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If interested in sponsorship opportunities to help support the growth of rural Nebraska, please contact Christina Bartels at (402) 471-3172 or by email at [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov). You may also contact any of the above sponsors.

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# NCIP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**March/April 2009:**      **NCIP Award Nomination Workshops**  
Locations and dates TBD  
Contact Christina Bartels at (402) 471-3172 or [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov) if interested in hosting a training session

**June 1, 2009:**              **Submission Deadline:**

- NCIP Intent to Enter Form
- Government Resolution(s)
- Sustaining NCIP Community Form  
*(Pertains Only to Communities Not Submitting Award Nominations)*

**Sept. 2, 2009:**              **Submission Deadline:**

- Special Project Award Nominations
- Governor's Community Spirit Award Nominations
- Founders Award Nominations

**Sept. 4, 2009:**              **Submission Deadline:**

- Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award Nominations
- Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service Award Nominations
- Good Neighbor Award Nominations

**Sept. 2009:**                  **Special Award Nominations Judged**

**Oct. 5-9, or  
Oct. 12-16, 2009:**          **Governor's Community Spirit Award Site Visits**

**Nov. 6, 2009:**              **Governor's Conference on Rural Development**  
Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

**Nov. 6, 2009:**              **NCIP Annual Recognition Banquet**  
Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

# INTRODUCTION TO THE NEBRASKA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NCIP)

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The Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) has recognized Nebraska communities annually since 1963 for community improvement efforts with an emphasis on the achievements of grassroots volunteers. Communities participating in the Nebraska Community Improvement Program experience many positive benefits. Some benefits include:

- ✓ Community volunteers are awarded and recognized for their efforts.
- ✓ Stronger leadership and increased community involvement.
- ✓ Increased community pride and sense of identity.
- ✓ Better communication between government, local organizations, and citizens.
- ✓ Positive publicity for communities.
- ✓ Communities identify and build on their strengths.
- ✓ Excellence achieved through a competitive process.
- ✓ Community projects are published in the annual Nebraska Project Networking Guide.
- ✓ Participating communities can display the NCIP roadside sign.
- ✓ Market community image as an award winning community.
- ✓ Specialized training and technical assistance to enhance community volunteers' ability to accomplish community improvement and economic development goals.
- ✓ Celebrate Success!

## **NCIP: Community Achievement**

Community volunteers participating in NCIP have identified three components to community success. The components to success are:

- I. A *community planning process* that encourages citizen participation.
- II. A *volunteer and leadership development process* that involves recruitment, training, and recognition strategies for local volunteers and leaders.
- III. Documented *community and economic development accomplishments* that have resulted from implementing a planning and leadership development process which emphasized the efforts of grassroots volunteers in the community.

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN NCIP

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## **I. Form a Local Committee and Identify Goals and Accomplishments**

Communities are encouraged to form a local committee to effectively set goals, identify projects, and compile necessary information to submit award nominations. In forming a local committee, communities may:

1. Designate an existing organization
2. Form an umbrella organization with members from existing organizations
3. Create a new action-oriented organization

## **II. Submit an Intent to Enter Form (including 2009 NCIP goals) and Government Resolution by June 1, 2009**

All participants submitting award nominations must complete the Intent to Enter Form (page 7). The form identifies the names and contact information of individuals who are going to coordinate the award nomination submissions for the current program year. Communities are also required to identify project goals (page 8) for the upcoming year, including specific goals for NCIP participation.

In addition, a local government board, city council, or county commissioner must pass a Government Resolution (page 9) to endorse participation in NCIP. Resolutions can be passed for multiple years to save time and effort.

## **III. Submit Entries For Judging by the Awards Nomination Deadline**

Nominations for the Special Project Awards, Governor's Community Spirit Award, and Founders Awards must be submitted no later than September 2, 2009, to be considered in the judging process for award recognition. Award nominations for the Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service Award, the Marilyn Ristine Award, and the Good Neighbor Award must be submitted no later than September 4, 2009. Please refer to the individual award nomination forms for complete instructions.

## **IV. Attend the Annual NCIP Awards Recognition Banquet**

All participating communities will receive a certificate of achievement and will be recognized at the 2009 NCIP Banquet. Community volunteers, leaders, local government staff, service providers, nonprofit organizations, and other professionals working in community and economic development are encouraged to attend the annual NCIP Awards Recognition Banquet on November 6, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in Kearney.

All NCIP award winners will be announced at the annual recognition banquet. Prior to the banquet, all award nominations will be on display and several networking opportunities are available to share resources, ideas, and questions about community and economic development efforts.

## **V. NCIP Signs**

A community is eligible to purchase an NCIP roadside sign after one year of participation in NCIP. The cost of the roadside sign for the community is \$50. NCIP Sponsors supplement additional costs for NCIP signs.

# NCIP AWARDS SUMMARY

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Communities may submit nominations for a variety of awards. Please see the appropriate form and instructions page for more information about a specific award nomination process. Communities may participate in NCIP by submitting nominations for any or all of the categories listed below:

## **Special Project Awards**

*(please see page 10 for sub-category descriptions)*

Special Project Awards recognize specific outstanding community or multi-community projects in the following categories: Leadership Development, Community Development, and Economic Development. Participants may nominate a maximum of three special projects, with a maximum of one project per main category.

## **Governor's Community Spirit Award**

Community Spirit Awards recognize communities or multi-communities that have implemented a comprehensive approach following the NCIP Community Planning Process for capacity building and economic development. Communities must either submit a report book or create a website showcasing several of the community's projects. NCIP judges will visit the communities submitting nominations for the Governor's Community Spirit Awards. The first, second, and third place winners of the Governor's Community Spirit Awards, with the exception of Class V participants (Multi-Community/County/Regional), will receive cash awards.

## **Founders Award**

The Founders Award recognizes one outstanding intergovernmental project or program in Nebraska that encompasses creative collaboration between governments.

## **Good Neighbor Award**

The Good Neighbor Award is given to a community or region for providing assistance, support, and encouragement to a neighboring community or region. A community must be nominated by another community to win the Good Neighbor Award.

## **Youth Leadership Award for Outstanding Community Service (YLOCS)**

Youth members of participating NCIP communities who have demonstrated leadership through community service are eligible to be nominated for award recognition. One youth leader in each population category, with the exception of Class V participants (Multi-Community/County/Regional), will receive individual recognition.

## **Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award**

The Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award recognizes an unpaid volunteer who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to his/her community through involvement with NCIP.

## **Otto Hoiberg Award**

The Governor's Community Spirit Award first place winners in each population class, with the exception of Class V (Multi-Community/County/Regional), will be automatically judged for the Otto Hoiberg Award. This award is given to the community with the best overall community and economic development program. The award emphasizes a sound planning process as essential to a successful local community and economic development program. This award honors the late Dr. Otto Hoiberg for his dedication to enacting programs for community improvement and recognizing community development achievements.

