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Grants available for enhancement of government services

LINCOLN – Government entities wishing to improve electronic and internet services provided to the public and other agencies, can apply for much needed funding through the Nebraska State Records Board. Secretary of State John Gale, who is chairman of the board, says grant applications are now being accepted.

Grants are available for up to $25,000 each with a total of $150,000 distributed by the board. The board will determine which projects are funded and at what level.

The application process is open to state and local government entities. Nearly $2 million dollars has been awarded since the program first started back in 1999. "At that time, we started with state agencies," explained Gale. "A few years later we invited county and municipal governments to submit applications as well."

Steven Chase, executive director of the Nebraska State Records Board, said possible projects are wide ranging and varied.

"Agencies may want to update their websites, to allow for better content management. They can make their websites and internet processes mobile-friendly or perform geographical information system work that would provide detailed information for use by emergency services, natural resources and revenue."

In the past, requested funding has exceeded the total amount of money available. But Gale said that points to the need of the program in helping government entities achieve their goals, without relying on taxpayer money.

"Not only does this bridge that gap, but additionally, no state tax funds are used to supply the grants. Funding comes from a portion of the board's share of fees received from Nebraska.gov, the state's website portal provider."

Government entities wishing to submit an application can find more information online at: www.staterecordsboard.nebraska.gov. Look for the tab that says "Grant Information."

The deadline to submit an application is September 15, 2016.

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