



Central
Nebraska
Economic
Development
District



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FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Sole Proprietors and Small Businesses...ACT NOW!!

Right now, and for the next 2 weeks, the Small Business Administration (SBA) has established an **exclusive, two-week, application window for businesses with 20 or fewer employees and sole proprietors to apply for** Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. The goal of this targeted application period is to allow lenders to focus on serving the smallest businesses. \$1 billion set aside for sole proprietors, independent contractors, and self-employed individuals located in low- and moderate-income areas. **The PPP program will remain open for all eligible businesses through March 31, 2021.**

For more information, go to:

<https://coronavirus.nebraska.gov/Home> or call 1-833-500-8810.



“One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.” – John F Kennedy

Broadband in Our District

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) is launching a **Crowdsourcing Broadband Mapping Initiative** through a partnership with other development districts across the state. Funding is being provided by the Economic Development Administration's CARES Act program.

Bills in the 2021 Nebraska Legislative session are proposing to fund projects that can be scalable to **100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload or greater**. We all have knowledge or experience that these broadband speeds in our region are **woefully below or completely nonexistent** in some areas. The results of this speed test will show precisely how deficient Central Nebraska broadband is currently in many parts of our region.

TAKE THE TEST: <http://cnedd.org/centralbroadband>

This speed test is more robust due to the aspect of gathering localized data, can be taken with any device that has an internet or cellular connection, and takes less than one minute to complete. **No personal information will be collected.** Testing data will be statistically valid and provide a map of what service levels are for any given area in our region. This information will be an important tool for communities to plan for a broadband expansion project through the State, FCC, USDA, or other broadband grant resources.

You can use a variety of mediums, including: your home computer, your business computer, your I-Pad in the field, your cell phone when you are traveling – and we would appreciate you conducting your speed tests at different times and on different days.