

***2012 Calendar Year
Legislative Annual Report***



January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666
www.neded.org



Dear Governor Heineman, Members of the Nebraska Legislature, Fellow Nebraskans:

It is my honor and privilege to present to you the Nebraska Department of Economic Development's 2012 Calendar Year Annual Report.

Featured here, you will find synopses of the programs required by the Legislature for annual reporting, including the Business Innovation Act, Civic and Convention Center Financing Fund, Customized Job Training, InternNE, Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Nebraska Operational Assistance Act, and Site and Building Development Fund.

As you will see, we have continued a course in excellence, helping bolster Nebraska's economy through a variety of programs all targeted toward meeting our communities' most critical needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine D. Lang". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Catherine D. Lang
Director

Business Innovation Act

The Business Innovation Act (BIA) provided grant funding or commercialization investment to 41 companies, helping spur entrepreneurship, and support the transfer of Nebraska-based technology and innovation throughout Nebraska. Specifically, the BIA assisted high-growth, high technology companies, small businesses, and microenterprises that create wealth and quality jobs.

Through the BIA, DED provided more than \$4.2 million in funding and leveraged over \$3.3 million in non-state investment for innovation projects. Through the Microenterprise Assistance Program, 129 new loans totaling \$1.7 million were made and 1,410 clients were provided technical assistance. While it is too early to evaluate the Act's performance based on recipients' documented goals (as a majority of these are still progressing through funded projects), many have reported that the BIA funding allowed them to move forward with a project, product, or technology they otherwise wouldn't have been able to advance or initiate.

	NIF				
	Prototype	Commercialization	Value Added Agriculture		
Applications Received	54	16			
Applications Approved	28	5			
Funds Awarded	\$ 1,305,122.00	\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 75,785.00		
Company location (City/town)					
Non-state investment leveraged*	\$ 652,561.00	\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 18,946.25		
	Academic R&D				
	Phase I	Phase II			
Applications Received	9	0			
Applications Approved	5	0			
Funds Awarded	\$ 498,450.00	\$ -			
Company location (City/town)					
State University or College utilized					
Non-state investment leveraged*	\$ 498,450.00	\$ -			
Total non-state investment leveraged*	\$ 3,369,957.25			\$	4,286,857.00
	SBIR				
	Phase 0	Phase I	Phase II		
Applications Received	2	1	1		
Applications Approved	2	1	1		
Funds Awarded	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 100,000.00		
List of all companies awarded	Amount	Program	City, State	NAICS	NAICS Description
Nature Technology Corporation	\$ 5,000.00	SBIR 0	Lincoln, NE	541711	Research and Development in Biotechnology
Goldenrod Growth LLC	\$ 5,000.00	SBIR 0	Lincoln, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
Ground Fluor Pharmaceuticals	\$ 97,500.00	SBIR 1	Lincoln, NE	325411	Medicinal and Botanical Manufacturing
Hermes Commerce	\$ 100,000.00	SBIR 2	Omaha, NE	522320	Financial Transaction Process/Clearing
Best Option Trading	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
Red Cocoa	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
VersaFiber	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Nebraska City, NE	325220	Artificial and Synthetic Fibers and Filaments Manufacturing
Communication Systems	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541512	Computer Systems Design Services
Resonance Innovations LLC	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	541330	Engineering Services
Energy Pioneer Solutions	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Hastings, NE	541690	Other Technical Consulting Services
Agilix LLC	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541512	Computer Systems Design Services
Beehive Industries	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
Agile Ninjas LLC	\$ 20,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
MultiMech Research and Development	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	541380	Testing Laboratories
Lockr	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	518210	Data Processing and Related Services
Mrail	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	488210	Support Activities for Rail Transport
Crop Ventures	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	511210	Software Publishers
Goldenrod Growth LLC	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
Social Assurance	\$ 33,046.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541910	Marketing Research & Public Opinion Poll
Kiplie	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541613	Marketing Consulting Services
Li-COR Biosciences	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	334516	Analytical Laboratory Instruments
Kidwell	\$ 36,031.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	541512	Computer Systems Design Services
Travel Integration Services	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	541512	Computer Systems Design Services
T3 Technology	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	334510	Electromedical Apparatus Manufacturing
Rol Oyl	\$ 25,785.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	332323	Ornamental and Architectural Metal Work
Golf Status	\$ 40,260.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	518210	Data Processing and Related Services
Connoshoer	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	518210	Data Processing and Related Services
Phynder	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Kearney, NE	518210	Data Processing and Related Services
Racenote	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Bellevue, NE	518210	Data Processing and Related Services
Norland International	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Lincoln, NE	333318	Other Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Manufacturing
Schingle	\$ 50,000.00	Prototype	Omaha, NE	541511	Custom Computer Programming Services

