

The mission of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development is to provide quality leadership and services that enable Nebraska communities, businesses, and people to succeed in a global economy.

A broad range of services and programs are available to assist you with the activities listed in this brochure.

Please call a development professional to discuss your goals, needs and ideas today:
800-426-6505
402-471-3111
Fax: 402-471-3778
Or visit the DED website:
www.neded.org

Individuals who are hearing and/or speech impaired and have a TDD, may contact the department through the Statewide Relay System by calling:
711 (In-state)
800-833-7352 (TDD)
800-833-0902 (Voice)
The relay operator should be asked to call DED at:
800-426-6505 or 402-471-3111

NEBRASKA
possibilities...endless™

Nebraska Department of Economic Development

301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666
800-426-6505
402-471-3111
fax: 402-471-3778
www.neded.org

Community Checklist for Economic Development

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
www.neded.org



NEBRASKA
possibilities...endless™
Department of Economic Development

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) assists communities to prepare for economic development opportunities.

Our staff can meet with you to help develop the following assets, services and knowledge base for your community. Use this checklist as ideas to consider for your community. Not all of the items need to be completed for success, as this list provides suggestions only for growth.

Business Retention and Expansion

- Business List
- Set up a business visitation program for existing businesses
- Host an annual existing business appreciation event
- Provide information on job training assistance for new and existing employees
- Initiate and recognize export opportunities for existing businesses (including agribusinesses)
- Understand financing opportunities and Nebraska's business development incentives available, which assist existing businesses with expansion plans or help in business retention
- Business transition assistance

Business Recruitment and Start-up

- Keep information on LOIS/NEDI current
- Complete a recent site evaluation
- List sites with DED and on a community website
- Have a "controlled site" for business development
- Develop a marketing plan and budget for the community
- Organize and prepare a visitation (marketing) team ready to meet with potential business and industry
- Conduct a mock prospect visit
- Maintain or have access to a revolving loan fund for new and existing businesses
- Inform and educate on Nebraska's business development incentives
- Develop good working relationships with economic development partners
- Entrepreneurial Development

Target Industry Implementation

- Recognize trends within my local, regional and state industry base
- Target key industries to support local and area economies
- Coordinate marketing efforts to support supplier networks
- Educate yourself on Nebraska's business development incentives

Community Development

- Involve leaders representing diverse sectors of the community
- Conduct recent surveys or town hall meetings to determine community priorities and goals, including investment of time and money
- Identify the community's strengths, such as human, financial, natural resources, infrastructure, and quality of life through the survey or town hall meeting
- Prepare an annual work plan for community betterment that includes committee and work group assignments
- NE Economic Development Certified Community
- Assist communities with LB 840 training and awareness
- Publicize activities, measure progress and invite the public to attend/get involved regularly
- Network with other successful communities
- Participate in the Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP)

Affordable Housing Development

- Maintain an affordable housing strategy for the community
- Complete a recent community housing survey
- Partner with local, regional and state organizations to provide affordable housing
- Plan for local housing development and evaluate current inventory
- Access housing assistance resources, including DED and other partner agencies

Tourism Development

- Complete a tourism assessment and current marketing strategy
- Host a community festival or annual event
- List community events, lodging and attractions in the Travel and Tourism Division's Nebraska Festivals Guide or the Nebraska Travel Guide
- Hold "hospitality" training sessions for local employees of attractions and services
- Participate in area, regional or state tourism efforts
- Acquaint yourself with local, regional and state financing resources for tourism

Business Development Field Staff Regions



- Starr Lehl
308-631-7780
- Cami Barner
Financial Packager
308-530-9219
- Sheryl Hlatt
402-340-6180
- Andrea McClintic
308-440-1490
- Lynn Kohout
402-471-3781