

CYBERSECURITY PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Subject: Project Proposal Recommendations

Date: May 22nd, 2023

To: Nebraska Cybersecurity Planning Committee

From: Nebraska Cybersecurity Planning Subcommittee

Dear Nebraska Cybersecurity Planning Committee,

The Nebraska Cybersecurity Planning Subcommittee met on May 22nd, 2023 and discussed the eligibility of projects submitted to the Nebraska Cybersecurity Planning Committee as part of the IJJA Grant process and came to the following recommendations.

1. The county projects to be facilitated by Applied Connective for the counties they serve, the subcommittee is recommending that the county projects for assessments, documentation, and security awareness training through Applied Connective be scored and ranked as a single non-multijurisdictional project as they are all materially the same project. The subcommittee also recommends a partial award for the single project; since a single managed service provider (MSP) will be conducting the work, it will not be cost-prohibitive for the MSP to duplicate efforts.

Also, worth noting to the committee that the assessment costs appear to be exceedingly high for the general nondescriptive results produced by Applied Connective Cyber Assessment Results.

2. The project for the City of Lincoln should be withheld from scoring and consideration as it was received after the April 30th deadline. The committee voted on May 11th, 2023, to not allow submissions passed the deadline.
3. The multijurisdictional Project for Platte County and the City of Columbus should not be considered under the IJJA State and Local cybersecurity grant, as it pertains to Information Technology (IT) infrastructure rather than a cybersecurity project. The project proposes upgrading fiber connectivity and procuring switches and routers. Grant funds are available for projects such as this. The subcommittee determined that the Platte County Project would not appropriately use IJJA funds.
4. It is also the subcommittee's recommendation to break up the State College Systems and University project into a multiyear project. The reason for the change is not due to any fault of the submitter or submission; it is only due to funding allocation guidelines from the federal government and that the State College Systems and the University of Nebraska would not qualify as passthrough funding and would be considered state-level entities and subject to allocation percentages.
5. The City of Beatrice is requesting \$459,459.97 for improved cybersecurity. However, after reviewing the project not all of the procurements are cybersecurity related and pertain more towards general IT infrastructure, rather

than cybersecurity capabilities. For instance, Network Access Storage (NAS) servers, new server systems, more robust routers, and updated network switches would fall outside of the fiscal objective this year's funding. If the committee is to fund this project the subcommittee would recommend only a partial award.

6. Custer Public Power submitted a project to upgrade firewalls. At the same time, the subcommittee recognizes the importance of upgrading firewalls; it would fall outside the fiscal objective for this year's funding for assessments and governance. It is recommended that this type of physical infrastructure upgrade be resubmitted for the next fiscal year's funding.

7. City of Kearney submitted a project to upgrade a firewall. At the same time, the subcommittee recognizes the importance of upgrading firewalls; it would fall outside the fiscal objective for this year's funding for assessments and governance. It is recommended that this type of physical infrastructure upgrade be resubmitted for the next fiscal year's funding.

The subcommittee did not evaluate the merit of any projects only the eligibility and any special circumstances. We kindly request that the committee consider and adopt these recommendations prior to scoring and valuating projects.

Respectfully,

Nebraska Cybersecurity Planning Subcommittee