year” assessed value of the property. The base-year is the last assessed value of the property at the time an application is submitted to the Nebraska Historic Preservation Office. • All work must be pre-approved by the Nebraska Historic Preservation Office. • All work must be completed during a two-year period (exceptions can be made when the size of the project is such that a good faith attempt to complete rehabilitation in two years is not possible). 	<p>Not available</p>	<p>The application for the Valuation Incentive Program is a three-part process.</p>

Funding Opportunity	Amount	Timeline
<p><u>Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program</u></p> <p><i>Source: United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</i></p> <p>This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Eligible areas must be rural with populations of 10,000 or less. Long-term, low-interest loans are available. If funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary, to keep user costs reasonable.</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>Applications can be submitted year-round and can be made online.</p>
<p><u>Water Sustainability Fund</u></p> <p><i>Source: Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources</i></p> <p>This is a competitive fund, open to all, typically used for grants of up to 60% of the sponsor's net cost and project eligibility is covered by statute and rules. Loans may also be provided through this fund.</p>	<p><i>Total: \$10.8 million annual appropriation</i></p> <p><i>Remaining: \$8.6 million available in 2021 due to previous year obligations</i></p>	<p>Applications are electronically filed July 16–31 each year.</p>