

March 2026



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

Working to Support Nebraskans Impacted by Wildfires and Other Disasters

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is committed to supporting Nebraskans impacted by the recent wildfires. Working alongside Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Public Health, and partners at the state, regional, and local levels, we're making sure no one faces this disaster alone.



Access free behavioral health and disaster recovery resources through the [Nebraska Strong Recovery Project](#) website. These resources are here for survivors, caregivers, community leaders, and first responders, because helping Nebraskans recover and rebuild is what we do. Together, we are Nebraska Strong.

Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy Now Accepting Student Applicants Through April 15

Every summer, students from the University of Nebraska arrive in Washington, D.C. to start their summer internships. The D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy is a free, value-added program that connects students with prominent D.C. alumni and each other. All current University of Nebraska students interning in Washington, D.C. during the summer are eligible, including students from all four campuses and from any major or discipline. You can also register to receive academic credit for participating. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2026. [Apply To DCPEA](#).



Events

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Panel

with Allison Aschoff, Jessica Barnes, Mindy Blair, Isaac French, Teresa Coder, Todd Reckling, & Bob Shueey

Virtual via Zoom:

April 2, 2026

9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. (Central)

8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. (Mountain)

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC (CCBHC) PANEL

For behavioral health professionals, peer support specialists, administrators, and community partners

Apr. 2, 9 a.m. to noon
Virtually via Zoom

Join us for an interactive panel discussion with representatives from each Nebraska CCBHC, who will discuss the CCBHC model and its impacts, key challenges and emerging needs, and insights to strengthen community collaboration. This training has been approved for 2.5 continuing education (CE) credits for psychologists,* Nebraska LMHP/LIMHP, and Nebraska Certified Peer Support Specialists.

[**Register for the CCBHC Panel Session**](#)

Suicide Prevention in Telehealth

with Laurin Jozlin, LMSW

Virtual via Zoom

April 9, 2026

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. (Central)

12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. (Mountain)



This 90-minute webinar explores how suicide prevention practices can be adapted for telehealth, including remote risk evaluation, ethical considerations, suicide screening, and safety planning, while supporting

consistent, system-wide approaches to suicide prevention. This training has been approved for 1.5 continuing education hours for psychologists and Nebraska LMHP/LIMHP.

[Register for Suicide Prevention Webinar](#)

Workforce Resilience Series for Public Health and Their Partner Organizations

Virtually Via Zoom

Time (all): 12–12:30 p.m. (Central) / 11–11:30 a.m. (Mountain)

Dates:

- Workforce Temperature - Wednesday, May 20, 2026
- Workplace Culture - Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Join this free Lunch & Learn Series to learn more about how to support workplace resilience. Learn more about [Resilience for Organizations](#).

[Register for Upcoming Workforce Resilience Sessions](#)

Center News

Researchers Present Stories of Resilience from Rural Communities at the Great Plains Futures Conference

A panel of University of Nebraska researchers will present at the Great Plains Futures Conference on March 31. The panel features Kurt Mantonya (NUPPC), Will Stoutamire (History, UNK), and LuAnn Wandsnider (School of Global Integrated Studies, UNL). It explores the local ecological knowledge that Nebraska rural producer families and communities possess and asks whether this knowledge has fostered resiliency in the face of extreme swings in both climate and policy and how it can be retained and extended.

Center Researchers Look at Employer Perspectives On Inclusive Hiring Practices in Nebraska

Center researchers Dr. Kurt Mantonya, Ashley Miller, and Dr. Stacey Hoffman authored the presentation *Participatory Research For Policy Development: Assessing Employer Perspectives On Developmental Disability Employment*, presented by Dr. Mantonya and Ms. Miller at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference on March 19. NUPPC's recent work with the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCDD), covered in this presentation, assessed employer awareness and opinions about hiring individuals with developmental disabilities. Using mixed methods including surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews, the research employed a participatory advisory group to guide project design, data collection, and

implementation strategies. Results from this project are being used to inform development of a future awareness campaign by NCDD. [Read about the project on NCDD's website.](#)

Undergraduate Research Assistant Serves as Youth Keynote Speaker at National Resilience Conference

Congratulations to NUPPC undergraduate research assistant Reem Ahmed on being selected as the youth keynote speaker at the National Youth Advocacy and Resilience Conference (NYAR). [Read more about Reem's experience.](#)

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