Civic and Convention Center Financing Fund

After receiving 49 Preliminary Applications and 21 Full Applications, the Department of Economic Development awarded one Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) project in the 2012 project year. A total of \$250,000 was awarded to the Sidney Civic Center for a \$5.2 million convention and training facility.

Home to Cabela's World Headquarters, and in close proximity to other large companies such as 21st Century Equipment; Sidney is an obvious location for hosting conventions however, existing facilities lack the capacity to host events exceeding 250 attendees. With ample lodging accommodations, restaurants, amenities, and demand for large convention space, the new facility is planned at 30,000 square feet with the capacity to seat anywhere from 800 banquet attendees to 1,000 attendees in a theatre style setting.

The Sidney Convention and Training Center will be available for all types of events from weddings and social gatherings to conventions and training meetings. Design components include attention to and allowance for the flexibility of hosting events with the use of industry-leading technologies. No such facility in the Panhandle presently offers such consideration and amenities.

A number of companies and commissions are expected to select Sidney for conventions as they have a geographical advantage; located only 9 miles from the border of Colorado, 55 miles from Wyoming, at the crossing of the two main rail lines of Union Pacific and Burlington-Northern Santa-Fe Railroad, and at the intersection of four major highways; attracting business from both outside and inside of the state. In addition, UNL-Extension and Western Nebraska Community College have expressed their interest and support for the new training and event facilities, Sidney Public School officials anticipate using the space to host regional sporting and academic events, and the presence of Cabela's will continue to draw interest to the area.

At the time of application, the city was under contract with a Hunden Strategic Partners of Chicago, a real estate development consulting firm, to analyze the impact of the new facility on the existing conditions in the community, provide recommendations for future supplementary and complementary development, and provide financial projections.

The completed project is expected to act as a beacon in the southern Panhandle, capturing events that might otherwise locate in bordering states and encouraging travel intrastate travel from throughout Nebraska.

Customized Job Training

The Customized Job Training Program oversaw 64 job training projects representing training for 3,581 employees at a total planned cost of \$6,688,961. The average award per employee was \$1,868. Of these projects, 15 were newly-awarded (476 employees with a total cost of \$874,000) and 12 were completed (490 employees with a total cost of \$1,382,064). The remaining 37 projects were awarded before the start of 2012 and remain open until completion. Total Customized Job Training expenditures were \$2,432,032.

Of the 64 active projects, 26 (40.6%) were for businesses located in counties outside the Lincoln and Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA). Thirteen projects were in the Lincoln MSA (Lancaster and Seward counties) and 26 were located in the Omaha MSA (Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties).

The majority of projects awarded Customized Job Training funds elected for in-house training (89%). The remaining projects either partnered with a community college or university for training.

