



Keys to a **SUCCESSFUL** Business Start-Up Business Resource Guide



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selectLINCOLN.org



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Lincoln, NE 68508

Business Resource Guide

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WELCOME TO A KEY FOR A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS STARTUP

The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development welcomes you to this Key for A Successful Business.

This Startup Guide serves as a resource for businesses and entrepreneurs. Whether you are examining Lincoln, Nebraska as a possible location for your existing business or you are thinking about starting a new business, this guide will help. Within is a listing and discussion of many of the assistance organizations, financing programs and other local resources to help business owners and entrepreneurs. We are confident this guide will be a valuable resource to you.

Lincoln has much to offer as a host city for a business. Lincoln is home to the State Capitol and flagship campus of the University of Nebraska. This region is known throughout the United States for its highly educated and productive workforce and a quality of life that is almost unparalleled. There is strong presence of a number of industries including electronics manufacturing, financing, insurance, health care and software. With world class research facilities along and a broad manufacturing base, Lincoln is a city with the right environment for a business to grow. Thank you for your interest in this guide and our city.

Website: www.selectlincoln.org.

Phone: (402) 436-2350

Email: info@lcoc.com

Address:

Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development

1128 Lincoln Mall, Suite 100

Lincoln, NE 68508

THE LINCOLN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LPED)

The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development is a non-profit, public-private institution and the lead organization for economic development in Lincoln. Started in 1996, LPED was established to consolidate the economic development efforts of the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. Our mission is to nurture an environment for existing businesses, attract high-impact industries, and develop its entrepreneurial capacity.

The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development plays an important role in branding and marketing Lincoln to prospective businesses as well as developing and providing important services to local business and industry.

The five core programs of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development are as follows:

1- Business Retention and Expansion: The Business Retention and Expansion Program helps to create the backbone of Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development's efforts. Lincoln is fortunate to have a diverse base of existing companies of all sizes. The Partnership works to assist these businesses to help them grow and prosper in Lincoln. Efforts include: business surveys, access to city and state incentives, site selection assistance, interactions with corporate offices to keep and increase employment in Lincoln. Although many of these projects go unnoticed, more than 20,000 new jobs have been added in the Lincoln area since 2007.

2- Business Attraction: The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development has developed a strong business recruitment program. The Partnership has gained a reputation for providing high quality, accurate information in a timely manner to prospective clients. By participating in numerous industry events and trade shows throughout the nation, site selection consulting firms recognize the Lincoln community as a viable option for company location that is capable of providing qualified employees and resources for their clients.

3- Innovation and Entrepreneurship: An important component of the future economic growth of Lincoln lies within fostering an environment where entrepreneurs have access to facilities, support, resources and money to start new, high-growth businesses. The Partnership recognizes this and has begun efforts to make assistance services more accessible. Efforts include supporting the NMotion accelerator, JumpStart Challenge, Startup Week, FUSE Coworking, the Career Academy, UNL New Venture Competition, Hour of Code, 1st Job Lincoln and other programs/events supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem here in Lincoln.

-- The Partnership also has supported the State's Talent and Innovation Initiatives and works to encourage Lincoln businesses to take advantage of the many different programs. These programs were created to encourage and support the transfer of Nebraska-based technology and innovation to create high growth, high technological companies, small businesses and microenterprises as well as enhance the creation of wealth and quality jobs. The program provides funding to help businesses develop new technologies that lead to quality job opportunities across the state. These competitive grants will provide funding and technical assistance for research at Nebraska institutions, new product development and testing and help expand small business and entrepreneur outreach efforts within the Lincoln community. Furthermore, the Partnership has served as a resource for entrepreneurs by directing them to local assistance organizations, reviewing business plans and providing key demographic information required by lenders.

4- Competitiveness: The Partnership for Economic Development takes an active role in the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce's efforts related to public policy and economic development. The Partnership has been at the forefront in advocating for the use of Tax Increment Financing, infrastructure planning conducive to attracting new businesses, and working with partner organizations to develop a listing of "Greenfield Sites" available for development.

