



Nebraska ARPA Funding Request Priorities

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS

Air Quality and Energy Efficiency

\$23,750,000

Numerous energy efficiency upgrades have been prioritized across the three State Colleges that create opportunities for long-term savings through renewable energy investments that align with the current College infrastructures. Additionally, the pandemic has emphasized the need for efficient and safe HVAC systems across all facilities to meet the air handling and infiltration needs for the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 virus. In reviewing the federal guidelines for the use of ARPA funds, the projects outlined below align with the following subsections and are allowable expenditures for ARPA funding:

- 2.1. COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities.**
- 4.2. Investment in infrastructure other than water, sewer, and broadband projects.**
- 6.1. Types of water and sewer projects eligible for funding.**

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Central Heating Plant (\$2,800,000)

- ◆ CSC proposes upgrading its natural gas boiler, manufactured in 1960 and has exceeded its lifespan, with a larger capacity natural gas boiler. This larger capacity boiler will allow the College to adapt to changing energy costs by increasing natural gas use as a cost-effective option when gas prices are low.
- ◆ CSC's existing wood chip boiler in the Heating Plant is more than two decades old and has cost more than \$100,000 in repairs within the last few years. Chadron State College proposes upgrading its 6,000-pound boiler with a larger capacity wood-fired boiler. This upgraded boiler will also have the ability to convert to natural gas, if needed in the future.

Nelson Physical Activity Center HVAC System Upgrade (\$4,000,000)

- ◆ The Nelson Physical Activities Center has outdated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems approaching the end of their usable life and limited control ability. This building is heavily utilized year-round by student-athletes, community members, students, faculty, and staff, as this is the only fitness facility currently available in Chadron. These systems are not energy efficient, are costly to maintain, and have limited air exchanges. The indoor track arena, wrestling practice room, golf practice room, training room, and lower lobby have heat but no air conditioning. These areas have limited or no ability to bring in outside air, so updating these spaces to have air conditioning would increase air circulation and improve the ability to monitor air quality. The building automation system is limited to observation with no ability to control remotely and lacks variable control. The four existing units that control most of the spaces are located in the arena, housed in rooms above the arena floor, making them difficult to access and maintain. Changing these to modern rooftop units with full control

would increase the ability to monitor air quality, air exchanges, and occupant comfort. This would also make the units easier to access, less expensive to maintain, cause no disruption to events or classes, and help eliminate ambient noise. Individual units serve the office spaces. Some of these units are located above the ceiling in the building, are difficult to access and maintain and have no ability to bring in outside air. Modern units would better serve these spaces remotely for access, noise reduction, and air circulation. The classrooms and racquetball courts have limited ability to control air exchanges. A system that is fully automated and integrated will increase the air quality and efficiency in these spaces.

Expand Chiller Capacity in Central Plant (\$700,000)

- ◆ The Chadron State College central chiller housing in the Heating Plant is nearing its design capacity. The installation of a second chiller will expand the current chilling capacity for the College. The second chiller could be another steam absorption chiller or an air-cooled chiller depending on the College's needs, repair technician availability, and energy efficiencies.

PERU STATE COLLEGE

Geothermal/HVAC Upgrades to State Buildings (\$1,500,000)

- ◆ Peru State College and the Nebraska State College System have invested heavily in bringing geothermal heating and cooling to many campus buildings. Projects currently underway or planned for the near future will expand this effort to complete these projects successfully.

Geothermal/HVAC Upgrades to Student Complex (\$5,500,000)

- ◆ The College has eight (8) buildings still using old, outdated, and inefficient HVAC systems: Athletic Fieldhouse, Eliza Morgan (girls' residence hall), and six (6) co-ed residence halls (A.B. Clayburn Hall, L.B. Mathews Hall, P. Davidson Hall, N.M. Palmer Hall, W. N. Nicholas Hall, and W. R. Pate Hall). This project proposes providing ground-based geothermal heating/cooling to these remaining buildings to improve the campus's energy efficiency further and help Peru State College continue its mission of providing a low-cost, high-quality education that serves both the students and the employers of Nebraska.

Air Conditioning – Hoyt Science Center (\$30,000)

- ◆ Several rooms on campus store chemicals and other items requiring specific climate control, but the overall building systems cannot provide sufficient cooling and moisture reduction. Separate air-conditioning units are needed in the Hoyt Science Center to safely and properly store these items.

Anderson Hall MEP Infrastructure Replacement (\$2,420,000)

- ◆ This upgrade includes adding chilled water air conditioning to Anderson Hall by using fan coil units. All supply and drain lines would be replaced in the building, both in the restrooms and student rooms. Adding central air to this residence hall improves the circulation and ventilation of air in the building. Furthermore, addressing the failing plumbing infrastructure improves the students' group living experience.