Contract Number	Award	2012 Expenditures	Expenditures to Date	Project Balance	New Employees	Training Institution	Training Start Date
09-01-085	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ 82,450.04	\$ 7,549.96	30	Metropolitan Community College	8/14/2008
09-01-164	\$ 1,060,000.00	\$ -	\$ 384,194.32	\$ 675,805.68	263	In-House Training	1/1/2009
09-01-207	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	20	In-House Training	3/30/2009
10-01-056	\$ 37,500.00	\$ -	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 24,000.00	25	In-House Training	8/12/2009
10-01-069	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 4,844.34	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -	12	In-House Training	9/3/2009
10-01-071	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 58,827.77	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	26	In-House Training	9/15/2009
10-01-107	\$ 81,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,973.68	\$ 5,026.32	27	Northeast Community College	11/25/2009
10-01-111	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	20	In-House Training	12/10/2009
10-01-152	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 68,750.63	\$ 149,996.96	\$ 50,003.04	50	Southeast Community College	3/24/2010
10-01-153	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	5	In-House Training	3/10/2010
10-01-155	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 133,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	500	In-House Training	4/9/2010
10-01-156	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00	500	In-House Training	4/9/2010
10-01-159	\$ 72,064.31	\$ 3,757.90	\$ 72,064.31	\$ -	40	Central Community College	2/8/2010
10-01-161	\$ 132,750.00	\$ -	\$ 17,727.67	\$ 115,022.33	177	In-House Training	4/15/2010
11-01-048	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120,000.00	30	In-House Training	7/15/2010
11-01-056	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	7	In-House Training	6/28/2010
11-01-074	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 14,612.59	\$ 37,000.00	\$ -	25	In-House Training	11/1/2010
11-01-075	\$ 101,500.00	\$ -	\$ 57,048.26	\$ 44,451.74	29	In-House Training	11/1/2010
11-01-091	\$ 250,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,500.00	167	In-House Training	11/23/2010
11-01-126	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	2	In-House Training	1/11/2011
11-01-138	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,603.57	\$ 2,396.43	5	In-House Training	2/3/2011
11-01-141	\$ 61,500.00	\$ 16,220.00	\$ 44,640.00	\$ 16,860.00	41	Central Community College	2/8/2011
11-01-142	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 410,000.00	\$ -	100	Central Community College	2/21/2011
11-01-145	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	20	In-House Training	2/21/2011
11-01-146	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 16,108.80	\$ 20,108.80	\$ 3,891.20	6	In-House Training	3/25/2011
11-01-147	\$ 430,000.00	\$ 366,625.75	\$ 366,625.75	\$ 63,374.25	172	In-House Training	2/28/2011
11-01-151	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 45,785.09	\$ 69,088.70	\$ 5,911.30	30	In-House Training	3/15/2011
11-01-152	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 32,506.00	\$ 56,000.00	\$ -	16	In-House Training	3/14/2011
11-01-153	\$ 20,900.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,900.00	5	In-House Training	4/21/2011
11-01-154	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	5	In-House Training	4/21/2011
11-01-155	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 10,745.50	\$ 12,269.50	\$ 3,730.50	8	In-House Training	4/25/2011
11-01-157	\$ 272,000.00	\$ 205,729.66	\$ 270,986.97	\$ 1,013.03	68	In-House Training	5/5/2011
11-01-158	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	10	In-House Training	4/20/2011
11-01-160	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 22,092.55	\$ 36,506.00	\$ 11,494.00	12	In-House Training	5/13/2011
11-01-161	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 22,171.20	\$ 22,171.20	\$ 31,828.80	18	In-House Training	5/6/2011
11-01-168	\$ 34,997.00	\$ -	\$ 24,284.57	\$ 10,712.43	10	In-House Training	3/17/2011
11-01-173	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 21,668.27	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	15	UNK	6/2/2011
11-01-183	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,680.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	5	In-House Training	6/19/2011
12-01-040	\$ 141,500.00	\$ 141,500.00	\$ 141,500.00	\$ -	45	In-House Training	7/1/2011
12-01-041	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	5	In-House Training	6/30/2011
12-01-043	\$ 237,500.00	\$ 237,500.00	\$ 237,500.00	\$ -	124	In-House Training	7/27/2011
12-01-049	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00	5	In-House Training	8/25/2011
12-01-051	\$ 288,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 288,000.00	96	In-House Training	8/26/2011
12-01-052	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 22,524.95	\$ 22,524.95	\$ 9,475.05	8	In-House Training	6/29/2010
12-01-054	\$ 33,750.00	\$ 20,250.00	\$ 20,250.00	\$ 13,500.00	45	In-House Training	10/6/2011
12-01-067	\$ 105,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,000.00	35	In-House Training	10/31/2011
12-01-071	\$ 22,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,500.00	30	In-House Training	10/30/2011
12-01-080	\$ 402,000.00	\$ 395,687.88	\$ 395,687.88	\$ 6,312.12	134	In-House Training	12/5/2011
12-01-097	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	12	In-House Training	1/4/2012
12-01-098	\$ 192,500.00	\$ 192,500.00	\$ 192,500.00	\$ -	77	In-House Training	4/1/2011
12-01-145	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	1	In-House Training	2/10/2012
12-01-199	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	12	In-House Training	3/30/2012
12-01-209	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	7	In-House Training	4/14/2012
12-01-222	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	18	In-House Training	4/19/2012
12-01-230	\$ 237,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 237,000.00	79	In-House Training	5/1/2012
12-01-243	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 4,962.82	\$ 4,962.82	\$ 55,037.18	30	In-House Training	5/9/2012
12-01-259	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 22,480.00	\$ 22,480.00	\$ 2,520.00	50	In-House Training	5/9/2012
12-01-261	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	12	In-House Training	6/7/2012
12-01-286	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	14	In-House Training	6/29/2012
13-01-022	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	10	In-House Training	8/17/2012