5- Talent: The Partnership is dedicated to addressing Lincoln companies' talent needs. Lincoln is filled with committed and innovative workers and the Partnership has staff devoted to the continual task of matching talent

with Lincoln's ever expanding industries. Additionally, the Partnership has encouraged strategic workforce development that enhances the ability of Lincoln area residents to gain quality employment. The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development seeks to increase employment opportunities in Lincoln and to develop a business climate where firms have the resources they need to grow. Through our partner organizations, community contacts and local government and business leaders, the Partnership can be a resource to your business as you start or locate in Lincoln.

BUSINESS RESOURCE LISTING: INTRODUCTION

A wide variety of programs are available to businesses in Lincoln, Nebraska. Because there are a broad range of government and private organizations, each with a different mix of services and conditions, it can be challenging for a business owner to identify which program or organization is best suited to provide assistance. This text can help.

Described in the following sections are the services, financing resources and programs available from the many state and local, public and private organizations in Lincoln. Each has been grouped into the categories shown below, along with contact information where possible.

- Business Planning
- Finance Assistance Organizations
- Business Accelerators/Incubators & University Programs

The sections provided here are designed to provide a general summary of the intent of the program, businesses that may be eligible and of the benefits that may be received. They are not intended to be a substitute for more detailed program descriptions. Programs are authorized through a variety of state statutes and are administered by a variety of state agencies (Department of Revenue, Department of Labor, Department of Economic Development and others) or by local communities. Eligibility and benefits of each program must be reviewed individually. It is not possible to generalize program eligibility and benefits between programs.

BUSINESS PLANNING

Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC)

Nebraska Business Development Center provides business consulting to business owners or startups, one-on-one or in small groups, in the areas of business planning, loan packaging, marketing, operations management, financial planning and general business practices. More information about this program is available in the next section of this guide.

Website: <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/lincoln/>

Phone: (402) 323-3626

Address:

Nebraska Business Development Center
Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center
285 S. 68th St. Pl., Suite 209
Lincoln, NE 68510

Lincoln Service Corps of Retired Executives (Lincoln SCORE)

Lincoln SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) is part of SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business,” a national nonprofit, volunteer association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of the nation’s small businesses. Lincoln SCORE provides free and confidential business advice and counseling tailored to meet the needs of your small business and your personal objectives. SCORE also offers workshops, for a modest fee. These workshops are for both startup and in-business entrepreneurs. SCORE volunteers are real-world professionals with time-tested knowledge who donate thousands of hours to help small businesses succeed. Counselors are experts in such areas as accounting, finance, marketing, management and business plan preparation.

Website: <https://lincoln.score.org/>

Phone: (402) 437-2409

Email: infolincoln@scorevolunteer.org

Address:

Lincoln SCORE
285 S. 68th St. Pl., Suite 208
Lincoln, NE 68510

Minority, Women and Veteran Business Resources

Lincoln Commission on Human Rights- Directory of Women and Minority Owned Businesses

Website: http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/attorn/human/pdf/directory_women_minority.pdf

Minority-Owned Resources – SBA’s 8(a) Business Development Program

Website: <http://www.sba.gov/content/minority-owned-businesses>

Resources for Women-Owned Businesses

Website: <http://www.sba.gov/content/women-owned-businesses>

Resources for Veteran-Owned Businesses

Website: <https://www.sba.gov/starting-business/how-start-business/business-types/veteran-owned-businesses>

Nebraska One-Stop Business Registration Information System

Nebraska One-Stop Business Registration Information System has been created to help individuals navigate through the process of setting up a new business. The system helps to create a business entirely by asking questions about the business, identifying forms that need to be filled by state agencies and providing links in the process.

Website: <https://www.nebraska.gov/osbr/index.cgi>

Online Business Toolkit

The State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development provides an online business toolkit containing links to a number of programs and information resources related to starting or expanding a business in Nebraska.

Website: <http://www.neded.org/business/start-a-business>

Southeast Community College (SCC) Entrepreneurship Center

Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center serves as a resource center for anyone interested in entrepreneurship. The center offers one-on-one coaching to anyone interested in starting their own business or looking for direction on their path to business independence. The center is home to the Business Incubation Center; both resident and virtual. The Entrepreneurship Center at SCC offers the business administration certification and associate degree programs with an entrepreneurship focus. SCC also hosts classes for credit and non-credit classes in entrepreneurship in conjunction with the Continuing Education Center. For more information call or visit the website.