Solar Field (\$2,000,000)

- ◆ A solar field on campus would allow Wayne State College to load, shed and use renewable energy to partially supplement the campus' electrical demand during high peak times of the year and relieve rising utility costs. This field would be comprised of a 1-megawatt solar array on campus in the north end of the tallgrass prairie area. This project would increase campus use of sustainable energy, supporting state and national efforts to move in this direction. Furthermore, the School of Business and Technology has added a curriculum in sustainable energy. The solar field would support this academic program.

Rec Center & Athletic Complex Air Handler Replacement (\$2,750,000)

- ◆ The Rec Center and IAC have four (4) outdated AHUs. Three (3) were installed in 1987, and one (1) was installed in the 60's. None of these AHUs support filters higher than a MERV 8 rating. This project replaces all four (4) units, adding CO2 and humidity controls. This project would improve ventilation and air quality. These facilities are highly used by students and community partners (i.e., local school districts and recreation programs).

Building Maintenance System Upgrades (\$1,600,000)

- ◆ The BMS sensors and controllers in the buildings are no longer serviceable by the provider. The devices are 30+ years old. Replacing these devices when they malfunction is expensive and requires additional parts to manage the repair between old and new systems. The project would upgrade campus infrastructure and help the campus monitor air quality, air exchange, and occupant comfort.

Carhart Science and Conn Library HVAC Upgrades (\$450,000)

- ◆ Carhart Science is a 5-story building with multiple educational spaces with different HVAC needs. This building is one of Wayne State's largest energy consumers because of the size of the building and the exhaust hoods in the labs. The strobic fans that serve the exhaust hoods run continuously regardless of the building's occupancy level. HVAC control upgrades and optimization will address inefficiencies in the building and reduce utility costs significantly. The two (2) air conditioning (Liebert) units in Conn Library which serve the penthouse network room, are past their useful life and are causing water/moisture damage below the penthouse due to broken seals and bad piping joints within the units.

The pandemic reinforced the need for colleges/universities to have a robust broadband infrastructure on campus to support the hybrid teaching and learning process that became necessary as students transitioned to remote delivery or returned and experienced high-flex delivery due to quarantine. This also resulted in the need for modified classroom environments that could facilitate a combination of in-person and remote instruction as students transitioned between these two (2) modalities. Adequate keycard access capacity at the classroom vs. building level became a valuable tool for: 1) allowing only appropriate students and staff access to buildings; 2) monitoring attendance in classes to assess student well-being; and 3) increasing general safety and security for all students. Additionally, the increased volatility of cybersecurity attacks at higher education institutions has demonstrated the vulnerability of essential student data and increased student costs to provide necessary cybersecurity insurance to respond to attacks effectively. In reviewing the federal guidelines for the use of ARPA funds, the projects outlined below align with the following subsections and are considered allowable expenditures for ARPA funding:

- 6.6. Broadband investments for cybersecurity or digital literacy.**
- 6.16. Build or upgrade broadband connections to schools or libraries.**

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Electronic Door Access (\$1,000,000)

- ◆ This project provides for the selection and installation of a modern electronic door access system across campus for exterior and interior doors. The current system is limited to exterior doors on residence halls and a small number of other buildings and interior doors of the IT offices. Extending this service improves the convenience and security of students and employees since they will use their ID cards as a key, enhances security monitoring via access logs, enhances the security of technology spaces, and minimizes the overhead of issuing and retrieving keys and re-keying doors.

High Broadband Capacity & Wireless Infrastructure (\$900,000)

- ◆ The College would expand the Wide Area Network Capacity by investing in consulting and the planning and installation necessary to increase the circuit bandwidth to campus. Current circuit service is sufficient but is limited to redundant 1Gbps fiber connections and does not allow for expansion. SaaS contracts, dependency on Internet-based services, and expectations for high speed require an increase in the circuit bandwidth to assist with student success. A Wireless Refresh would also occur by replacing all wireless access points across campus, including upgrades to the wireless management system. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of the wireless network on campus. As students, faculty, and staff were required to become more mobile, wireless became the ubiquitous method of connecting to the campus community. Having access points to provide this service is expected by students and employees. Finally, installing Fiber Optic Rings would replace the aging fiber optic cable infrastructure. Much of the campus fiber is more than thirty (30) years old and is installed in a hub and spoke design through steam tunnels, risking damage and lacking an appropriate level of redundancy. In addition to wired and wireless computer connectivity, services such as phones, fire alarm systems,

electronic door access, security cameras, and emergency building annunciators currently operate over the hub and spoke design. A ring configuration would prevent a building from being disconnected from the system in the event of a fiber cut or failure, ensuring reliable service for critical applications used by students and employees.

