



Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Meeting Date: **June 11, 2026**

Agenda Item: **5.6**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

Committee: **Chancellor Informational Items**

Information **Grant Applications and Awards (FFA)**
Only:

Board Policy 6704 requires the reporting of grant awards and applications to the Board as information if they do not have a state maintenance of effort or future fiscal responsibility. For those that do have a maintenance effort or future fiscal impact, the Board is to approve the application in advance when possible. The attached table is a summary of the grant applications that have been reviewed and approved by the Chancellor and have no maintenance of effort, along with the awards received since the last Board meeting.

Informational Item.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Grant_Applications_and_Awards_June
- PSC Grant Application
- NASH-SHEEO Financial Sustainability Participation Agreement

June 2026

Grant Applications	Grant Agency and Grant Title	Amount Requested
PSC	Dirksen Congressional Center Research Grant	\$3,914.00
Total PSC Grant Applications		=\$3,914.00

Grant Awards	Grant Agency and Grant Title	Amount Awarded
NSCS	National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH) – Financial Sustainability Community of Practice Participation Agreement	\$15,000.00
Total NSCS Grant Awards		=\$15,000.00

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR, OR TO ACCEPT, AWARDS OF NON-STATE CONTRACTS OR GRANTS

College: Peru State College		Date: April 8, 2026
Notice of Intent	Application: X	Accept Award:
Name of Program: Dirksen Congressional Center Research Grant		
Funding Source: Dirksen Congressional Center Also indicate if the source is federal, state or private: Private		
Is this grant a Sub-Award ?		Yes: X No:
If a sub-award, indicate the agency the sub-award is through: Dirksen Congressional Center		
Amount Requested: \$3,914.00	Amount Awarded:	Funding Period: September 15, 2026—June 15, 2027 Please indicate specific dates for the grant.
Closing Date for Application Submission: Rolling		
When reporting Grant Award-- Has Grant Application been approved/reviewed by the Board?		Date Approved/Reviewed:
Does this grant include Indirect Cost Funds for the College's use?		Yes: No: X
If yes, indicate dollar amount and/or percentage rate allowed:		
Will this grant require State Matching Funds ?		Yes: No: X
If yes, indicate dollar amount and specific uses of funds (i.e., salaries, honorariums, travel, office supplies, phone, postage, space rental, equipment, etc.):		
Will this grant require In-Kind Support ?		Yes: No: X
If yes, describe briefly (i.e., faculty release time, support personnel, use of office space, telephone, office supplies, etc.):		
Is State Maintenance of Effort or Future Fiscal Responsibility required?		Yes: No: X
If yes, describe briefly		
Are there restrictions imposed by regulation on claiming indirect costs?		Yes: No: X
How many FTE positions will the grant fund?		FTE: 0
How many of these are new positions?		New FTE: 0
Briefly describe the purpose(s) of this application/award: This is a simple research grant that will provide transportation and lodging for archival research related to my book project, <i>The MX Missiles and the Politics of Defense</i>		
Is this grant a continuation of a previous/existing grant?		Yes: No: X
If a continuation grant, describe the previous grant in terms of amount, funding period, and any differences in program:		
Has this grant application been previously denied?		Yes: No: X
If yes, please state the reason:		
Person responsible for the preparation of the application: Jason Phillips		
Administrator responsible for approving the application:		

NASH-SHEEO Financial Sustainability Community of Practice Participation Agreement

This document summarizes the expectations for public higher education systems and state higher education agencies (herein collectively referred to as “organizations”) joining the NASH-SHEEO Financial Sustainability Community of Practice (CoP) taking place from March 2026 – April 2027.

Background

NASH (National Association of Higher Education Systems), in partnership with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO), is launching a Community of Practice (CoP) to strengthen financial sustainability planning across public higher education organizations. As colleges and universities face increasing financial pressures—including closures, mergers, and structural deficits—system leaders and SHEEOs are tasked with anticipating risks and ensuring long-term institutional health. Yet many lack access to structured, field-tested approaches to guide at-risk institutions toward sustainability. Through this cohort-based program, participating leadership teams will engage in in-person convenings, virtual learning, peer exchange, and mentoring to assess institutional risk, develop multi-year sustainability plans, and strengthen oversight practices.

Program Components

The Community of Practice pilot elements will include:

- **In Person Convenings:**
 - Opening convening April 28th-29th, 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota
 - Closing convening winter 2027 (location TBD)
- **Workshops and Virtual Learning:** Two 4-hour interactive virtual workshops (TBD) focused on financial diagnostics, sustainability planning, oversight protocols, and implementation strategies, as well as monthly webinars and structured peer-feedback sessions at interim points.
- **Targeted Technical Assistance:** Access to subject-matter experts to support teams in developing realistic, tailored plans and to engage in learning opportunities on specific strategies for financial sustainability (e.g., fiduciary governance, shared procurement, graceful existence of academic programs, etc.)
- **Financial Sustainability Plan:** All participating teams will develop a financial sustainability plan over the course of 12 months and are required to submit a final version by April 2027.

