

Funding Rural Grocery Store Improvements and Transitions

Federal Resources

USDA

Rural Energy for America Program

This USDA Rural Development program provides guaranteed loans and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.

Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services>

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Uses: Purchase, construction, and/or improvements to essential community facilities; purchase of equipment; payment of related project expenses.

Website: www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program

Business & Industry Loan Guarantees

Uses: Business conversion, building rehabilitation, purchase and development of land and buildings.

Website: www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program

Type of funding: 0% interest loans provided through local utilities.

Website: www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a federal program that funds community improvement projects. Funds are distributed to cities and counties by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Healthy food retail projects may qualify for funding if they meet the requirements of the CDBG program.

Website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cdbg/>

America's Healthy Food Financing Initiative

This national program provides grant support for healthy food retail in areas with inequitable food access. The program ultimately aims to provide additional capacity building and financing resources to build a more equitable food system that supports the health and economic vibrancy of all Americans.

Website: www.investinginfood.com

Small Business Administration

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is an independent federal agency that provides support to small businesses. Type of funding: The SBA guarantees loans through a participating funder through several financing programs with varying terms and eligibility requirements.

Website: www.sba.gov/ne

Local Resources

Municipal Financing

Cities have various tools at their disposal for supporting economic development projects, which may include redirecting future tax revenues, increasing taxes, abating taxes, or using state/federal tax incentives and credits.

Type of funding include:

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF)
- Community Improvement Districts (CIDs)
- Transportation Development Districts (TDDs)
- Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs)
- Opportunity Zones
- New Market Tax Credits
- Revolving Loan Funds
- LB840

Website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/> or your local community website

Nebraska Resources

SourceLink Nebraska

SourceLink Nebraska is a searchable database of business development resources to help you start and grow your business in Nebraska.

Website: <https://sourcelinknebraska.com/>

Nebraska Enterprise Fund

A statewide microenterprise intermediary and Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) providing business development services and financing to micro and small businesses across Nebraska. Financing assistance includes:

- Direct Lending
- Intermediary Lending
- GAP Financing

Website: <https://nebbiz.org/our-approach>

Nebraska Community Foundation

The Nebraska Community Foundation is an affiliated fund network. Funds may be able to provide business-building resources that help entrepreneurs and small business owners start up and grow successful businesses.

Website: <https://www.nebcommfound.org/>

Nebraska Regional Food Systems Initiative

The Regional Food Systems team works with all things food—from growing to marketing to distributing. Programs include:

- Double Up Food Bucks which provides a dollar for dollar match on fruit and vegetable purchases, up to \$20 a day.
- Heartland Regional Food Business Center

Website: <https://foodsystems.unl.edu/>

Center for Rural Affairs

Provides Small Business Loans, one-on-one business counseling and small business training for rural farmers, ranchers, businesses and communities.

Website: <https://www.cfra.org/>

NEDCO

NEDCO works in conjunction with lenders to provide up to 90% financing for commercial property purchases and construction. The SBA 504 Loan Program assists small business owners looking to expand their businesses through the purchase of commercial real estate or capital equipment.

Website: <https://nedcoloans.org/>

Economic Development Districts

Nebraska is home to eight seven economic Development Districts which provide development assistance in community planning, housing and transportation and small business support.

- Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD)
- Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD)
- Panhandle Area Development District (PADD)
- West Central Nebraska Economic Development District (WCNDD)
- Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
- Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD)
- South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD)
- Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (simpco)

Website: <https://www.nrocne.com/>

Nebraska Department of Economic Development

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Website: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/>

NCDC Contacts

Charlotte Narjes | cnarjes1@unl.edu

Cindy Houlden | choulden2@unl.edu

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Dedicated to assisting people prosper in rural areas

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