IT Student Learning Upgrades (\$400,000)

- ◆ The pandemic highlighted the importance of on-demand campus resources for students on campus and off-campus, regardless of location. Two (2) projects will be completed. The first creates cloud-provisioned computer labs with standard and specialized software to access anywhere and anytime for student-owned devices. This initiative removes an access barrier for remote and online learners, which will improve the student experience. A portion of the ongoing cost of providing and maintaining premise labs can be redirected to cloud provisioned labs. The second project creates technology-equipped study and collaboration spaces in residence halls, the Student Center, and other locations patronized by students. Students benefit from areas that allow for the projection of academic content from their own devices to large monitors, whiteboards, and video conferencing tools to collaborate and practice skills necessary for academic and professional success. This initiative extends high-demand space in the King Library to other student communal areas for 24/7 use.

Network Operations Center & IT Security Infrastructure (\$810,000)

- ◆ This project establishes a vendor-provisioned 24/7/365 network monitoring and management service. Students and employees expect a reliable and responsive network environment with 24-hour monitoring and proactive services such as firmware/OS upgrades, configuration, alerts, etc., to ensure secure, stable, and fast access. This initiative would provide for the initial year of consulting, planning, and activation of the service. Additionally, Chadron State College would partner with the University of Nebraska to adopt Palo Alto's cybersecurity products and services. The University is leading a multi-institutional effort to achieve cost savings in the procurement process, and additional services and products are needed to provide the necessary protection. Palo Alto Services will add a level of protection for Chadron State College networks, computers, and cloud services.

PERU STATE COLLEGE

Keycard Access (\$500,000)

- ◆ The current keycard system is antiquated and unreliable, creating a safety risk for students living in the residence halls. The campus also needs additional security measures, including a more robust ID system, keyless entry on more doors around campus, additional cameras throughout the campus, a new server to support them, and other integrated systems.

Fiber/Broadband (\$300,000)

- ◆ Southeast Nebraska, like many rural areas, suffers from a lack of reliable, high-speed internet access. Only 82% of the population has internet access, and much of that access comes via satellite with prolonged speeds (35 Mbps download, 3 Mbps upload—and

some worse than that). Peru State College enjoys more rapid access (200/200), but its fiber infrastructure is outdated and aging. A new, faster fiber infrastructure and wireless connectivity are proposed for Peru State College and the town of Peru, Nebraska. After the devastating flood of 2019, Peru has been diligently working to rebuild, and attracting businesses to the downtown area is an essential part of that effort. The availability of reliable, high-speed internet access at a reasonable cost would make it much easier for the town to bring businesses back, which will positively impact jobs, families, and an increased interest in Peru real estate.

Campus Instructional Technology Upgrades (\$1,512,000)

- ◆ The fundamental IT infrastructure for the campus needs to be modernized and improved. APs and Ethernet cabling to Delzell and Morgan residence halls needs updating, and the campus needs to refresh wireless devices throughout the campus to accommodate current demand. This may require the installation of additional fiber-optic cabling and other infrastructure. In addition, Peru State College needs to replace all network wiring and add APs at the Centennial Complex to meet technology demand. Additionally, the IT in most classrooms is insufficient to support modern teaching techniques, making it difficult for instructors to embrace flipped-classroom approaches, interactive pedagogies, and other high-impact teaching practices. Upgrading classrooms and labs with newer technology, including infrastructure upgrades, would allow instructors to broaden their pedagogical approaches and offer more engaging and effective instruction.

Cybersecurity Infrastructure Improvements (\$600,000)

- ◆ Colleges throughout the United States are finding themselves increasingly under attack. Hacks, ransomware attacks, phishing efforts, and other efforts to cause problems or extort money are on the rise. Peru State College maintains modest efforts to protect itself from these efforts, but more could be done. These funds would allow the College to deploy more up-to-date hardware and software strategies to protect PSC and do more to prevent successful attacks. Additionally, Peru State College would partner with the University of Nebraska to adopt Palo Alto's cybersecurity products and services. The University is leading a multi-institutional effort to achieve cost savings in the procurement process, and additional services and products are needed to provide the necessary protection. Palo Alto Services will add a level of protection for Peru State College networks, computers, and cloud services.

Wireless Refresh (\$800,000)

- ◆ This project replaces all access points in the academic and administrative areas as well as half of the units in residence halls in 2021. The remaining access points in the residence halls will be replaced in 2024. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the importance of the wireless network in the campus environment. As students, faculty, and staff were required to become more mobile, wireless became the ubiquitous method of connecting to the campus community. Having access points to provide this service has become an expectation for Wayne State's community members.