Intern Nebraska (InternNE)

The InternNE program had a total of 175 projects during 2012. Of these projects, 41 were closed between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 leaving 134 as active projects at the end of 2012. All together 445 internship positions were approved and \$2,088,500 granted to the participating companies. Of the awarded positions, 254 were filled within the 2012 calendar year. The InternNE program disbursed \$490,232, where 44% was reimbursed to the 41 companies with contracts that closed during 2012. Of the 175 projects in 2012, 111 were for businesses located within Lancaster, Douglas or Sarpy Counties.

Closed Contracts										
Contract Number	Positions Filled	Total Expended	Contract Start	Contract End			Company			
11-01-191	6	\$ 22,339	6/8/2011	8/31/2012			Chief Industries			
12-01-076	4	\$ 20,000	11/14/2011	11/14/2012			Novartis Consumer Health			
11-01-188	5	\$ 12,726	6/3/2011	6/3/2012			Ameritas Life Insurance Corporation			
11-01-242	5	\$ 11,498	8/3/2011	8/3/2012			Ward Laboratories, Inc.			
11-01-241	3	\$ 9,944	7/29/2011	7/29/2012			Black Hills Energy			
11-01-253	2	\$ 9,407	8/25/2011	8/25/2012			AmeriSphere Multifamily Finance, LLC			
11-01-239	2	\$ 9,350	6/8/2011	6/8/2012			Assurity Life Insurance Company			
12-01-085	2	\$ 8,700	12/21/2011	12/21/2012			KZCO, Inc.			
11-01-194	3	\$ 8,473	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			Green Bein' Productions			
11-01-267	2	\$ 6,908	9/15/2011	9/15/2012			Communication Systems Solutions, LLC			
12-01-063	2	\$ 5,692	11/3/2011	11/3/2012			Wells Fargo			
11-01-184	1	\$ 5,000	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			Nebraska Aluminum Castings, Inc.			
11-01-249	1	\$ 5,000	8/15/2011	8/15/2012			Resonance Innovations			
11-01-190	1	\$ 5,000	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			Bruckman Rubber Co.			
11-01-196	1	\$ 5,000	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			Industrial Irrigation Services			
12-01-077	1	\$ 5,000	11/23/2011	11/23/2012			Citizens State Bank			
11-01-255	2	\$ 4,943	8/29/2011	8/29/2012			Management Communication Services, Inc.			
11-01-214	2	\$ 4,320	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			Sun Tech Industries, Inc.			
11-01-259	1	\$ 4,093	9/1/2011	9/1/2012			Agile Sports Technologies			
11-01-222	2	\$ 4,064	6/21/2011	6/21/2012			Firstar Fiber Corp.			
12-01-079	1	\$ 3,976	12/1/2011	12/1/2012			Cleaver-Brooks, Inc.			
11-01-230	2	\$ 3,863	6/22/2011	9/1/2012			Nebraska Bank of Commerce			
11-01-220	1	\$ 3,849	6/21/2011	6/21/2012			GC Image, LLC			
11-01-251	1	\$ 3,500	8/18/2011	8/18/2012			EF Johnson Technologies			
11-01-262	2	\$ 3,436	9/1/2011	9/1/2012			Maly Marketing			
11-01-256	2	\$ 3,304	8/24/2011	8/24/2012			Molex, Inc			
12-01-062	1	\$ 3,192	11/9/2011	11/9/2012			Wahoo State Bank			
11-01-228	1	\$ 3,078	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			Nebraska Machinery Company			
11-01-217	2	\$ 2,728	6/10/2011	6/10/2012			Vipa Solutions, LLC			
11-01-290	1	\$ 2,484	10/6/2011	10/6/2012			Platte Valley Financial Services Companies			
11-01-296	1	\$ 2,466	10/19/2011	10/19/2012			Arbor Bank			
11-01-261	1	\$ 2,447	9/13/2011	9/13/2012			Graepel North America			
11-01-248	1	\$ 2,052	8/12/2011	8/12/2012			Prism Technologies, LLC			
11-01-297	1	\$ 1,909	10/21/2011	10/21/2012			Movebacktonebraska.com			
11-01-279	1	\$ 1,779	10/5/2011	10/5/2012			Redstone Communications Group, Inc.			
11-01-237	1	\$ 1,587	7/22/2011	7/22/2012			Fasse Valves			
11-01-185	1	\$ 1,241	6/1/2011	6/1/2012			ACCESSbank			
12-01-084	0	\$ -	12/21/2011	12/21/2012			Great West Casualty Company			
11-01-281	0	\$ -	10/13/2011	10/13/2012			Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, P.C.			
12-01-074	0	\$ -	11/15/2011	11/15/2012			American Laboratories			
12-01-088	0	\$ -	12/9/2011	12/9/2012			Building System Solutions, Inc.			

Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) was created by the 1996 Nebraska Affordable Housing Act to enhance economic development in the State and provide safe, affordable housing to Nebraska's citizens. Funding is received from the revenue generated through the State's Documentary Stamp Tax. For the 2012 program year, it awarded \$4,271,470, matched by \$3,359,384; created 139 housing units; and generated employment in the amount of 116.8.

Contract Number	Recipient	Location(s)	Award Amount	Leveraged Funds	Units Completed	Employment Generated	Community Investment	Revenue in AHTF	
12TFTA3011	Lincoln County CDC	Villages of: Brady, Curtis, Hershey, Maxwell, Sutherland, Wallace, and Wellfleet; City of North Platte	\$25,000	\$94,000	NA	1.8	\$ 192,654		
12TFTA2030	Central Nebraska Economic Development, Inc.	Counties of: Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Greeley, Garfield, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Merrick, Rock, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler	\$25,000	\$20,000	NA	0.7	\$ 72,852		
12TFTA6004	Southeast Nebraska Community Action	Counties of: Cass, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, and Sarpy	\$25,000	\$2,500	NA	0.4	\$ 44,521		
12TFTA5037	Ho-Chunk CDC	Village of Winnebago	\$25,000	\$2,500	NA	0.4	\$ 44,521		
12TFRH2032	Village of Wolbach	Village of Wolbach	\$126,795	\$0	4	1.9	\$ 205,274		
12TFRH2031	Central Nebraska Economic Development, Inc.	The counties of: Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Merrick, Rock, Sherman, Valley and Wheeler	\$150,780	\$0	5	2.3	\$ 244,104		
12TFRH2029	Stuart Village Manor	Village of Stuart	\$255,000	\$89,224	2	5.3	\$ 557,278		
12TFRH5034	City of Norfolk	City of Norfolk	\$501,905	\$422,620	7	14.2	\$ 1,496,751		
12TFRH3012	Lincoln County CDC	City of North Platte	\$195,040	\$31,540	4	3.5	\$ 366,820		
12TFHP5051	City of Columbus	City of Columbus	\$500,000	\$223,000	9	11.1	\$ 1,170,494		
12TFHO6002	Southeast Nebraska Community Action	Counties of: Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson	\$400,000	\$40,000	14	6.7	\$ 712,334		
12TFHP1010	Western Nebraska Housing Opportunities	Cities of: Gering and Scottsbluff; The county of Scotts Bluff County	\$134,000	\$25,000	35	2.4	\$ 257,412		
12TFHP1009	Village of Gering	Village of Gering	\$465,000	\$448,500	5	14	\$ 1,478,903		
12TFHP1035	High Plains CDC	Counties of: Dawes, Sheridan, Sioux, Box Butte, and Morrill	\$75,000	\$0	12	1.1	\$ 121,421		
12TFHP6005	City of Seward	Seward County	\$349,000	\$840,000	14	18.2	\$ 1,924,921		
12TFHP6016	Thayer County Development Alliance	Thayer County	\$157,500	\$300,000	5	7	\$ 740,665		
12TFHP6006	Southeast Nebraska Community Action	Counties of: Cass, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, and Sarpy	\$400,000	\$710,500	15	17	\$ 1,797,834		
12TFHP5017	Northeast Economic Development, Inc.	Counties of: Burt, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Dixon, Rural Douglas, Madison, Pierce, Platte, Stanton, Thurston, Washinton, and Wayne	\$365,800	\$110,000	4	7.3	\$ 770,292		
12TFHP3052	Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation	Cities of: Imperial, Wauneta, and Grant	\$95,650	\$0	4	1.5	\$ 154,852		

Nebraska Operational Assistance Act

The Nebraska Operational Assistance Act requires DED to develop a program to assist potential high-growth businesses to establish a foundation sufficient for the attraction of private equity.