Website: <https://www.southeast.edu/entrepreneurship/>

Phone: (402) 323-3383

Address:

Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center
285 S 68th St. Place
Lincoln, NE 68510

STARTUP COMMUNITY

NMotion

NMotion is a mentor-driven, education-focused, startup accelerator based in Lincoln, NE, focusing on high-growth software and technology-based businesses in targeted industries of financial services, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation/logistics, communications and agriculture.

NMotion provides an intense 12-week program designed to get startups moving forward— faster and more effectively. They offer seed funding, hands-on education and access to a group of highly engaged mentors. They combine this with a cohort of fellow startups to create a collaborative community that's focused and accountable. Startups are also given a shared pool of talented associates to complement skill sets and access to free or reduced services from a variety of partners and sponsors.

Prelaunch

Prelaunch is a program also provided by NMotion. It is designed to help individuals build a stronger company by first setting a solid foundation. This program teaches individuals to validate their business like a pro. They'll learn how to do effective customer discovery, implement experimentation and testing using lean startup methodology. Complete a business model canvas and more.

Website: <http://nmotion.co>

FUSE Coworking

FUSE is a coworking space where Lincoln's knowledge-workers, creatives and technologists can come and work in an exciting, stimulating professional environment that promotes collaboration, community and creativity. Memberships are either daily or month-to-month, there's no setup fee, and you can cancel at any time. FUSE Coworking is more than desks, meeting rooms and Wi-Fi. FUSE is a community full of collaboration. It's a place where small companies can come and grow. All of the FUSE coworking spaces are located in the Haymarket. FUSE also arranges for speakers to share their skills, knowledge and expertise with the community.

Website: <http://www.fusecoworking.com/>

Pipeline

Pipeline is an elite organization of the Midwest's most successful, high-performance entrepreneurs. Since Pipeline's founding in 2006, members have been working as one to face business challenges, funnel opportunities to their peers and build market-leading technology and life-sciences business together. Each year approximately 10-12 new members are invited to join Pipeline. After an extensive selection process, new members participate in a unique and rigorous year-long business leadership development program that blends workshop modules, advice from national experts and a deepening of the relationships among new and current Pipeline members. This introductory year-long program leverages a national network of business advisers at the forefront of their respective specialties who engage deeply with Pipeline members, effectively extending members' business networks nationwide. As keystones of the regional business environment, Pipeline members are creating jobs, investing in their businesses and communities, and mentoring the next-generation of business leaders.

Website: <http://www.pipelineentrepreneurs.com/>

Turbine Flats

The Turbine Flats project's mission is to create a robust, self-sustaining, collaborative environment for small, startup businesses to bring their products and ideas to market. The Idea Community will provide a first home for little or no cost to entrepreneurs and help them focus on their business rather than be consumed with basic real estate issues that could otherwise detract from the crucial idea development stage. At 2124 Y St., Turbine Flats is an old manufacturing building that has been converted to 27,000 sq. ft. of collaborative office space. Additionally, Turbine Flats will provide basic business services such as high speed internet access, office infrastructure, a collaborative environment with other entrepreneurs, and in-house access to professional legal, financial and marketing service. The environment is also full of excitement, growth, and other helpful resources.

Website: www.turbineflats.org

Phone: (402) 435-3850

Email: mwegener@turbineflats.org

Address:

Turbine Flats

2124 Y St.

Lincoln, NE 68503

eXtension

eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering highly researched knowledge from the best land-grant university minds across America. eXtension connects knowledgeable consumers with knowledgeable providers - experts who know their subject matter inside and out. eXtension is unlike any other search engine or information-based website. It's a space where university content providers can gather and produce new educational and informational resources on wide-ranging topics. eXtension is available to students, researchers, clinicians, professors, as well as the general public. This learning environment can be accessed at any time from any internet connection; therefore eXtension helps solve real-life problems in real time.

