



Central
Nebraska
Economic
Development
District



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FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

On behalf of the District and our Board of Directors, we would like to thank you all for your continued participation in the Broadband Speed Testing that we have been promoting throughout the Central Nebraska region since March 2021.

It is clear, from the results so far, that broadband, in the vast majority of our counties and communities, falls within the **un-served** or **under-served** categories. This is a **tremendous barrier for our region** when it comes to attracting and retaining people and businesses to our region, as well as, enabling economic growth for our future.

Read below for information on how **YOU** can be a part of, not only the discussion, but the solution for bettering Broadband in Nebraska.



Bridging Nebraska's Digital Divide



Millions of dollars in federal funding have been designated to build out broadband access for improved internet speed and reliability for Nebraskans. Improving the quality of Broadband connectivity is a quality-of-life necessity, quickly becoming as important as electricity! It is imperative that our rural areas are ready to compete for these valuable dollars to improve quality of life. Preparedness is key!

In rural areas, access to reliable broadband is limited. This negatively impacts community and economic growth, educational opportunities, access to healthcare, and business development.

Register now to participate in a **Broadband Virtual Event**, sponsored by all of Nebraska's development districts, on **Monday, March 21, 2022**, and learn key takeaways to be *part of the solution* for improving broadband for you and your neighbors. **The registration deadline is March 14th.** We are hosting the event at four community colleges in our region. You may participate virtually, or at any of the locations across the State. All of this information, and registration, can be found at www.nrocne.com/.

- **Broken Bow** – Mid-Plains Community College
- **O'Neill** – Northeast Community College
- **Ord** – Central Community College
- **Valentine** – Mid-Plains Community College

Broadband funding is coming – now is the time to learn how you can play a role in expanding your county and community's future through improved broadband infrastructure.

“February is the border between winter and spring.” - Terri Guillemets, Years