## **NCIP AWARDS OUTLINE**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Page Limit</b>	<b>Site Visit</b>	<b>Winners</b>
Special Project Awards	Project Specific (community, leadership, or economic development)	Sept. 2, 2009	5	NO	One per population class, per category
Governor's Community Spirit Award	Community/Region's planning process and accomplishments	Sept. 2, 2009	35 (plus appendix)	YES	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , per population class
Founders Award	Intergovernmental Projects	Sept. 2, 2009	7	NO	One overall
Good Neighbor Award	Nominate another community/region for their support	Sept. 4, 2009	5	NO	One overall
Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service Award	Youth demonstrating leadership in the community	Sept. 4, 2009	3 (plus 2 letters of support)	NO	One per population class
Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award	Adult unpaid volunteer demonstrating outstanding leadership	Sept. 4, 2009	5	NO	One overall
Otto Hoiberg Award	Top overall community	NO NOMINATION REQUIRED		NO	One overall

### **POPULATION CLASSES**

**Class I: 1-800**

**Class II: 801-1,700**

**Class III: 1,701-5,000**

**Class IV: 5,001 +**

**Class V: Multi-Community/County/Regional**

# 2009 NCIP INTENT TO ENTER FORM

Return to: Christina Bartels, NCIP Coordinator, P.O. Box 94666, Lincoln, NE 68509

Deadline: June 1, 2009

1. **Name of Community or Multi-Community** \_\_\_\_\_

**Population** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Names of Officers**

**Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Assistant Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Person Preparing (or Coordinating) Nominations** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

3. **NCIP Contact Person (Primary Recipient of Correspondence)** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

4. **NCIP Options (check all that apply)**

Sustaining NCIP Community (pertains only to communities not submitting awards)

Special Project Awards

Governor's Community Spirit Award (previously the Community Notebook)

Founders Award (Intergovernmental)

Good Neighbor Award (Nominating Another Community)

Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service Award (Individual Youth Leaders)

Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award (Individual Adult Leader)

5. **Release of Information:** The committee gives the Nebraska Department of Economic Development permission to duplicate the award nomination information for public distribution, including on the Internet.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2009 NCIP INTENT TO ENTER FORM (Continued)

Return to: Christina Bartels, NCIP coordinator, PO Box 94666, Lincoln, NE 68509

Deadline: June 1, 2009

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development recognizes the importance of community planning and goal setting. In working toward common goals, communities are better able to maximize resources and create a unified sense of community development.

To ensure all NCIP communities are working toward planned goals and outcomes, all participants are required to submit the following information. All information will be given to the judges and used in the judging process. If, however, your community does not accomplish the goals stated below, you can still successfully participate in NCIP by explaining why goals may have changed or been re-prioritized.

Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Goals Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

## TOP 5 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

*Please list up to 5 priority areas your community would like to address in the future.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## GOALS FOR 2009 NCIP PROGRAM YEAR

NCIP is a process to assist your community in implementing its plans in order to make progress in its community development efforts. Briefly explain what your community hopes to accomplish through NCIP in the upcoming program year.

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# GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

Return to: Christina Bartels, NCIP coordinator, PO Box 94666, Lincoln, NE 68509

Deadline: June 1, 2009

Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, local municipal and county government must provide leadership for improving community and economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, community and economic development needs can best be determined and solved through a cooperative effort between elected officials and the citizens they represent; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Community Improvement Program, administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, has been reviewed and found to be a means to improve our community; and

WHEREAS, the city council, village board, or county commissioners of the city, village, or county of \_\_\_\_\_ do herewith pledge their full support, endorsement, and cooperation in carrying out the requirements of the NCIP;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved,

that the city, village, or county of \_\_\_\_\_ urges its citizens to join this effort and hereby declares this city, village, or county to be an official entrant in the NCIP for the year(s) of \_\_\_\_\_.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/Village/County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Elected Official

# **SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD CATEGORIES**

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**Only projects/events not entered into NCIP during the last 5 years are eligible.**

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Choose one of the following subcategories to enter under the Leadership Development Category.

### **Volunteer and Leadership Development**

Projects and activities designed to help individuals acquire leadership skills and create opportunities for leadership roles are eligible. Emphasis is given to activities that identify and support new or emerging volunteer leaders from all age groups.

**OR**

### **Youth Involvement and Leadership Development**

Leadership development programs targeting youth and projects that promote leadership skills are eligible. Activities where youth are involved in project identification, planning, and decision-making are emphasized.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Choose one of the following subcategories to enter under the Economic Development Category.

### **Business Assistance and Development**

Projects aimed at helping establish or recruit new businesses, or retaining and expanding existing businesses, and industries are eligible. Examples include business visitation and support activities; technology or incubator centers; and entrepreneurial trainings.

**OR**

### **Tourism Promotion and Development**

Projects that enhance communities' tourism potential are eligible. Examples include developing or expanding an event or attraction; conducting publicity on specific tourism events or attractions; creating a visitor information center; and launching heritage tourism projects.

**OR**

### **Workforce Development**

All projects designed to develop, retain, and recruit a workforce are eligible. Project ideas include creating a young professionals group; offering student loan forgiveness; offering formal internship programs; marketing to targeted workforce personnel; and recruiting alumni to return to the area.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Choose one of the following subcategories to enter under the Community Development Category.

### **Community Services**

This category includes services that improve a community's quality of life. Projects may encompass health care, housing, child-care or services for senior citizens, youth and other special populations, facilities specially designed for community education programs and satellite rural health clinics.

**OR**

### **Technology, Infrastructure, and Planning**

Eligible activities include projects where local governments (in cooperation with citizens) improve public works, facilities, technological infrastructure, services, and planning. Examples include street, water, or sewer improvements; physical and/or program improvements to airports, schools, hospitals, and volunteer fire departments; increased technological capabilities; and comprehensive planning.

**OR**

### **Parks, Recreation, and Environmental Awareness**

Projects that expand or develop parks, recreation, and/or increase environmental awareness for residents are eligible. Examples include physical improvements; educational efforts to increase public awareness; and plans for long-term maintenance needs. Activities that help improve the environment are also eligible, such as recycling efforts.

**OR**

### **Arts, Humanities and Cultural Experiences**

This category includes projects that focus on cultural activities. Examples include the development or improvement of museums and landmarks; historic preservation projects; and drama, dance, music, literature, and visual arts productions or display.

# SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS

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NCIP Special Project Awards recognize communities for outstanding projects in the areas of leadership, community, and economic development. Grassroots volunteer involvement in the planning and implementation of the projects is emphasized. Communities are encouraged to enter innovative or creative projects that have been completed during the past year (Sept. 1, 2008 - Aug. 31, 2009) or that occur on an annual or ongoing basis. Only projects not entered into NCIP during the last 5 years are eligible.

## **Intent to Enter**

Participants must submit the Intent to Enter Form (including 2009 NCIP goals) and Government Resolution by June 1, 2009.