Website: <http://www.extension.org/entrepreneurship>

FINANCE ASSISTANCE SERVICES

GRANTS AND LOANS

Community Development Resources

Community Development Resources is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to provide capital, technical assistance and training opportunities for small business in the State of Nebraska. Community Development Resources lends to startup and existing businesses that have a viable business plan to create or maintain businesses. CDR is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) certified under the U.S. Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institution Fund. It is dedicated to providing financial products and services to people and communities underserved by traditional financial markets. CDR seeks to bridge the growing gap that exists between the loans and services available to the economic mainstream and those offered to low-income persons and communities, as well as the non-profit institutions and businesses that serve them.

Community Development Resources serve a critical role in addressing issues of poverty and access to credit in economically disadvantaged communities by providing development service/technical assistance along with the loans and investments they make for community and economic projects. A CDFI may include a community development loan fund, credit union, bank, microenterprise fund, corporation-based lender or venture fund.

CDR's Small Business Loan Programs is designed to assist under-capitalized, startup and existing small businesses. These businesses, for many reasons, often cannot qualify for traditional bank financing and support. CDR can provide loans in amounts as low as \$1,000 and up to \$100,000.

- SBA Micro-Loans. \$1,000 to \$50,000, amortized with a term from 1 to 6 years, with interest rates from 7.75% to 8.5%, and secured with appropriate collateral. This loan serves startup and micro-businesses funded by SBA Micro-Loan Funds.
- Small Business/Community Development Loans. \$1,000 to \$100,000 amortized with a term from 1 to 5 years, with interest rates from 6% to 9%, and secured with appropriate collateral.
- SBA 504 Loans. Financing for fixed assets with a fixed rate – term loan with a 0% interest rate. Must be a 501(c) (3) in Lincoln/Lancaster County and also a non-religious organization.
- Alice Integrity Loan Fund. \$1,000 to \$5,000, amortized with a term up to 36 months. Provide limited capital to individuals who are committed to being self-sustaining entrepreneurs. Must be a resident of Lancaster County Nebraska.
- One-to-One Technical Assistance- Review business plans, finance, accounting, legal, technology and marketing which are beneficial to startups and existing businesses.
- Appointments may be scheduled to address specific business questions.

Website: www.cdr-nebraska.org

Phone: (402) 436-2387

Email: admin@cdr-nebraska.org

Address:

Community Development Resources
285 S. 68th St. Pl., Suite 420
Lincoln, NE 68510

The Nebraska Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO)

The Nebraska Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) is an IRS designated 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation promoting economic development and job creation throughout Nebraska. NEDCO was established in 1987 and is licensed as a Certified Development Company (CDC) by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to offer the SBA 504 Loan Program. Loans are long-term and provide a low, fixed interest rate. The SBA 504 Loan Program can finance the machinery you need to buy.

- Often only 10% down payment required (15% - 20% for startup business)
- Conserves cash for working capital
- Long term, with low fixed interest rate

To be eligible for a NEDCO loan, a company must meet the following criteria:

- Organized as a for-profit business
- Located in or planning to locate in any area of Nebraska
- Small business - either: net worth under \$8.5 million and net profits after taxes under \$3.0 million or meet SBA's other size standards
- Loan proceeds to be used for capital investment (land, building, leasehold improvements, renovation, construction, machinery and associated soft costs)
- Another bank/lender must be willing to participate in the financing. The SBA 504 loan finances up to 40% of the total project cost and the other bank/lender finances 50%. The business or its owner typically puts in 10%. Economic development goals must be achieved through the project being financed
- Owner-user of the project being financed (51% occupancy if existing building; 60% occupancy if new construction).

Website: www.nedcolans.org

Phone: (402) 483-4651

Address:

Nebraska Economic Development Corporation
4445 S. 86th St., Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68526

Invest Nebraska

Invest Nebraska is a non-profit, 501(c) (3), venture development organization that advises and invests in companies and early stage business ideas in Nebraska. The Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development supports and encourages angel investment and entrepreneurship in all areas of Nebraska, and provides networking opportunities for investors, entrepreneurs and service providers from all corners of the state.

