



From the Office of Secretary of State

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### **Applications indicate strong competition for NSRB grant money**

LINCOLN – Competition will be tight among state and local government agencies looking to garner their share of \$250,000 in grant money from the Nebraska State Records Board. This year, applications reached a record amount of nearly \$394,000. There are 21 applicants in all.

“This year the response has been outstanding,” said Cathy Danahy, executive director of the Board. “But obviously, we won’t be able to award all grant applicants their requested amount, regardless of their final evaluations. This is the first time that has happened.”

Grants in the amount of \$25,000 each are available to those government agencies in Nebraska seeking to improve their online access to citizens. The application process closed on Monday, May 6. From here, the applications will be evaluated and submitted for approval on July 31.

This year, applicants requested amounts varying from \$6,000 up to the full amount of \$25,000. The majority of those requests are for the development of geographic information systems (GIS). Some of the other projects in need of funding include: the conversion to electronic health records by Kimball County Manor, an online continuing education submission system for the Nebraska Real Estate Commission and an online licensing and fee application payment system by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

“Those projects can be quite an undertaking for some of those agencies, especially the smaller counties,” observed Secretary of State John Gale, chair of the Nebraska

State Records Board. "Obviously, it's helpful to receive this type of grant funding to help get those projects off the ground."

"Since the grant program started in 2003, over \$1.5 million dollars has been awarded," added Danahy. "The fact that so many agencies applied this year definitely reflects the need for this kind of financial assistance."

The records board oversees Nebraska.gov, the state's official website. The grant program is funded through a portion of the board's share of fees received from Nebraska.gov. No state tax funds are used for the grants.

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