## **Award Nomination Deadline**

Nominations must be postmarked, hand-delivered, or e-mailed to the NCIP Coordinator by 5 p.m. CST on **September 2, 2009**.

## **Nomination Process**

Communities may nominate a maximum of three special projects, with a maximum of one project under each of the following main categories: Leadership Development, Economic Development, and Community Development. (*See previous page for a description of the main category and sub-category choices*).

## **Judging Criteria**

- ◆ Planning and Implementation (20 points)
- ◆ Volunteer Involvement (10 points)
- ◆ Project Outcomes (40 points)
- ◆ Resources Identification (10 points)
- ◆ Project Innovation (10 points)
- ◆ Follow-Up (10 points)

## **Judging Process**

Each topic category will be judged by a separate team of judges chosen for their experience and expertise in the respective topic category. Award nominations are judged and awarded in population categories (listed on page 6). Judging will take place in September 2009. Special Project Awards do not receive a community visit and are judged strictly on the content submitted on the written nomination form.

## **Format**

Each special award nomination is limited to 5 pages. Questions on the nomination form should be addressed in narrative form. Supporting documentation, such as news articles and photos, may also be submitted within the page maximums. Nominations must be typed using an 11-point or larger font and one inch or larger margins.

Communities are encouraged to submit award nominations via email to [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov). If emailed, please send as either a PDF or Microsoft Word document. If mailing in your application, remember to send one original and two copies of each Special Project Award. Covers and/or folders are not allowed. Staple each copy in the upper left hand corner. In addition to supporting documentation, submit two color photos either digitally (preferred) or in a labeled envelope for each project nomination. Include the name of the project and a description of the photograph with each photo. Special Award Nominations and photos will not be returned.

## **State Recognition**

The Special Project Award winners will be announced on November 6, 2009 at the NCIP Awards Banquet. One first place award will be announced in each population class for each topic category. NCIP will present the winner with a plaque and help promote the Special Award winners as models for other communities to follow.

# SPECIAL PROJECT AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Deadline: Submit by September 2, 2009

Name of Community or Multi-Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Category (circle one) Leadership Development Economic Development Community Development

Subcategory \_\_\_\_\_

Date Project Started (mo./yr.) \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed (mo./yr.) \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Is the project Annual/Ongoing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Please provide a brief description of the project.**

**2) Identify the planning and implementation of the project.**

- a) Describe methods used to plan and implement the project.
- b) Describe how the project relates to the community's overall goals.
- c) Describe how the project was identified as a priority for the community.

**3) Describe volunteer involvement in planning and implementing the project.**

- a) Describe how responsibilities were delegated among volunteers.
- b) Describe how volunteers were recruited for the project.

**4) Identify Project Outcomes.**

- a) What did the community intend to change as a result of the project?
- b) Describe community wide support of the project.
- c) Describe how the final project impacted the community, including measurable data. (Measurable data includes both qualitative and quantitative information).

**5) Describe how resources were identified and used to successfully implement the project.**

- a) Monetary (grants, fund-raising, bonds, etc.)
- b) Materials and supplies (purchased and donated)
- c) Labor (volunteer, in-kind, and paid services)

**6) What aspects (if any) of the project were especially unique or creative? Please describe.**

NOTE: In addition to supporting documentation, please submit two (2) color photos with captions in a labeled envelope for each Special Award Nomination. You may also e-mail these photos to [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov).

# GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

## DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS

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The Governor's Community Spirit Award nominations (formerly the Community Notebook) may be submitted by communities or multi-communities that have implemented a comprehensive approach to community development, which involves community planning, volunteer and leadership development, and project accomplishments. Emphasis is placed on accomplishments completed during the past program year (Sept. 1, 2008 - Aug. 31, 2009) or annual and/or ongoing projects.

### **Intent to Enter**

Participants must submit the Intent to Enter Form (including 2009 NCIP goals ) and Government Resolution by June 1, 2009.

### **Award Nomination Deadline**

Nominations must be postmarked, hand-delivered, or e-mailed to the NCIP Coordinator by 5 p.m. CST on **September 2, 2009**.

### **Nomination Process**

Communities must complete and submit Parts I, II, and III of the Governor's Community Spirit Award Nomination Form by the award nomination deadline.

### **Judging Criteria**

Nominations are judged and awarded in population categories, which are listed on page 6 of this Awards Guide. Each population category is assigned a team of judges who evaluate improvement efforts according to the following criteria (see nomination questions for a full description of the judging criteria):

- Planning and Leadership Development (40 Points)
- Project Accomplishments (50 Points)
- Additional and Ongoing projects (10 Points)

### **Judging Process**

Nominations are judged through a combination of reviewing the Governor's Community Spirit Award Nomination and conducting a community visit. Community visits will occur in late September or early October. Communities will be informed of the time and date of their visit one to two weeks prior to the visit. Judges' comments are shared with communities following announcement of awards.

### **Format**

Communities have 2 options for submitting the Award Nomination for the Governor's Community Spirit Award. Nominations will be judged on the content that is submitted and the format will not be a part of the judging criteria. Regardless of the format chosen, be sure to adequately answer all of the questions on the Award Nomination form and provide the appropriate supporting documentation.

**Option 1: Binder Option.** Communities may submit the Award Nomination by including documents in a binder which address Parts I, II, and III of the Governor's Community Spirit Award Nomination Form in narrative form. Supporting documentation, such as news articles and photos, may also be submitted within the page maximums for each part. Cover artwork and divider pages are permitted but will not be evaluated in the judging process.

If a community chooses to use a project to demonstrate its Project Accomplishments (Part II of the Nomination Form) that is also being nominated for a Special Project Award, the community must include the documentation in the binder, and must also fulfill the submission requirements for Special Project Award which are listed on the Special Project Awards nomination form (such as that the community must submit two copies of project documentation). Please note that the projects listed in the Governor's Community Spirit Award nomination form will not be automatically judged for a Special Project Award. The community must comply with the requirements of both categories. Please refer to the Special Project Awards nomination form to ensure all nomination requirements have been fulfilled.

Each community must also submit two color photos (via e-mail to [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov) or in a labeled envelope) of each project being used to support Part II (whether or not the project is being nominated for a Special Project Award) and two photos representing additional accomplishments (Part III). The binders will be returned following the annual awards banquet. Please see the checklist on page 18 for formatting and other requirements.

**Option 2: Website Option.** New this year, each community may complete the Award Nomination form and create a website showcasing all aspects of the projects being used to support its nomination for the Governor's Community Spirit Award. The website must address all three parts of the Governor's Community Spirit Award Nomination Form just as if the community was submitting a binder under Option One. The community should strive to label or provide some indication on the website as to what portion of the website addresses which part and/or subpart of the Nomination Form.

Communities are encouraged to be creative when building and designing a website, although the website should be designed with a logical and clean layout and have a professional appearance overall. Creating a website gives communities the opportunity to include several photos of the projects. This option also provides communities an opportunity to learn how to build and design a website, a task which will most likely involve a substantial amount of teamwork among members of the communities' NCIP Committee. Communities are encouraged to create a website in an effort to be environmentally friendly.

