

NACO E-Line



January 21, 2022



Final Rule for ARPA recovery funds announced

The U.S. Treasury Department **announced Jan. 6** that it had issued the final rule defining acceptable uses for American Rescue Plan recovery funds. **The final rule** adopts **the interim final rule** published on May 17, 2021, with amendments, and will take effect April 1, 2022, the department said.

According to the U.S Treasury Department press release, the final rule "provides state and local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity so governments can focus on responding to the crisis in their communities and maximizing the impact of their funds."

According to the Treasury, the final rule:

- Expands the list of uses "recipients can use to respond to COVID-19 and its economic impacts – ensuring states and localities can adapt quickly and nimbly to changing public health and economic needs."
- Streamlines "options to provide premium pay for essential workers."
- Broadens "eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects" including culvert repair dam and reservoir rehabilitation.
- Clarifies how counties can use Recovery Funds "for certain capital expenditures to respond to public health and economic impacts."
- Allows counties to use up to \$10 million in ARPA Recovery Funds for the provision of government services without having to go through a complicated "revenue loss" calculation.

The Treasury Department has also published an **overview of the final rule's major provisions.**

At 9:00 AM CST on February 3, 2022, NACO will host a webinar providing updates regarding the ARPA Final Rule. This webinar is free to attend and will be recorded to view after.

[Click Here to Register for the Webinar](#)

Every E-Line will feature a photograph submitted by one of our readers of their county.

[Click Here to Submit a Photo of Your County](#)



Fillmore County, submitted by Amy Nelson

SLFRF Reporting Reminder

On November 15, 2021, Treasury released the updated [Compliance and Reporting](#)

Guidance for the SLFRF program. Please see the information below to assist in determining if your county will be submitting a quarterly or annual report.

Quarterly Reporting is for:

- Counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents
- Counties with a population below 250,000 residents that are allocated more than \$10 million in SLFRF funding

For these recipients, the initial quarterly Project and Expenditure Report will cover three calendar quarters from March 3, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by **January 31, 2022**. The subsequent quarterly reports will cover one calendar quarter and must be submitted to Treasury within 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter. Quarterly reports are not due concurrently with applicable annual reports.

Annual Reporting is for:

- Counties with a population below 250,000 residents that are allocated less than \$10 million in SLFRF funding

For these recipients, the initial Project and Expenditure Report will cover from March 3, 2021 to March 31, 2022 and must be submitted to Treasury by **April 30, 2022**. The subsequent annual reports will cover one calendar year and must be submitted to Treasury by April 30, 2022.

NACO Visits Congressman Bacon's Office in Washington DC



NACO President Judy Mutzenberger and NACO Staff with US Congressman Don Bacon.

Survey: University of Nebraska Omaha

This research study seeks to understand how trust affects an organizational leader's attitudes about collaborating across the public, private and non-profit sectors. As COVID-19 demonstrated, the ability to work effectively across sectors can be highly effective in addressing complex societal challenges.

The survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete. If you are interested in discussing the topic further, please provide your name and email address at the end of the survey.

[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Testing

Beginning Jan. 15, 2022, there is a \$0 cost share for up to eight individual OTC COVID-19 tests per member per 30 days. This applies to all fully insured and self-funded groups that use BCBSNE's pharmacy benefits manager, Prime Therapeutics, as well as individual health plan members. This does not apply to Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement or Medicare Part D members.

[Click here to view the list of tests that are currently eligible for reimbursement, as well as the list of participating pharmacies.](#)

Tests purchased from a non-preferred pharmacy, online retailer or retail store can be submitted for reimbursement through the pharmacy paper claims process for OTC COVID-19 tests. These claims will be reimbursed at a maximum of \$12 per individual OTC COVID-19 test. For example, a box that includes two tests would be reimbursed at a maximum of \$24. Shipping and tax are not reimbursable.