Participant Expectations

To ensure success across this cohort, each participating organization must identify an **Executive Sponsor, Cohort Lead, and Planning Team** (a cross-functional group). These roles are further defined below.

Executive Sponsor

Each participating organization must designate an executive sponsor (CEO) who will ensure that sustainability planning is not isolated to finance units but is integrated into broader governance and strategy. Responsibilities include:

- Prioritize sustainability planning and implementation as part of the organization's strategic goals;
- Provide visible support to the cohort lead and planning team and remove barriers to progress;
- Ensure participants have adequate time to attend sessions and complete interim activities, including diagnostic work, data sharing, and drafting sustainability plans;
- Authorize the sharing of relevant data (where permissible) to support assessment, benchmarking, and measurement of institutional health;
- Ensure timely access to senior decision-makers when policy or implementation approvals are needed; and
- Ensure support and approval, to the extent possible, for representatives to attend in-person convenings and participate in webinars.

Cohort Lead

The Cohort Lead will be the organization's primary point of contact, responsible for coordinating participation, data collection, and planning activities. Responsibilities include:

- Serve as liaison to CoP staff, mentors, and partner experts;
- Attend all CoP workshops and convenings over the project period (or, as necessary, identify a designee to ensure the organization is represented);
- Coordinate collection and review of financial, enrollment, and programmatic data to support financial risk assessments;
- Facilitate communication with appropriate organizational leadership and institutional stakeholders, including CFOs, campus CEOs, and academic leaders;
- Coordinate and submit updates on sustainability planning progress as requested;
- Elevate issues that require policy changes or leadership decisions to the executive sponsor;
- Participate in piloting and refinement of sustainability playbooks and agree to share learnings with the broader field;
- Ensure engagement of planning team and additional staff beyond the core planning team as necessary; and

- Cascade relevant communications, materials, and updates to the planning team and additional organizational contributors to support the successful execution of the project.

Planning Team

Each participating organization must assemble a cross-functional planning team of at least three (3) representatives to support diagnostic reviews and plan development. This team will comprise leaders of functional units that must work together effectively to drive the change management needed to address financial challenges faced by at-risk institutions and improve the ecosystem's overall financial sustainability. While roles and titles will differ, the team may include people responsible for finance and administration, academic affairs, enrollment management, institutional research, and governance/oversight. Responsibilities include:

- Engage in interim workshops, data activities, and mentoring sessions;
- Complete diagnostic assessments and contribute to the development of sustainability plans for identified institution(s);
- Support implementation of sustainability plans;
- Provide ongoing oversight of implementation work, including strengthening accountability mechanisms where necessary;
- Participate in peer feedback reviews of other cohorts' planning approaches;
- Contribute to field-facing playbooks by sharing case studies, tools, or emerging practices where feasible; and
- Engage with organizational leadership to assess policy needs, incentives, or oversight structures that may support implementation at scale.

While the planning team serves as the core project group and primary audience for in-person and virtual engagements, the project anticipates broader engagement across the participating organization. You may call upon additional staff to provide analyses, institutional context, feedback, or implementation support as needed.

Payment Provisions

NASH is serving as the operational backbone of the project and will facilitate CoP communications, events, and payments. Participating organizations will receive a stipend of \$15,000, issued in two payments of \$7,500 (expected upon execution of this agreement and in February 2027), contingent upon ongoing participation in and responsiveness to the CoP's expectations. In the unlikely event that an organization withdraws from the CoP or otherwise fails to uphold the commitments herein, NASH reserves the right to withhold or reclaim any unspent funds from this stipend.

The stipend is an intentionally flexible award to enable organizations to support their engagement in the CoP. Each organization may determine how to use the funds based on its local context and needs (e.g., staff stipends, travel support, etc.). Funds may be

expended in alignment with the organization’s priorities, and the funding is not subject to any time limitations that may be referred to in other sections of this agreement. While NASH may survey participants on their use of the stipends to support programmatic evaluation and continuous improvement, there is no required reporting for audit or accounting purposes.

Payments will be made using information provided by the organization agency. Please complete the following to ensure timely payment:

Check Payable To: _____

Payment Physical Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

To ensure the fastest stipend processing, upon executing this agreement, please send a copy of your organization’s W-9 to accounts@nash.edu.

Agreement

By signing below, you certify that you:

- Understand the CoP benefits and expectations, including the executive sponsor role and the cohort lead responsibilities;
- Are aware that your team is required to develop and submit a feasible financial sustainability plan as part of this engagement;
- Agree to undertake the responsibilities herein to the best of your ability; and
- Have the support and understanding of relevant colleagues to engage fully in this work for the duration of the CoP.

Organization Name: _____

Executive Sponsor

Cohort Lead

Name

Name

Title

Title

Signature

Signature

Date

Date