If a community chooses Option Two, it must provide the web address on the Award Nomination Form, which may be submitted via mail or e-mail.

### **State Recognition**

The Governor's Community Spirit Award winners will be announced on November 6, 2009, at the NCIP Awards Banquet. There will be a first, second, and third place winner in all population classes. However, a cash prize will only be awarded to the first, second, and a third place winners in population classes I, II, III, and IV. There will be no cash prize for population Class V (Multi-Community/County/Regional); however, Class V is highly encouraged to submit an Award Nomination for the Governor's Community Spirit Award. The Class V winner will be recognized for its achievements and presented with a plaque at the NCIP Awards Banquet.

# GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATION FORM

## *Cash Award!*

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**Deadline: Submit by September 2, 2009**

Name of Community or Multi-Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check the Submission Style: Binder \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

If website submission, what is the web address? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Part I – Overall Planning and Leadership Development Process (40 points)**

With a maximum of five pages, please address the following questions with written responses and supporting documentation, such as news articles and photos.

**1) Describe the community or multi-communities planning process.**

- a) How do citizens participate in the process?
- b) What methods are used to set goals and priorities to build consensus toward a common vision? (Ex: surveys, town hall meetings, etc.)
- c) What methods are used to evaluate community progress?
- d) Describe the type of plans and strategies that have been developed by the community.
- e) What style/type of community assessment and planning program does your community utilize?

**2) Describe the community's efforts to develop local leadership and volunteerism.**

Include efforts to involve and recruit a broad base of volunteers in the planning and implementation of community wide projects. Also, include efforts to develop volunteers through training opportunities and volunteer recognition.

**3) How does your community identify community organizations and their roles?**

- a) Describe how this information is shared and used in the community.
- b) Describe how various organizations work together to plan and implement projects and maximize resources.

**4) Has your community conducted a needs assessment survey in the last three years?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If yes, please include the tabulated results in the Appendix)

If yes, describe how the survey has been used as part of the community planning process.

If no, describe other efforts made to compile community input for needs identification.

**5) Has your community conducted an inventory of resources or started to enter data into the Location One Information System (LOIS) or the Nebraska Economic Development Info (NEDI online)?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*If yes, please include a print out of these pages in the appendix.*

**6) Does your community have a website? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

**Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

# GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATION FORM (CONTINUED)

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## Part II– Project Accomplishments (50 Points)

In no more than five pages per project, please address the following questions with written responses and/or supporting documentation, such as news articles and photos. A community may showcase a maximum of 5 projects in order to demonstrate its Project Accomplishments. Projects used to support the Governor's Community Spirit Award nomination may include those projects nominated for awards under the Special Project Awards category, although non-nominated projects may also be used.

Name of Community or Multi-Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Category \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify which projects are also nominated for Special Project Awards: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Project Started (mo./yr) \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed (mo./yr.) \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Is the project Annual/Ongoing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) **Please provide a brief description of the project.**
- 2) **Identify the planning and implementation of the project.**
  - a) Describe methods used to plan and implement the project.
  - b) Describe how the project relates to the communities overall goals (including the goals identified by the community on its Intent to Enter form).
  - c) Describe how the project was identified as a priority for the community.
- 3) **Describe volunteer involvement in planning and implementing the project.**
  - a) Describe how responsibilities were delegated among volunteers.
  - b) Describe how volunteers were recruited for the project.
- 4) **Identify Project Outcomes.**
  - a) What did the community intend to change as a result of the project?
  - b) Describe community wide support behind the project.
  - c) Describe how the final project impacted the community, including measurable data. (Measurable data includes both qualitative and quantitative information).
- 5) **Describe how resources were identified and used to successfully implement the project.**
  - a) Money (grants, fund-raising, bonds, etc.).
  - b) Materials and supplies (purchased and donated).
  - c) Labor (volunteer, in-kind, and paid services).
- 6) **Please describe what aspects (if any) of the project were especially unique or creative?**

# GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATION FORM (CONTINUED)

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## **Part III- Additional and Ongoing Projects (10 points)**

Please list additional and ongoing projects in your community. Include a brief description of the projects and the group(s) responsible for planning and implementing the projects using a maximum of five pages, including supporting documentation.

# GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD NOMINATION CHECKLIST

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## Binder Submission Checklist:

- The award nomination is submitted in a 3-ring binder
  - Nominations are typed using an 11-point or larger font and one inch or larger margins
  - The page number(s) of each document in the binder is accurately reflected on the Table of Contents
  - The documents in the binder are consecutively numbered
  - Part I is complete and not more than five (5) pages in length, including supporting documentation
  - Part II is complete and not more than five (5) projects are submitted, each no longer than five pages
  - Part II: Projects nominated for special awards are noted on the nomination form
  - Part III is complete and not more than five (5) pages including supporting documentation
  - If a project is also nominated for a Special Project Award, the requirements specific to that award are fulfilled, in addition to the requirements for the Governor's Community Spirit Award requirements
  - Two (2) color photos for each special award nomination are submitted
  - Two (2) color photos that represent overall community accomplishments are submitted
  - The appendix includes (if applicable) Tabulated Survey Results
  - The appendix includes (if applicable) a Community Inventory (LOIS or NEDI)
  - The appendix does NOT include any additional items other than the survey and inventory
  - The compiled report book is no larger than:
    - Part I: 5 pages
    - Part II: 25 pages
    - Part III: 5 pages
- Total of not more than 35 pages + one table of contents and appendix
- Report book is postmarked or delivered to the NCIP Coordinator by 5 p.m. CST, September 2, 2009

**\*NOTE: Extra pages will not be evaluated and will be returned to the community**

*Report Books will be available for communities to pick up at the NCIP Awards Banquet.*

# GOVERNOR'S COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

## JUDGING TIPS

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Two or three NCIP judges and one driver will visit each community submitting a Governor's Community Spirit Award Nomination. Judges will be in the community for 2 hours, of which 15 minutes is allotted for taking photographs and asking questions. Therefore, communities should prepare a 1 hour and 45 minute presentation.

### Helpful Hints to Make The Most Of Your Judges Visit

**Have Fun - Be Creative:** It is important to cover the criteria but have fun with it! Show off your community pride and excitement. Contact former Otto Hoiberg community winners or NCIP Advisors to assist your community in the creative process. You are not judged on creativity, but it does help showcase the enthusiasm in your community!

**Stick to the Timeline:** The 2-hour time frame is strictly adhered to. Set time limits for presenters and practice before the visit takes place.

**Have an Agenda:** Create an agenda and stick to it. Include topics addressed, organizations, speaker names, tour destinations, and any other relevant information. Give the judges and escort a copy of the agenda.

**Address the Criteria:** Address all of the judging criteria in your presentation, including the community planning and leadership development component and project accomplishments.