Fiber Optic Rings (\$1,000,000)

- ◆ This project would establish two (2) new fiber rings in the Northwest and Southwest corners of campus. It would also replace the aging fiber ring in the Northeast corner of campus. These projects would match and compliment the ring recently built in the Southeast corner of campus. Wayne State College has an aging fiber-optic infrastructure. Much of the campus fiber is over thirty (30) years old and is arranged in a hub and spoke configuration. This configuration does not provide the appropriate level of redundancy. Services like phones, fire alarm systems, electronic door access, security cameras, and emergency building annunciators currently run off the hub and spoke system. A ring configuration would prevent a building from being disconnected from the system in the event of a fiber cut or failure. Serving the campus in any type of emergency is negatively impacted by the current antiquated system.

Remote Fire Alarm Network Upgrades (\$300,000)

- ◆ The current Fire Alarm infrastructure is antiquated. Fourteen (14) of the twenty-five (25) fire alarm panels on-campus are no longer manufactured, making it impossible to purchase replacement parts. This upgrade would involve installing new fire alarm panels in these buildings and transiting the entire system to WSC's internal network. The upgrade will also allow off-site monitoring of the campus building fire alarm systems, if staff is required to work remotely. Finally, this new system would enable the College to send emergency announcements remotely through the fire alarm system. This project applies technology to improve the fire alarm system allowing the campus to respond to emergencies more efficiently and effectively.

IT Security Investment (\$750,000)

- ◆ Wayne State College is partnering with the University of Nebraska to adopt Palo Alto's cybersecurity products and services. The University is leading a multi-institutional effort to achieve cost savings in the procurement process. Savings will be realized by purchasing products and services in a 3-year window paid for in 2021 and, assuming continued satisfaction with the services, a subsequent 5-year window beginning and paid for in 2024. As Wayne State College faces an ever-growing number of cybersecurity threats, additional services and products are needed to provide the necessary protection. Palo Alto Services will add a level of protection for Wayne State College networks, computers, and cloud services.

Critical Workforce Programs

\$3,560,000

The pandemic has further increased the need for healthcare workforce across the country, especially in Nebraska, requiring an increase in nursing and healthcare administrators to manage the current landscape while assisting in the national response to this ever-evolving crisis. Public safety personnel has also experienced considerable workforce shortages, which have been impacted by the added pressures of responding to the pandemic, along with a significant shortage of training opportunities and slots in Nebraska's existing law enforcement training centers. To successfully navigate out of the pandemic, investment in law enforcement and healthcare programs and personnel will be critical to the safety and welfare of the state. In reviewing the federal guidelines for the use of ARPA funds, the projects outlined below align with the following subsections and are considered allowable expenditures for ARPA funding:

- 2.8. Use of funds for economic development or workforce development.**
- 2.16. Use of funds to establish a public jobs program.**
- 4.8. Prevent and respond to crime, and support public safety in communities.**

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Panhandle Police Training Academy (\$2,000,000)

- ◆ The proposal to develop a law enforcement training academy in western Nebraska is driven by an identified need for timely training and cost-effective police officer training. The first issue is clear from the lengthy delays law enforcement agencies in western Nebraska communities are experiencing in getting personnel certified. Currently, it can take up to eighteen (18) months for an officer to be placed in a training cohort at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island, more than three hundred (300) miles away from Chadron. This means western Nebraska communities are putting officers into service without needed certifications, which is a liability for the community, the agency, the officers, and the public they serve. There is also the additional issue of travel and housing for these officers to attend the academy in Grand Island. Since the Academy sessions occur Monday morning through Friday late afternoon, many attendees have to leave early and then drive home during the evening. Coupled with associated expenses of housing personnel for the duration of the training, the current situation strains the officers and their families and the communities they serve. The creation of the Panhandle Police Training Academy aligns itself well with CSC's mission. It allows western Nebraska officers to train and learn in a familiar environment without the added stresses of waiting for admission to the academy and excessive travel. It could also ease the burden on community spending for travel and housing.

PERU STATE COLLEGE

Criminalistics Lab Renovation, Drone, and Healthcare Administration (\$310,000)

- ◆ The College has created a Criminalistics Lab in which students learn crime scene analysis techniques, fingerprinting processes and gain other lab experiences. This proposal creates two (2) offices in the existing lab, which will help alleviate future office needs. The funding further expands the lab's capabilities, a key component of the criminal justice program. Drones are used in law enforcement agencies for crime scene analysis, surveillance,

crowd monitoring, and searches. Current faculty expertise exists to leverage this technology when teaching criminal justice courses. This addition would strengthen the preparation of students for employment in critical workforce areas.

- ◆ Healthcare fields are proliferating and student interest in them is growing as well. A new emphasis in Healthcare Administration would be developed to provide additional opportunities for students to enter healthcare careers. Holders of this degree work in hospitals, doctors' offices, clinics, and a wide range of other facilities. The funds would be used to purchase necessary equipment and allow the College to do the marketing required to attract students to this new program. The College will provide faculty line(s), benefits, etc.

WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

Early Admission & Pathway Programs – Nursing (\$1,250,000)

- ◆ This four-year program is a partnership between UNMC and Wayne State. It provides scholarships for forty (40) nursing students to attend Wayne State College as participants in the UNMC College of Nursing Early Admission Program. Nursing students in this program attend Wayne State College for two (2) years. Upon successfully completing the academic requirements, they are automatically accepted into UNMC's College of Nursing at Norfolk to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The Early Admission Program includes dual advising delivered by WSC and UNMC personnel, peer mentoring, and rigorous academic preparation. Funds requested will support scholarships for students participating in this Early Admission Program during their first two (2) years at Wayne State before enrolling at UNMC, College of Nursing, Northern Division. This project serves to increase the pipeline of students pursuing a BSN in northeast Nebraska. The pandemic has further exacerbated the nursing shortage in northeast Nebraska. This scholarship effort would serve as a pilot program. If the program successfully increases the number of BSNs in northeast Nebraska, Wayne State College would pursue private funds and federal grants to support this initiative. The data from this pilot program are needed to garner external funds by demonstrating the impact this initiative has had on improving the number of healthcare providers in rural areas.
- ◆ This program is designed to recruit students interested in earning a bachelor's degree in nursing through a partnership between Wayne State and Creighton University. Students attend WSC for three years, and upon successful completion of academic requirements, are automatically accepted to Creighton's College of Nursing, Grand Island through affiliation with CHI Health St. Francis, to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Scholarships would be provided to 10 nursing students to attend Wayne State for three years before transferring to Creighton University. This initiative includes dual advising delivered by WSC and Creighton personnel, peer mentoring, and rigorous academic preparation. The goal of this program is to increase the number of BSN's in the Grand Island area. The nursing shortage in rural areas has been further exacerbated by the pandemic. This project serves as a pilot to address this issue. If the program is successful, Wayne State will seek federal grants and private donations to sustain this effort. The data from this pilot program are needed to demonstrate the program's impact to garner external funds.

STEM Program Equipment

\$2,478,000

The importance of investing in colleges'/universities' ability to provide high-quality STEM education will continue to be a significant priority as Nebraska recovers from the pandemic. These programs serve a vast majority of the critical workforce areas in the State. Investing in state-of-the-art equipment is essential to preparing students who wish to pursue advanced degrees in healthcare fields, providing STEM teacher education candidates with the experience necessary for educating the next generation of college students, and offering valuable undergraduate research experiences across all STEM-related areas. In reviewing the federal guidelines for the use of ARPA funds, the projects outlined below align with the following subsections and are considered allowable expenditures for ARPA funding:

2.8. Use of funds for economic development or workforce development.

2.16. Use of funds to establish a public jobs program.

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Anatomage Tables and STEM Equipment (\$500,000)

- ◆ Equipment associated with STEM teaching, inquiry, and discovery changes rapidly. The majority of Chadron State's STEM equipment is more than fifteen (15) years old and needs replacing. This project modernizes and replaces CSC's STEM equipment across academic disciplines. Students positively impacted by this project are enrolled in programs like the Rural Health Opportunity Program (RHOP), STEM education, and Public Health Early Admissions Student Track (PHEAST). In the current higher education environment, increasing the learning experiences for STEM disciplines will increase retention and graduation rates in academic areas that support high-demand professions in the State.

PERU STATE COLLEGE

Chemistry/Physics Lab Equipment (\$310,000)

- ◆ Peru State College seeks to expand learning opportunities for students in the area of Chemistry and Physics through the investment of equipment to support these important STEM-based educational programs. These equipment requests include 1) Scanning Electron Microscope; 2) Microscopes in Science Classrooms; 3) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer; 4) Physics Teaching Equipment; 5) Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer; 6) High-Performance Liquid Chromatography, and 7) a Langmuir-Blodgett Trough. The College has a strong history of providing undergraduate research opportunities with faculty, and these equipment and lab upgrades would assist in further expanding this capacity in critical STEM fields.

Anatomy Program Modernization (\$485,000)

- ◆ This program provides funds to modernize and expand WSC's anatomy education program. This request includes funds to support the remodeling and equipping of space in the Carhart Science Building, WSC's science teaching facility. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase equipment and the remodeling of lab space. This will significantly expand learning opportunities for all anatomy students (i.e., RHOP, nursing, pre-medicine, etc.) to conduct hands-on activities with cadavers and digital and physical 3D models. Providing these learning environments improves all students' fundamental understanding of the human body. The modernized spaces would support students in pre-professional and pre-clinical STEM programs. In the current climate, increasing the learning experiences for students involved in STEM disciplines will increase retention and graduation rates in academic areas that support high-demand professions.