Website: <http://investnebraska.com/>

Phone: (402) 483-4651

Address:

Invest Nebraska
4701 Innovation Dr., Suite 307
Lincoln, NE 68521

Nebraska Enterprise Fund

The Nebraska Enterprise Fund (NEF) is a Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that provides loan capital to businesses and programs across Nebraska. In addition to offering direct loans to businesses from \$5,000 to \$150,000, NEF collaborates with other lending programs or financial institutions when gap financing is needed. NEF offers a unique gap financing product called a CD (certificate of deposit) guarantee to assist banks and credit unions in lending to small businesses based on the credit and security needs of the total loan package.

Website: <http://nebbiz.org/>

Phone: (402) 683-5500

Address:

Nebraska Enterprise Fund
330 N. Oakland Ave.
Oakland, NE 68045

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

The objectives of these federal programs are to assist small businesses with the resources needed to stimulate technological innovation, meet federal government research and development needs. These federal programs also encourage participation of minority and disadvantaged persons and an increase in private sector commercialization of federal research and development projects. Grants are provided through 11 federal agencies having the largest research and development budgets and are awarded to projects meeting the missions of these agencies. Funding agencies include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Transportation, Health and Human Services, NASA, the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

SBIR and STTR funding is provided in two phases. In Phase I, companies may use funds to evaluate and demonstrate the technical feasibility of a project. Phase I research efforts are typically six months in duration and awards do not normally exceed \$100,000. Phase II funding is used to continue development of the technology and included the principal R and D effort. Phase II grants are typically 24 months in duration and up to \$1,000,000 per award.

To be eligible for a SBIR and STTR grant, a company must meet all of the following criteria:

- No more than 500 employees
- A for-profit organization
- Located in the United States
- At least 50% owned and controlled by U. S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent

The differences between SBIR and STTR:

- STTR is a partnership between small business and a research institution
- For SBIR, the principal researcher must be employed by the small business more than half-time
- For STTR, a formal agreement between the small business and research institution is required, minimum 40% small business, minimum 30% research institution

Website: <http://nbdc.unomaha.edu/technology-commercialization/sbir.cfm>

Department of Economic Development (DED) Talent and Innovation Initiative Business Innovation Act

The purpose of the Business Innovation Act is to provide competitive funding for research, development and innovation that helps expand small business and entrepreneurial outreach efforts that lead to more quality job opportunities within Nebraska.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Planning and Matching Funds Program

The Nebraska Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) planning and matching funds program was implemented in October 1, 2011 to encourage and support small businesses with a principal place of business in Nebraska to submit applications and provide match to the federal SBIR programs. SBIR Phase 0 maximum amount \$5,000. Phase I & II maximum amount is \$100,000 or 65% of federal grant.

Pre Seed (Prototyping)

The Nebraska Innovation Fund (NIF) Prototyping is a program to provide financial assistance to individuals and businesses operating in Nebraska to support proof of concept activities. Maximum grant of up to \$150,000 with a 50% match of requested grant amount of non-state sources (25% match for value-added agriculture projects).

Seed Stage (Commercialization)

The Invest Nebraska Corporation manages the \$3 million fund for the Nebraska Department for Economic Development (NDED) as investment in a small business with the purposes for bringing a product or process to the commercial market. Investments may be a stand-alone convertible note or part of minimum qualified round of equity financing. Maximum investment of \$500,000 and must be matched 1:1.

Academic Research and Development (R&D)

Academic R&D involves applied research, new product development, or new uses of intellectual property already generated by a private or public college or university in Nebraska. The Academic Research and Development being performed on behalf of the business must be directed toward: the commercialization of new products, the modification of existing products that lead to substantially improved marketability, or to the improvement of existing processes that will provide new sources of revenue to a Nebraska business. Phase I maximum grant of \$100,000, Phase II maximum grant of \$400,000 with a 1:1 match requirement.

Microenterprise Lending Program

The purpose of the Microenterprise Program is to encourage and support the transfer of Nebraska-based technology and innovation in rural and urban areas of Nebraska in order to create high-growth, high technology businesses and to enhance creation of wealth and quality jobs.