**Introductions:** Give everyone attending, including judges, the leader and community volunteers, a chance to introduce themselves.

**Nametags:** Have all in attendance wear nametags with first and last names, as well as the organization(s) representing. This helps the judges in communicating with community leaders. (Judges and escorts will wear nametags.)

**Attendance at the Visit:** Get everyone involved! Invite community volunteers who have assisted with projects, local government leaders, business leaders, youth leaders and volunteers, other civic organizations, etc.

**Presentation of Criteria:** The judges will review the binders before they arrive. Communities should still address the information and criteria that was submitted in the binder. Prepare an agenda to determine in what order information will be presented to the judges. Leave time at the end of the visit for judges to ask questions.

**Community Tour:** A community tour is recommended but not required. Tours must be scheduled within the timeframe allowed for the visit. Tour guides should be aware of the time limit. Do not keep the judges longer than the time allowed.

**Snacks/Gifts:** Snacks and nominal gifts are optional and at the discretion of the community. Gifts that have a value greater than \$5 will not be accepted.

**Set-Up:** If possible, provide a table and chairs for the judges so they can sit and take notes and have a place for items they have with them during the community presentation.

**Location:** Mark your meeting location so that judges can identify it when they pull into town. Signs and/or balloons identifying the meeting location is one suggestion.

If you have any questions concerning the site visit, please contact Christina Bartels, NCIP Coordinator at (800) 426-6505, or by e-mail at [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov).

# OTTO G. HOIBERG AWARD

## *Cash Award!*

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Each year, one Governor's Community Spirit Award winner receives the Otto G. Hoiberg Award for the best overall community and economic development program, regardless of population size. The award emphasizes a sound planning process as essential to a successful local community development process.

This prestigious award honors the late Dr. Otto G. Hoiberg for his dedication to enacting programs for community improvement and to recognizing community development achievements.

### **Eligibility**

The first place Governor's Community Spirit Award winners in each population class are eligible and automatically considered for the Otto G. Hoiberg Award; however, the Class V winner is not eligible for the Otto G. Hoiberg Award.

### **Judging Criteria**

- ◆ **Process (25 Points)**  
Scoring is based on a review of the citizen participation process, goal setting process, planning process and resource identification and utilization.
- ◆ **Involvement (25 Points)**  
Scoring is based on a review of overall community involvement and efforts to recruit and retain involvement in the community improvement process.
- ◆ **Progress and Vision (50 Points)**  
Scoring is based on a review of the accomplishments submitted, how accomplishments relate to community goals, community vision, action planning and evaluation.

### **Judging Process**

A team of judges will review all first place nominations in the Governor's Community Spirit Award category to determine the overall winner. *No additional nomination form is required.* Judging is based on nominations and comments of site visit judges.

### **State Recognition**

The Otto G. Hoiberg award winner will be announced on November 6, 2009, at the NCIP Awards Banquet. A special plaque and cash award will be presented to the winning community.

# FOUNDERS AWARD DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS

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The Founders Award recognizes one outstanding intergovernmental project or program in Nebraska that encompasses creative collaborations between governments for the purpose of serving its citizens in an effective manner. The award honors David Carson and David Osterhout, the men who founded NCIP in 1963.

The project must include two or more governmental entities (at least one of these at the city, town, or county level). Districts or regional governmental entities with their own taxing authority (such as school districts) are also eligible. The project must be administered under the authority of one or more of the above governmental entities that have played a formative role in its design and initiation.

Examples include: combining departments and/or functions; inter-local agreements between communities to develop regional recycling centers or landfills; two or more governmental entities purchasing and sharing equipment, supplies or resources; cooperative economic development efforts; and jointly hiring service providers, such as information technology specialists or emergency communications personnel.

## **Intent to Enter**

Participants must submit the Intent to Enter Form and Government Resolution by June 1, 2009.

## **Awards Deadline**

The awards nomination must be postmarked by **September 2, 2009** (or hand-delivered by 5 p.m. CST) to the NCIP Coordinator.

## **Judging Criteria**

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- ◆ Project or Program Description (10 points)
- ◆ Significance (15 points)
- ◆ Cost and Resource Effectiveness (30 points)
- ◆ Impact and Effectiveness (30 points)
- ◆ Innovation (15 points)

## **Judging Process**

A committee of judges will select one Founders Award winner based on the judging criteria. Founders Award nominations do not receive site visits from the judges.

## **Format**

Founders Award nominations are limited to seven pages. Questions on the nomination form must be addressed in narrative form. Supporting documentation, such as news articles and photos may also be submitted within the page maximums. Nominations must be typed using an 11-point or larger font with one inch or larger margins.

Covers and/or folders are not allowed. Staple each copy in the upper left hand corner. Two (2) copies of the nomination are required. In addition to supporting documentation, submit two color photos, in a labeled envelope, that represent the project or program. Include the name of the project and a description of the photograph on the back of each photo. Photos may also be e-mailed to [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov). Founders Award nomination forms are not returned.

## **State Recognition**

The Founders Award will be announced on November 6, 2009 at the NCIP Awards Banquet. NCIP will present the winner with a plaque and help promote the Founders Award winner as a model for other communities to follow.

# FOUNDERS AWARD NOMINATION FORM

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*Deadline: Submit by September 2, 2009*

**Name of Project or Program:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Governmental Entities Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by (Organization or governmental entity):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Eve. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Project or Program Description (10 points)**
  - a) Briefly explain how the project was planned and implemented.
  - b) Emphasize how the project exemplifies intergovernmental collaboration.
  - c) Describe the development of governmental partnerships and how the partners worked together to achieve a common purpose.
  
2. **Significance (15 points)**
  - a) Describe how the project or program addresses an important public concern.
  - b) Describe the community's involvement in reaching a solution.
  
3. **Cost and Resource Effectiveness (30 points)**
  - a) Describe how the project or program has reduced costs and/or used resources more effectively, with special emphasis given to property tax reduction.
  - b) What is the documented cost savings as a result of collaboration?
  
4. **Impact and Effectiveness (30 points)**
  - a) How effective was the project?
  - b) How has the project or program substantially improved productivity and services?
  - c) Did the project make significant progress toward its intended aims?
  - d) Describe the measurements used to determine success.
  
5. **Innovation (15 points)**
  - a) Does the project or program involve a fresh approach to a significant problem?
  - b) To what degree does the project demonstrate a leap of creativity?  
(For example, did the project incorporate the novel with more familiar elements, reshape the role or routines of governments, or result in policy departures?)

# GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

## DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS & NOMINATION FORM

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Good Neighbor Awards are given to communities or regions that provide technical assistance, support and encouragement to neighboring communities or regions. For example, an NCIP community might help another community during its first year of participation in the program, or a community might help another community that has experienced flooding or other natural disasters. A community or multi-community must be nominated by an NCIP participant; however, the nominated community does not need to be involved in NCIP.