STEM Equipment Replacement (\$1,183,000)

- ◆ Equipment associated with STEM teaching, inquiry, and discovery changes rapidly. The majority of Wayne State's equipment is well over ten (10) years old and should therefore be replaced. This project serves to modernize and replace STEM equipment across disciplines. New equipment is needed to develop the necessary skills to compete in H3-STEM informed occupations. Students positively impacted by this project are enrolled in programs such as the Rural Health Opportunity Program (RHOP), STEM education, and Public Health Early Admissions Student Track (PHEAST).

The federal government has targeted water and sewer upgrades as an essential infrastructure need to ensure public safety in recovering and coping with the pandemic's lasting effects. This is envisioned as large-scale water and sewer projects for colleges/universities and communities while also making significant renovations to public spaces that hinder social distancing. A second issue is a critical concern in many residence halls across college campuses where bathrooms designed in the 1960s and 1970s do not provide the necessary size, privacy, or ventilation to meet public health official guidance and support social distancing. In reviewing the federal guidelines for the use of ARPA funds, the projects outlined below align with the following subsections and would be considered as allowable expenditures for ARPA funding:

- 2.1. Eligible COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities.**
- 4.7. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds used for Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband.**
- 6.1. Types of water and sewer projects eligible for funding.**

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE**Kent Hall Bathroom Upgrades (\$1,500,000)**

- ◆ This project would reconfigure the community-style restrooms in Kent Hall for a more private design of showers and toilets. The current restroom facilities do not provide students the appropriate size, privacy, ventilation, social distancing, and cleanliness they expect. This project addresses all of these issues.

PERU STATE COLLEGE**Campus Main Line (\$2,000,000)**

- ◆ In the late fall of 2022, Peru will connect with the water system in the neighboring town of Auburn, bringing reliable, high-quality water to Peru for the first time in several years. Peru State College needs to replace many of its old and heavily clogged underground pipes and in-building piping to prepare for this. Peru's mineral-laden water has caked the pipes significantly, lining them with so much thick scale that in places, the water must pass through holes smaller in diameter than pencils. The College proposes replacing the most affected pipes with new pipes made of modern materials to handle the water coming in from Auburn much more effectively.

Wayne State College**Morey Hall First Floor & Basement Restroom Remodel (\$1,200,000)**

- ◆ The restrooms in Morey Hall do not provide students with a highly functioning and modern environment. This includes stained marble partitions, deteriorated fixtures, corroded terrazzo flooring, collapsed drain lines, and inadequate exhaust. The current restroom facilities also do not provide students with the appropriate ventilation, social

distancing, and cleanliness expected in the current environment. This project would address these issues.

Morey Hall Plumbing Upgrades (\$944,000)

- ◆ This upgrade would include replacing all supply and drain lines in the building both in the restrooms and student rooms. The failing infrastructure in Morey Hall negatively impacts the student's residence hall experience.

College of Osteopathic Medicine

Meeting the need for rural health care providers in Nebraska will be further strained due to the pandemic, and establishing a College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) in Nebraska provides an alternative strategy to address these healthcare needs. The mission of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) is to prepare students for the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine with an emphasis toward primary care and rural practice, which will develop culturally aware and compassionate physicians who are prepared for graduate medical education, and serve the people of Nebraska with patient-centered care. Osteopathic physicians are referred to as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), and are licensed to practice the full scope of medicine in all fifty (50) states. The NSCS requests the opportunity to explore the viability of a COM in Nebraska to meet the demand from students at Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State Colleges. In reviewing the federal guidelines for the use of ARPA funds, the projects outlined below align with the following subsections and would be considered as allowable expenditures for ARPA funding:

2.8. Use of funds for economic development or workforce development.

Program Overview

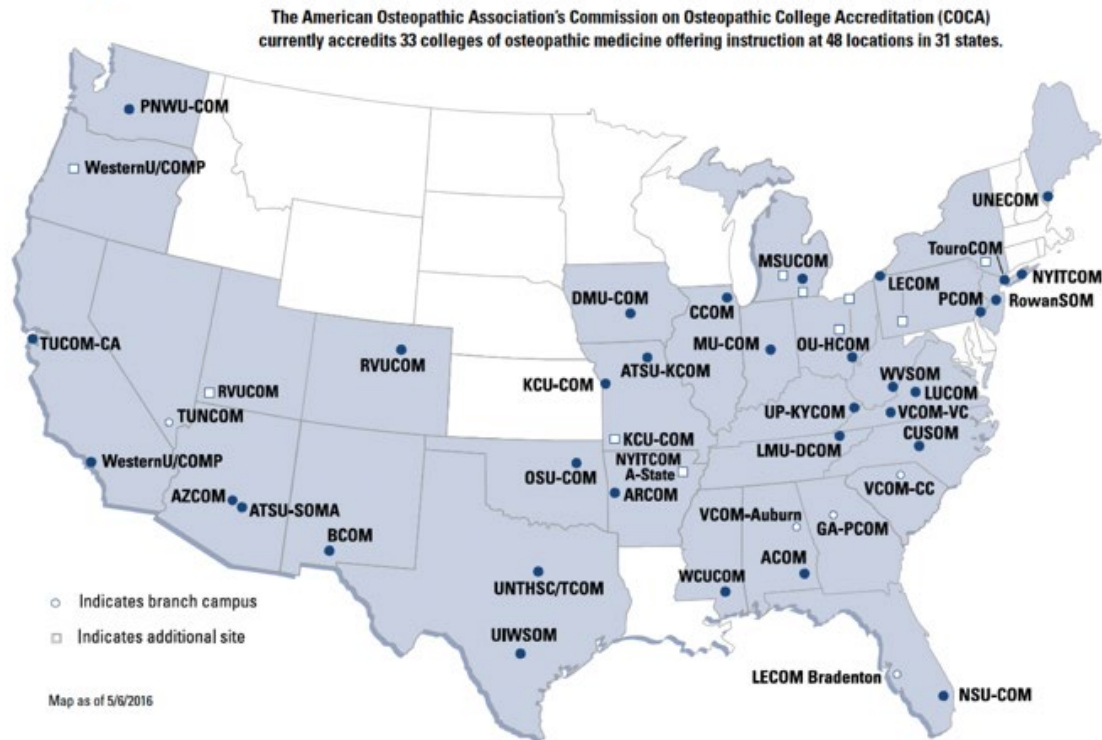
- ◆ Osteopathic medicine provides all of the benefits of modern medicine including prescription drugs, surgery, and technology to diagnose disease and evaluate injury. Today, the challenge of ensuring an adequate number of primary care physicians extends to osteopathic medicine, with more than one-third of osteopathic medical school graduates choosing careers in primary care. Osteopathic medicine also has a special focus on providing care in rural and urban underserved areas. Over the past three (3) years, more than a third of osteopathic medical school graduates indicated they plan to practice in a rural or underserved area. In fact, COM programs focused on rural communities result in 70% primary care doctors whereas MD programs result in 30-40%.
- ◆ Osteopathic medicine was founded in the late 1800s, and since then Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine have been opened throughout the United States. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) represents the 35 (6 public and 29 private) accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at fifty five (55) teaching locations in thirty two (32) states. Currently, these colleges are educating more than 30,000 future physicians—25% of all U.S. medical students. The map on the following page shows the location of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in the United States. It is clear from this map that there is a void in accredited schools in the Midwest.

Curriculum

- ◆ In addition to studying all of the typical subjects physicians are expected to master, osteopathic medical students, complete approximately 200 additional hours of training in the art of osteopathic manipulative medicine. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine are identified as “undifferentiated doctors” after completing the first four (4) years of the program, at which time they enter clinical rotations across the required specialties (internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, obstetrics, surgery, psychiatry) during the

last two (2) years. Sub-specialties can be included as well (cardiology, neurology, etc.) during the residency (ranging from 3-7 years depending upon the specialty).

Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine – Admissions Offices



***Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in the United States. The Kansas Health Science Center in Wichita, Kansas, plans to open in Fall 2022 and is not yet recruiting students.

Accreditation

- ◆ The development of a COM in Nebraska would require regional accreditation requirements through the Higher Learning Commission and obtain approval from the State of Nebraska. Programmatic accreditation must be achieved through the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). The timeline for full accreditation is approximately thirty six (36) months.

Alignment of Funding Priorities with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds FAQs

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

FAQ Section 2.1: "A broad range of services are needed to contain COVID-19 and are eligible uses ... support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools; ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations; enhancement of public health data systems; and other public health responses. Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs are also eligible, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics."

FAQ Section 2.8: "Recipients must demonstrate that funding uses directly address a negative economic impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including funds used for economic or workforce development. For example, job training for unemployed workers may be used to address negative economic impacts of the public health emergency and be eligible."

FAQ Section 2.16: "The Interim Final Rule permits a broad range of services to unemployed or underemployed workers and other individuals that suffered negative economic impacts from the pandemic. That can include public jobs programs, subsidized employment, combined education and on-the-job training programs, or job training to accelerate rehiring or address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training."

FAQ Section 4.2: "Under 602(c)(1)(C) or 603(c)(1)(C), recipients may use funds for maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building of new infrastructure as part of the general provision of government services, to the extent of the estimated reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency. Under 602(c)(1)(A) or 603(c)(1)(A), a general infrastructure project typically would not be considered a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts unless the project responds to a specific pandemic-related public health need (e.g., investments in facilities for the delivery of vaccines) or a specific negative economic impact of the pandemic (e.g., affordable housing in a Qualified Census Tract)."

FAQ Section 4.7: "Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband. See FAQ Section 6. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to cover costs incurred for eligible projects planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the project costs covered by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds were incurred after March 3, 2021."