To request reimbursement for an OTC COVID-19 test:

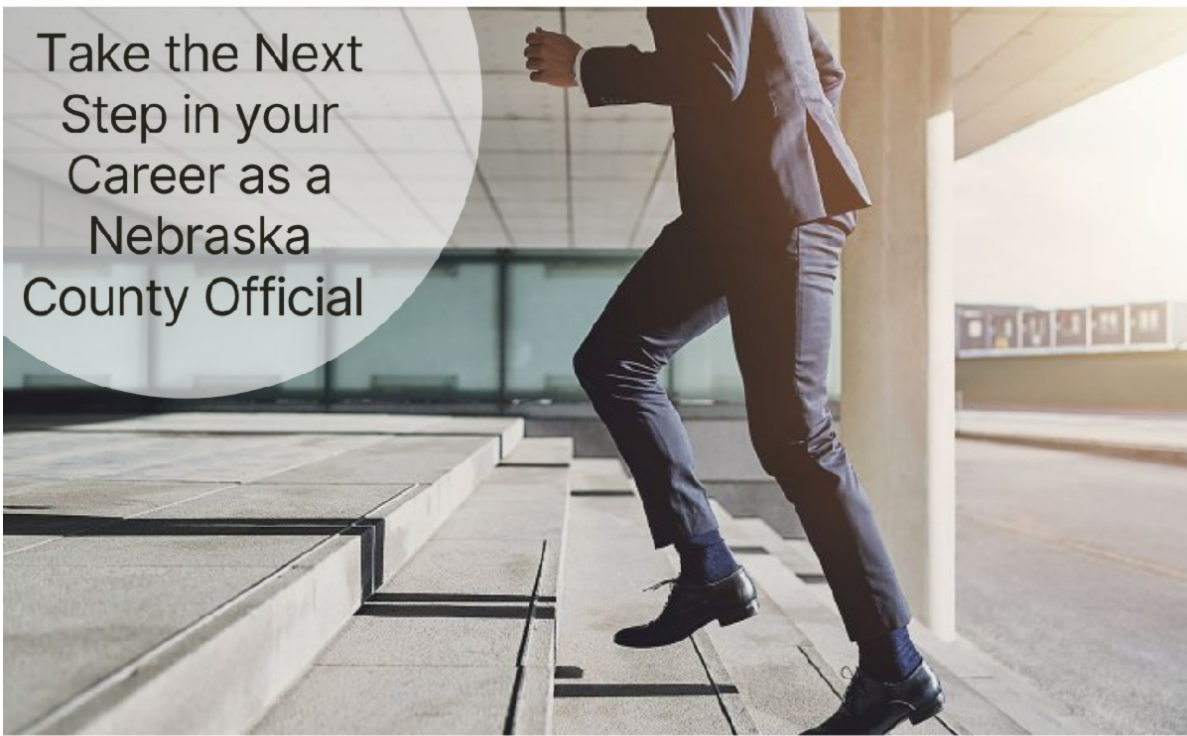
1. Purchase an eligible OTC COVID-19 test.
2. Complete the Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Test Claim Form.
3. Mail your completed claim form and receipt to:

Prime Therapeutics
Mail route Commercial
PO 25136
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-5136

Free tests are also available to order at [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)

Please note: COVID-19 testing for public surveillance or employment purposes is not covered. This includes testing for work, school, travel and other public surveillance reasons, unless reimbursement becomes required by law

Take the Next
Step in your
Career as a
Nebraska
County Official



Institute of Excellence

Designed by Nebraska Extension, The NACO Institute of Excellence is a program of professional development for county officials. Participants will network with peers across the state as they grow leadership capacities in the roles they serve.

Topics explored will include:

- Leading with Empathy
- Leadership Transition
- Nebraska Population and Economic Trends
- Gallup Strengths
- Managing Conflicts
- Effective Meeting Management
- Corresponding with Legislators

2022 Session Dates:

Session One: Getting to Know Your County
June, 2022 - North Platte

Session Two: Topic/Speaker Decided by Class
July, 2022 - Online

Session Three: Leading with Strengths
August, 2022 - Norfolk

Session Four: Topic/Speaker Decided by Class
September, 2022 - Online

Session Five: Leading with Communication
October, 2022 - Lincoln

Session Six: Topic/Speaker Decided by Class
November, 2022 - Online

Session Seven: Leadership in Action
December, 2022 - Kearney*
*In conjunction with NACO's Annual Conference

Registration

go.unl.edu/NACOIOE

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2022 NACO Scholarship

Since 2004, NACO has presented twelve high school seniors with \$1000 awards each to be used toward their post-secondary educations. The scholarship program is open to graduating seniors whose parent or step-parent is a current

county official or employee. Scholarships are available for one year and are non-renewable.

Scholarship recipients must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution within the state of Nebraska and may use the NACO scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

[View the Application Here](#)

Quick Links

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[2020-2022 Legal Calendar](#)

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Latest News & Featured Links**

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