### **Intent to Enter**

To enter this awards program, communities must submit the Intent to Enter Form (including 2009 NCIP goals) and Government Resolution by June 1, 2009.

### **Awards Deadline**

Good Neighbor Award nominations must be postmarked (or hand-delivered by 5 p.m., CST) to the NCIP Coordinator by Sept. 4, 2009.

### **Nomination Process**

To nominate another community for a Good Neighbor Award, complete a Good Neighbor Award Nomination Form.

### **Format**

Include all requested information and answer all questions on the nomination form, within a maximum of 5 pages (including supporting documentation). Please use 11-point or larger font, one inch or larger margins. No cover is allowed. Two copies of the nomination form are required. In addition, please submit a photo of the community you are nominating and/or a photo reflecting the assistance received by the community.

### **State Recognition**

Good Neighbor Award nominations will be recognized at the NCIP Awards Banquet on November 6, 2009. Plaques will be presented to the award winners.

### ***Submit by September 4, 2009***

Community \_\_\_\_\_ Population \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nominated by**

Community \_\_\_\_\_ Population \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

1. How has this community assisted your community?
  
2. Please give the reasons for nominating this community.

# **YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS -- \$200 Cash Awards!**

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The Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service (YLOCS) Award is designed to recognize youth in NCIP participating communities who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership skills through participation in community service as volunteers.

## **Intent to Enter**

To enter this award program, the participating NCIP community must submit the Intent to Enter Form (including 2009 NCIP goals) and Government Resolution by June 1, 2009.

## **Award Nomination Deadline**

Youth Leadership Award nominations must be postmarked (or hand-delivered by 5 p.m., CST) by September 4, 2009, to the NCIP Coordinator.

## **Nomination Process**

Any youth who is affiliated with a local NCIP participating community is eligible to be nominated for award recognition. Eligible applicants must be a high school senior or younger during the NCIP program year (Sept. 2008 - Aug. 2009). Nominees must have exhibited unique leadership qualities that have positively impacted the community. Youth nominees may have participated in school organizations; however community service outside of school is strongly encouraged.

Individual youth may be nominated by fellow youth or adult sponsors. Each NCIP participating community may nominate a maximum of two youth per community. Communities are encouraged to develop a local selection process in which to determine youth to be nominated on behalf of the community.

*(Note: Youth who have previously won award recognition in this category may not be nominated again).*

## **Judging Criteria**

- ◆ Involvement (33 points)
- ◆ Leadership (33 points)
- ◆ Impact/Letters of Support (34 points)

## **Judging Process**

A panel of judges will be directed to select one youth recipient for an award in each NCIP population category, with the exception of Class V (Multi-Community/County/Regional). Population categories are listed on page 6.

## **Format**

Each nomination is limited to three pages (not including letters of support). The questions on the nomination form are to be addressed in narrative form and may also be addressed through supporting documentation, such as news articles and photos. Nominations must be typed using an 11-point or larger font and one inch or larger margins. Include two letters of support as an attachment to the nomination form. Each letter of support is limited to one single-sided page.

No covers or folders are allowed. Staple each copy in the upper left hand corner. Submit three copies of each youth award nomination. Submit two color photos (via email to [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov) or enclose with nomination forms in a labeled envelope) for each youth nominated (in addition to supporting documentation).

## **State Recognition**

Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service Awards will be announced in November at the NCIP Awards Banquet. A plaque and \$200 cash award will be awarded to each winner.

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE (YLOCS) AWARD NOMINATION FORM

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*Deadline: Submit by September 4, 2009*

Name of Youth Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliated NCIP Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Nominee at the Time of Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What organizations and/or associations has the youth nominee been involved in? Please include length of service for each organization (in addition to school organizations, include other affiliations outside of school activities).
2. Describe how the youth nominee has shown leadership skills in the community. How has the youth nominee motivated and encouraged other youth to join or participate in their community?
3. Describe actions taken by the youth nominee to initiate, develop, or lead projects in the community (list and describe specific projects and activities).
4. What impact has the youth nominee's involvement had on the community?
5. Include two (2) one-page letters of support to attest to the youth nominee's leadership and involvement in community service. The required letters of support are to be submitted as attachments and are not part of the three-page maximum.
6. Include two photographs of the nominated youth (in a labeled envelope to the NCIP Coordinator or via e-mail to [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov)).

# MARILYN RISTINE LEADERSHIP AWARD

## DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS & NOMINATION FORM

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In 1993, the Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award was created to memorialize an outstanding community volunteer. Long-time Gothenburg resident Marilyn Ristine (1928-1992) was an outstanding community leader who had a gift for involving others.

Nominees must be unpaid NCIP volunteers who have served a minimum 10 years in NCIP. The person should have developed or brought to the organization outstanding leadership that positively affected the local community. The nominee may be someone who has retired from the committee.

### Awards Deadline

Marilyn Ristine Leadership Award nominations must be postmarked (or hand-delivered by 5 p.m. CST) to the NCIP Coordinator by September 4, 2009.

### Format

Nominations are limited to five pages using an 11-point or larger font and one inch or larger margins. Please submit five copies of the nomination and two photos of the nominated person.

### Judging and Recognition

The Ristine family will review all nominations and select one recipient for the prestigious recognition. The winner will be announced in November at the NCIP Awards Banquet. A special plaque will be presented to the award winner.

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**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/City/State/Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Eve. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominated by

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/City/State/Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Eve. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address the following questions in narrative form:

1. During which years has the nominee served in NCIP?
2. How has the nominee shown leadership in NCIP?
3. How has the nominee shown leadership in your community other than through NCIP?
4. What organizations and associations has the nominee been involved in? What offices has he/she held?
5. How has the nominee demonstrated being a "good neighbor" in community improvement?

# SUSTAINING NCIP COMMUNITY FORM

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**Deadline: Submit by June 1, 2009**

The Sustaining NCIP Community designation is for communities that want to remain part of the NCIP process and to continue with improvement activities, but do not have completed projects to enter for awards consideration. Entrants may be completing projects and/or starting new projects.

To be considered a Sustaining NCIP Community, please submit the form below to address ongoing activities and request assistance where needed. Sustaining NCIP Communities are not involved in a judging process.

Sustaining NCIP Community forms must be submitted by June 1, 2009. The Intent to Enter Form and Government Resolutions are not required to become an NCIP Sustaining Community.

Member participants may sign up for two consecutive years and then are encouraged to enter a Special Project Award or Governor's Community Spirit Award nomination to get back into the NCIP Participation Process. Any communities not completing a sustaining NCIP form and/or that have gone beyond 2 years as a sustaining community will be considered a non-active NCIP Community.

Community or Multi-Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Population: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary of Activities:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Goals for Program Year:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Areas Needing Assistance:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We would like the NCIP Coordinator to visit our community.

## NCIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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The purpose of the NCIP Advisory Committee is to help educate communities about the benefits of NCIP; to explain the participation process and resources needed to participate; to help communities entering NCIP for the first time navigate the steps of participation; and to provide outreach and assistance to past NCIP participants. Committee members are grassroots volunteers who provide mentoring at the community level under the guidance of the NCIP Coordinator. Committee members share their talents, experience, and most valuable of all, their time. Benefiting communities are encouraged to donate mileage or pay for out-of-pocket expenses.

Please contact any of the NCIP Advisory Committee members listed below for assistance in the NCIP process. Committee members are familiar with the NCIP program and can provide examples of the Governor’s Community Spirit Award and Special Project Award nominations.

<p><b>Bernie Cunningham</b>            PO Box 13            Petersburg, NE 68652            402.386.5368  <a href="mailto:bcunning@gpcom.net">bcunning@gpcom.net</a></p>	<p><b>Gerry Osborn</b>            722 N. Ash Street            Ainsworth, NE 69210            402.387.2202  <a href="mailto:gerryoz@juno.com">gerryoz@juno.com</a></p>
<p><b>Judy Brockmeier</b>            PO Box 43            Eustis, NE 69028            308.486.5600 (day)            308.426.3171 (evening)  <a href="mailto:jkbrockmeier@yahoo.com">jkbrockmeier@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Carla Becker</b>            PO Box 427            Hartington, NE 68739            402.254.6357 (day)            402.254.2226 (evening)  <a href="mailto:devcoor@hartel.net">devcoor@hartel.net</a></p>
<p><b>Kris Miesner</b>            711 E. Elm Street            Deshler, NE 68340            402.365.7211 (day)            402.365.4206 (evening)  <a href="mailto:miesner@gpcom.net">miesner@gpcom.net</a></p>	<p><b>Vicki Schmidt</b>            703 Grand Avenue            Ravenna, NE 68869            308.452.3959  <a href="mailto:vschmidt@rcom_ne.com">vschmidt@rcom_ne.com</a></p>
<p><b>Jerry Johnson</b>            927 N. Beech Street            Wahoo, NE 68066            402.443.3347  <a href="mailto:jaj3122@windstream.net">jaj3122@windstream.net</a></p>	<p><b>Doyle Howitt</b>            UNK Communications Center            Kearney, NE 68849            308.865.8212  <a href="mailto:howitt@unk.edu">howitt@unk.edu</a></p>

# 2008 NCIP COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

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CLASS I (1-800)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Farnam
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Potter
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Bassett

CLASS IIa (801-1,700)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Laurel
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Scribner
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Hartington

CLASS IIb (1,701-5,000)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Imperial
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Wahoo
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Ainsworth

CLASS III (5,001 +)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Alliance
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	South Sioux City
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Papillion

CLASS V (Multi-Community/County/Regional)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Pawnee County
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Seward County
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	

# 2008 NCIP SPECIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

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## **Volunteer and Leadership Development**

- Class I: Deshler – Friendship Garden  
Class III: Alliance – Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Awards  
Class IV: Furnas/Harlan Partnership – Leadership Plenty Class & Seward County – Volunteer Leadership (tie)

## **Youth Involvement and Leadership Development**

- Class I: Farnam – YCIP  
Class II: Ravenna – United Methodist Youth Group Love in Action Food Pantry

## **Business Assistance & Development**

- Class I: Petersburg – Economic Development and Growth for Petersburg  
Class II: Ainsworth – Building Our Future One Business at a Time  
Class III: Alliance – Box Butte County Health Fair  
Class IV: Valley County – VCED Business Development

## **Tourism Promotion & Development**

- Class I: Farnam – Farnam Founders’ Days Improvements  
Class II: Hartington – Hartington Q 125: A Spectacular Success  
Class III: Seward -- Tourism  
Class IV: Garfield & Valley County – Loup River Valley Tourism Coalition Marketing Campaign

## **Workforce Development**

- Class II: Kimball – Kimball Hospital Foundation Scholarship  
Class III: South Sioux City – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning  
Class IV: Dawson County – [www.dawsoncountycareers.com](http://www.dawsoncountycareers.com)

## **Technology, Infrastructure & Planning**

- Class I: Petersburg – Improvement of Water, Sewer & Streets  
Class II: Wisner – Downtown Improvement District  
Class IV: Dawson County – Dawson Area Housing Market Study

## **Parks, Recreation & Environmental Awareness**

- Class I: Pilger – Pilger Pool Project  
Class II: Hartington – Felber Park and Community Complex Enhancements  
Class III: Seward – Environmental Projects 2008  
Class IV: Scottsbluff/Gering – Earth Day Celebration

## **Arts & Humanities**

- Class I: Bassett – Cemetery Directory Kiosk  
Class II: Stromsburg – “For the Record” Recordings of Veterans’ Stories  
Class III: South Sioux City – *The Wall That Heals* in Siouxland

## **Community Services**

- Class I: Potter – Potter-Dix Early Learning Facility; Honorable Mention: Farnam – Library  
Class II: Loup City – Parental Involvement Program at Loup City Public Schools  
Class III: Nebraska City – Growing Greater Kids for Otoe County  
Honorable Mention – Alliance – Read for a Ride

## **Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service (YLOCS)**

- Class I: Kevin Ripp, Pleasanton  
Class II: Christina Rice, Ravenna  
Class III: Neil DeVorss, Nebraska City

**Founder's Award:** The School Districts of Laurel-Concord, Newcastle, Coleridge & Wynot – Innovation: School & Community Planning

**Good Neighbor Award:** Eustis and Farnam

**Marilyn Ristine Award:** Kathy Worrell, Ainsworth

**Otto Hoiberg Award (Top Overall Community):** Farnam

# NEBRASKA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2008 ANNUAL REPORT



## NCIP FAST FACTS:

Celebrated 45<sup>th</sup>  
program year in 2008

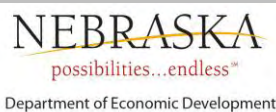
Forty-six communities  
participated in NCIP in  
2008

More than 500  
conference and  
banquet attendees

118,000 volunteer  
hours

More than 125 projects  
completed

\$1.3 million investment  
into rural Nebraska



### Contact:

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The Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> year of recognizing community accomplishments in leadership, community and economic development in 2008. Forty-six (46) communities, counties, and regions participated in NCIP in 2008 by submitting community accomplishments for award recognition.