This assistance includes:

- market analysis;
- executive recruitment;
- sales and marketing;
- financial planning;
- business structure;
- business plan review; and
- intellectual property development.

The program, provided under the Act, may also include:

- cooperating with other service entities to facilitate the effectiveness of the overall program,
- developing a statewide system to facilitate venture capital investing;
- identifying potential investors and providing those investors with information about investment opportunities in Nebraska;
- identifying entrepreneurs and high-growth businesses and providing them with information about investors seeking investment opportunities;
- developing a clearinghouse and access point for information about venture capital investment opportunities in Nebraska;
- serving as the central organization and establishing means of delivering appropriate education and training programs for potential investors in business enterprises;
- facilitating the formation of private venture capital funds; and
- helping form intrastate or industry-specific venture capital networks.

Nebraska Operational Assistance Act (Continued)

Invest Nebraska Corporation, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) venture development organization, was selected by the Department in December 2011 to develop the program under the Act. The organization advises and invests in early stage businesses across the state. Invest Nebraska is governed by a twelve-member volunteer board of directors. These directors bring a wealth of experience to the organization that includes: university research and commercialization, venture capital, accounting, investment portfolio management, angel investing, private equity, early-stage entrepreneurial development, patent law, transaction law, and banking. The organization is led by an entrepreneur with significant venture capital experience.

Since 2009, Invest Nebraska has provided operational assistance totaling \$488,000 to start-up businesses in Nebraska. This financial assistance has come in form of low-interest loans and equity ownership. As of 12/31/12, these businesses received a total of \$3.9 million in follow-on capital. For each dollar of financial assistance provided by Invest Nebraska, \$8 in outside capital was received by the various portfolio companies.

During calendar year 2012, the technical assistance provided by Invest Nebraska included:

- Reviewing 47 business plans
- Engaging 77 entrepreneurs to discuss their ideas and/or businesses
- Listening to 54 pitches and providing valuable follow-up feedback
- Conducting due diligence on 13 companies for possible investment
- Collaborating with DED and hosting 35 community meetings across Nebraska for entrepreneurs, service providers, economic development professionals, and elected leaders with a total attendance of 437

Invest Nebraska also engaged 14 institutional investors representing private equity, angel investors, venture capital, and mezzanine financing organizations. Developing these relationships helps move Nebraska forward in further developing a network of institutional capital investing in Nebraska startups and businesses.

Nebraska Operational Assistance Act (Continued)

Invest Nebraska also developed an online clearinghouse and access point for information about angel investment opportunities in Nebraska. Invest Nebraska has selected the gust platform (www.gust.com) as this clearinghouse. Gust, formerly known as angelsoft, provides a global platform for the sourcing and management of early-stage investments. The platform is endorsed by the Angel Capital Association, the World Business Angels Association, the National Angel Capital Organization, and the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds.

Potential or interested accredited angel investors contact Invest Nebraska for access to the clearinghouse. The investors are then e-invited to be members of the “deal room.” Individuals then receive an email from Invest Nebraska granting them access. In this deal room, interested angels can review material provided by the company, due diligence information completed by Invest Nebraska, and possible comments about the deal. If the angel requires additional information regarding the company, they then contact Invest Nebraska or the owner of the company.

Site and Building Development Fund

The Site and Building Development Fund program continued the project approval process for Application Cycle 1 (begun October 2011), started accepting applications for Cycle 2, and welcomed applications for First Priority Projects.

DED approved two First Priority Project applications. The Scotts Bluff Airport Authority received a \$250,000 grant to assist in locating EagleMed LCC. The City of Papillion received a \$750,000 grant to assist in locating Fidelity Investments.

DED approved two of seven applications submitted for Cycle 1. Gothenburg Improvement Corporation received a \$500,000 grant for the Gothenburg Rail Served Industrial Park, and the Lincoln Airport Authority received a \$750,000 grant for the Nebraska Rail Park.

DED received five applications for Cycle 2, which began in March 2012. The Department approved two. Dawson Area Development received a \$250,000 grant for the Orthman Building in Lexington, and the Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation received a \$25,000 grant for the Sarpy County Power Park.