Invest Nebraska Angel Sidecar Fund

The Invest Nebraska Corporation manages the \$3 million fund for NDED for investment in order to match private angel investment in startup businesses developing, modifying or employing new technologies. The Sidecar fund was designed to accelerate private investment in Nebraska high-growth companies and increase the impact of third party investment. Maximum loan amount of \$500,000 with a 1:1 match requirement.

Website: http://neded.org/files/businessdevelopment/talentinnovation/angelinvestment/INVEST_NEBRASKA_ANGEL_SIDE CAR_PROGRESS_FUND.pdf

Angel Investment Tax Credit (AITC)

AITC encourages investment in high-tech startup companies in Nebraska by providing 35-40% refundable state income tax credits to qualified Nebraska investors investing in qualified early state companies.

Website: <http://neded.org/business/talent-a-innovation-initiative/angel-investment>

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Nebraska Angels, Inc.

The Nebraska Angels is an independent network of individual angel investors. Angel investors are wealthy individuals who invest in high risk, early stage ventures. Their goal is to achieve higher returns than the typical public markets provide. Most Angels are active investors who contribute their time and experience, as well as offer introductions to valuable contacts essential to the company's success. Angels typically invest between \$25,000 and \$100,000 per transaction individually and from \$250,000 to \$750,000 as a group. They invest in one to four transactions per year. An average term for holding an investment is eight years. For the risk and added value they provide, Angels seek returns of at least ten times their investment. The Nebraska Angels receives business plan submissions each month. The funding process involves a thorough screening process where up to three companies per month are selected to present to members for funding consideration. The Nebraska Angels evaluate a potential investment primarily based on the management team, market opportunity and growth potential.

Website: www.nebraskaangels.org

Phone: (402) 434-2121

Email: info@nebraskaangels.org

Nebraska Global

Nebraska Global is a venture capital fund that invests in viable, long-term software companies and seeks to build an influential technology environment in Nebraska. Nebraska Global wants to focus on building a sustainable tech environment by helping establish healthy, hearty software businesses within the state and not focus solely on a 30x return and pre-determined exit strategy. It is their mission to build profitable companies.

Website: <http://www.nebraskaglobal.com/>

Invest Nebraska Corporation

Invest Nebraska is a venture development organization that advises and invests in companies and early stage business ideas. Invest Nebraska supports and encourages investment and entrepreneurship in all areas of Nebraska, and provides networking opportunities for investors, entrepreneurs and service providers from all corners of the state. The mission of Invest Nebraska is to promote capital formation and provide operating assistance to high impact entrepreneurs and investors in Nebraska. This organization celebrates the rich entrepreneurial spirit in our rural and urban areas. Together with the state's many entrepreneurs, the organization strives to make Nebraska a center for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Website: <http://investnebraska.com/>

Phone: (402) 742-7860

Address:

Invest Nebraska

4701 Innovation Dr., Suite 307

Lincoln, NE 68521

BUSINESS ACCELERATORS/INCUBATORS AND UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

UNL Center for Entrepreneurship

Consistent with its role as a part of Nebraska's Land Grant University, the Center for Entrepreneurship strives to fulfill the University of Nebraska's responsibility to students who aspire to create jobs rather than take jobs.

The UNL Center for Entrepreneurship teaches theory and skills that have been associated with the highest probability of entrepreneurial success. The undergraduate entrepreneurship curriculum consists of eight courses. The UNL Center for Entrepreneurship also offers courses at the graduate level and an undergraduate track focuses on entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Center for Entrepreneurship sponsors conferences, competitions and community outreach programs to create growth and competition in local businesses. Each year the Center for Entrepreneurship sponsors Startup Studio, 3-2-1 Quick Pitch competition, and the UNL Venture Plan competition where students and entrepreneurs present business plans to compete for venture funding.

Website: <http://cba.unl.edu/outreach/center-for-entrepreneurship/>

Phone: (402) 472-3353

Email: entrepreneurship@nebraska.edu

Engler Entrepreneurship Program (UNL)

The Engler Entrepreneurship program allows students and others build their own business and begin their entrepreneurial journey at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. This program offers scholarships, feedback from industry experts, and a way for like-minded individuals to connect. Although this program only lasts three days, the short experience is a great one.