FAQ Section 4.8: "Among the eligible uses of the Funds are restoring of public sector staff to their prepandemic levels and responses to the public health crisis and negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic. In all communities, recipients may use resources to rehire police officers and other public servants to restore law enforcement and courts to their pre-pandemic levels....Recognizing that the pandemic exacerbated mental health and substance use disorder needs in many communities, eligible public health services include mental health and other behavioral health services, which are a critical component of a holistic public safety approach. Recipients also may use Funds to respond to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency....Services could include programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on education, childhood health and welfare ... and programs or services that provide or facilitate access to health and social services and address health disparities exacerbated by the pandemic."

FAQ Section 6.1: "Under the DWSRF, categories of eligible projects include: treatment, transmission and distribution (including lead service line replacement), source rehabilitation and decontamination, storage, consolidation, and new systems development. Under the CWSRF, categories of eligible projects include: construction of publicly-owned treatment works, nonpoint source pollution management, national estuary program projects, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater systems, water conservation, efficiency, and reuse measures, watershed pilot projects, energy efficiency measures for publicly-owned treatment works, water reuse projects, security measures at publicly-owned treatment works, and technical assistance to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act."

FAQ Section 6.6: "Recipients may use funds to provide assistance to households facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19, including digital literacy training and other programs that promote access to the Internet. Recipients may also use funds for modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure, as part of provision of government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the public health emergency."

FAQ Section 6.16: "As outlined in the IFR, recipients may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure that, wherever it is practicable to do so, is designed to deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps to households or businesses that are not currently serviced by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed. Treasury interprets "businesses" in this context broadly to include non-residential users of broadband, including private businesses and institutions that serve the public, such as schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and public safety organizations."

Preliminary Draft of NSCS Priorities for ARPA Funding

	<i>Chadron State</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Peru State</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Wayne State</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Total</i>
Air Quality and Energy Efficiency	Central Heating Plant	\$2,800,000	Geothermal/HVAC Upgrades to State Buildings	\$1,500,000	Anderson Hall MEP Infrastructure Replacement	\$2,420,000	\$6,720,000
	Expand Chiller Capacity in Central Plant	\$700,000	Geothermal/HVAC Upgrades to Student Complex	\$5,500,000	Solar Field	\$2,000,000	\$8,200,000
	Nelson Physical Activity Center HVAC System Upgrade	\$4,000,000	Air Conditioning - Hoyt Science Center	\$30,000	Building Maintenance System Upgrades	\$1,600,000	\$5,630,000
					Carhart Science & Conn Library HVAC Upgrades	\$450,000	\$450,000
					Rec Center & Athletic Complex Air Handler Replacement	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000
		\$7,500,000		\$7,030,000		\$9,220,000	\$23,750,000
IT Infrastructure & Cybersecurity	Electronic Door Access	\$1,000,000	Keycard Access	\$500,000	Wireless Refresh	\$800,000	\$2,300,000
	High Broadband Capacity & Wireless Infrastructure	\$900,000	Fiber/Broadband	\$300,000	Fiber Optic Rings	\$1,000,000	\$2,200,000
	IT Student Learning Upgrades (Core Switch, Virtual Lab, Mediated Study)	\$400,000	Campus Instructional Technology Upgrades	\$1,512,000	Remote Fire Alarm Network Upgrades	\$300,000	\$2,212,000
	Network Operations Center & IT Security Infrastructure	\$810,000	Cybersecurity Infrastructure Improvements	\$600,000	IT Security Investment	\$750,000	\$2,160,000
		\$3,110,000		\$2,912,000		\$2,850,000	\$8,872,000
STEM Program Equipment	Anatomage Tables and STEM Equipment	\$500,000	Chemistry/Physics Lab Equipment	\$310,000	Anatomy Program Modernization	\$485,000	\$1,295,000
					STEM Equipment Replacement	\$1,183,000	\$1,183,000
		\$500,000		\$310,000		\$1,668,000	\$2,478,000
Critical Workforce Programs	Panhandle Police Training Academy	\$2,000,000	Criminalistics Lab Renovation, Drone, Healthcare Admin.	\$310,000	Early Admission & Pathway Programs - Nursing	\$1,250,000	\$3,560,000
		\$2,000,000		\$310,000		\$1,250,000	\$3,560,000
Water & Sewer Upgrades	Kent Hall Bathroom Upgrades	\$1,500,000	Campus Main Line	\$2,000,000	Morey Hall First Floor & Basement Restroom Remodel)	\$1,200,000	\$4,700,000
					Morey Hall Plumbing Upgrades	\$944,000	\$944,000
		\$1,500,000		\$2,000,000		\$2,144,000	\$5,644,000
	Total	\$14,610,000		\$12,562,000		\$17,132,000	\$44,304,000