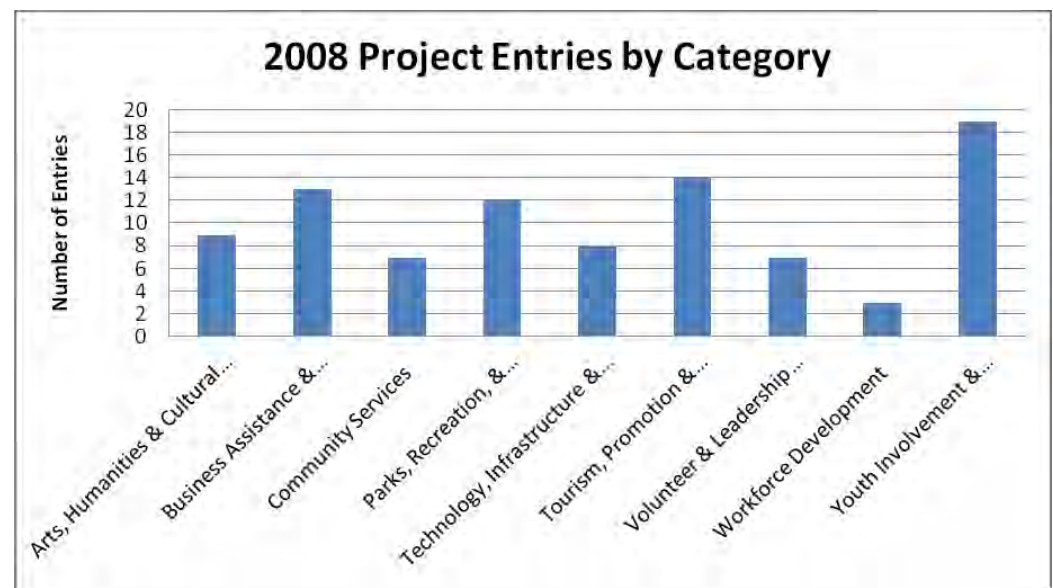
1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
61	64	46	53	58	68	58	64	59	48	46

**\*\*In 1999, 14 of the 64 communities participated in Century Awards Only.**

**Workshops and Trainings:** Workshop and training needs were determined using the goals submitted by each community at the start of the year. Summer workshops were held in six communities, with 20 communities represented and more than 30 people in attendance. In addition, NCIP sponsored two Grant Writing USA workshops, with more than 70 people attending the two trainings. NCIP staff also visited several communities on an individual basis to assist in strategic planning sessions. NCIP continues to be a vital component of the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) grant received through USDA. NCIP is working with the Department of Economic Development (DED) to develop leadership development and strategic planning curriculum that focuses on the use of internal community resources for development. In total, NCIP reached more than 200 people through various meetings and trainings.

**Recruitment and Marketing:** The NCIP booth and/or information was displayed at two statewide conferences throughout the year. Calls were made to past NCIP participants and several brief presentations were given at various Nebraska Department of Economic Development-sponsored workshops statewide to ensure participation. NCIP Ambassadors were given goal sheets and asked to work with staff on recruitment efforts. Also, NCIP joined with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska for the annual conference, and both entities worked to promote the first ever Governor's Conference on Rural Development. Online marketing and online registration helped make the conference a huge success with more than 350 persons attending the day conference.

## 2008 Project Entries by Category



**Community Advantage Training and Annual Recognition Day:** NCIP celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> year in November at the annual conference and recognition banquet. NCIP joined with the Partnership for Rural Nebraska and combined the annual NCIP conference with the Rural Institute to create the inaugural Governor’s Conference on Rural Development. A mobile pre-conference workshop was held on November 13 that featured Loup City, Ravenna, and the George Spencer Winery in Gibbon. A total of 28 individuals participated in the tour. Also on November 13, a pre-conference hands-on technology training was hosted by Tim O’Brien of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Connie Hancock of the University of Nebraska Extension. A total of 19 persons took part in the training. On November 14, more than 350 participants, representing more than 75 communities, attended the Governor’s Conference on Rural Development entitled “Renewable Nebraska.” Morning keynote speaker Rich Karlgaard, Publisher of *Forbes* Magazine, provided attendees with his thoughts on the current economic state, as well as why America’s Heartland could benefit from these economic times. NCIP partnered with the University of Nebraska Human Resources Institute to host a full-day youth track focused on Leadership Development. More than 15 youth, representing 4 communities attended the event. Matt Dieghton, Volunteer Coordinator of Central Kansas Tornado Recovery, shared his heartwarming story of the Greensburg, KS rebuilding efforts during the noon luncheon.

Following the day conference, more than 230 community volunteers and leaders attended the annual banquet where Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy announced that volunteers contributed more than 118,000 hours of in-kind services toward community and economic development projects (at \$11/hr) averaging more than \$1.3 million of investment in Nebraska. Three youth were presented with the Youth Leadership for Outstanding Community Service (YLOCS) Award, and each received \$200 cash awards from the NCIP Silent Auction proceeds from the 2007 Recognition Banquet. This year’s silent auction raised an additional \$788.00 that will be used to continue the cash award for the YLOCS category in 2008. A total of 54 awards were given. The table below presents a history of attendance at the annual conference:

Event	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Conference (day)	155	160	230	170	174	168	116	161	350
NCIP Awards Banquet (eve)	374	380	410	485	420	268	310	230	241
Site Location	Seward	Columbus	North Platte	Kearney	Lincoln	Gering	Kearney	South Sioux City	Kearney

*Community Notebook Advantage award recipients in each class were as follows:*

**CLASS I (1-800 pop)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Farnam
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Potter
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bassett

**CLASS III (5,001+ pop)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Alliance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – South Sioux City
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Papillion

**CLASS IIa (801-1,700 pop)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Laurel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scribner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hartington

**CLASS V (Multi-Community)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Pawnee County
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Seward County

**CLASS IIb (1,701-5,000 pop)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Ainsworth
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Wahoo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Imperial



Farnam NCIP volunteers accept the 2008 Otto Hoiberg Award from Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy.

*The Otto Hoiberg Award represents the highest honor given to an NCIP participating community. One NCIP community regardless of population class is selected to receive the award for best overall community development program. The award is named for Dr. Otto Hoiberg for his dedication to community and economic development throughout Nebraska. The 2008 Otto Hoiberg award was presented to Farnam (pop.227).*

The second annual Governor’s Conference on Rural Development and NCIP Awards Banquet will be held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center on November 6, 2009

NCIP is a program of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and is sponsored by the following five investor-owned utilities: Northern Natural Gas, Glenwood Telephone, Source Gas, NorthWestern Energy, and Black Hills Corporation.

# **Save the Date!**



## **Governor's Conference on Rural Development and NCIP Awards Banquet**

Featuring:

Great Speakers ● Informative Workshops ●  
Networking ● Local Tours ● Silent Auction ● Youth  
Activities ● Award Presentations ● and MORE!

**Friday, November 6, 2009  
Holiday Inn, Kearney**



# ROADSIDE SIGNS FORM

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After a community completes one year of participation in NCIP for judging, it is eligible to purchase and display an official NCIP roadside sign for a minimal cost of \$50 per sign. NCIP sponsors subsidize part of the cost of the signs. There is no need to purchase a new NCIP sign every year.

DED cooperates with the Nebraska Department of Roads to deliver and install the signs. After sign orders are received by DED, the signs are shipped to area offices of the Nebraska Department of Roads, whose personnel install the signs on population signposts in the community.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Signs \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00    Location(s) for Sign(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check in the Amount of:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Made payable to the 2009 NCIP Fund.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To order, submit this form to:**

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