Website: <http://engler.unl.edu/>

Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program

From understanding the basics of starting a food business to individualized step-by-step assistance to the marketplace, the Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program is the place to begin. Since 1989, this nationally recognized program has been helping entrepreneurs, from throughout the country; achieve their dream of starting a food business.

As a new or potential food entrepreneur, it is often difficult to find an accurate source for the information necessary to successfully launch a business in the food industry. Ensuring a food product survives and prospers in a highly competitive marketplace requires informed decisions, careful planning and precise execution.

The Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program is the source for assistance through all phases of establishing a food business - from developing a product formulation to introduction to the market; the Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program can help you.

This unique and comprehensive program begins with a one-day seminar, “[Recipe to Reality](#)”, offered on many dates and locations throughout the year. The seminar provides entrepreneurs with a basic understanding of the issues crucial to starting a food business. For information on upcoming seminar dates and locations, [click here](#).

Following the seminar, affordable, confidential services are available to those participants who decide to launch their own food business. In “[Product to Profit](#)” a team of experts will help you navigate every step of the way by providing comprehensive assistance tailored to your specific business venture. Assistance includes business development, product development, labeling and regulatory compliance, processing facility location, product pricing and promotional material development. All services can be provided long distance meaning you never need to come to our location to receive our comprehensive business assistance.

If you are already in business with a desire to grow, the Food Processing Center provides customized assistance in all areas of market analysis, product development, business growth and long term planning. Visit their website for detailed information (fpc.unl.edu). A team will meet with you to discuss your specific goals and how they can assist you in realizing your dreams.

Website: <http://fpc.unl.edu/feap>

Phone: (402) 472-2832

Email: fpc@unl.edu

Address:

The Food Processing Center
Food Innovation Center
1901 N. 21st St.
Lincoln, NE 68588-6206

Nebraska’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)/Institutional Development Award (IDeA)

The mission of Nebraska’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) is to build the state’s research capacity and competitiveness, invest in workforce development, foster public-private partnerships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the STEM fields), as well as biomedical research.

They harness talent at the state’s universities and colleges to compete for merit-based federal funding that supports research infrastructure and capacity building projects. They contribute to the state’s workforce development through educational and research opportunities for K-16 students, graduate students and junior faculty. They also spur economic development through partnerships with private industry.

EPSCoR, a National Science Foundation program, was created by Congress in 1979 to strengthen STEM research and education infrastructure in states that receive a disproportionately low amount of federal research dollars. IDeA is a similar program established by the National Institutes of Health in 1991 for biomedical fields.

Nebraska received its first EPSCoR grant in 1993. Since that time, Nebraska has received more than \$308 million from federal EPSCoR/IDeA programs.

Website: <https://epscor.nebraska.edu/>

Phone: (402) 472-8946

Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center

Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center serves as a resource center for anyone interested in Entrepreneurship. The center offers one-on-one coaching to anyone interested in starting their own business or looking for direction on their path to business independence.

The center is home to the Business Incubation Center; both resident and virtual. The Entrepreneurship Center at SCC offers the business administration certification and associate degree programs with an entrepreneurship focus and also hosts credit and non-credit classes on Entrepreneurship in conjunction with the Continuing Education Center.

Website: <https://www.southeast.edu/Entrepreneurship>

Phone: (402) 323-3383

Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC)

NIC is a research campus designed to facilitate new and in-depth partnerships between the University of Nebraska and private sector businesses.

Here are some of the things you can expect:

- NIC is connecting the talents of experts, companies and the university to create a unique culture of innovation
- Office space, wet/dry lab space, pilot plant space and greenhouse space available for lease
- Exceptionally designed buildings of quality construction that promote positive energy, foster interaction and stimulate ideas, collaboration, sustainability and innovation
- Amenities that give those working on campus everything they need to succeed

Website: <http://innovate.unl.edu/>

Phone: (402) 472-5535

Email: innovate@unl.edu

Address:

Nebraska Innovation Campus

2021 Transformation Dr.

Lincoln, NE 68508