

Agency 54 - Nebraska State Historical Society

Statutory Authority:

Founded in 1878, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) is statutorily charged with collecting, preserving, and researching Nebraska history and educating Nebraskans about their past. In 1883, the NSHS was named an institution of state government; in 1994 it became an official state agency. The NSHS is the guardian of Nebraska's history and holds current and future collections in trust for the citizens of the state.

Statutes: 82-101 to 118; markers (82-201 to 206); records management (82-1212 to 1216); historic preservation (82-118 and 77-201); archeology (82-503 et seq., 82-712, 82-1201 et seq., 12-1201 to 1212), cemetery registry (12-1401); Hall of Fame Commission (72-728-729.01).

Vision Statement:

Today the Nebraska State Historical Society operates in accordance with the vision, mission, and goals laid down in the strategic plan developed by its board of trustees and staff, with input from constituents statewide, approved by the board on June 4, 2004. This plan was updated in 2005 and 2006. It will guide work through the 2007-09 biennium.

The Vision: "The Nebraska State Historical Society seeks to help all Nebraskans appreciate and understand the stories of our state and to provide access to resources that will promote inquiry, dialogue, and diversity of opinion to inform decisions facing us today."

Mission Statement:

The NSHS Mission as set forth in the 2004 Strategic Plan is: to collect, preserve, and open to all, the histories we share. Principles: 1) Preservation-We preserve our history and heritage, our legacy to future generations; 2) Public Service-The NSHS exists to serve all the people of Nebraska and works to interpret the history of Nebraska and its peoples so as to enlighten and enrich all our citizens; 3) Trust-The NSHS trustees and staff are committed to meeting without fair the highest standards of personal integrity and professional ethics; 4) Allegiance-The primary professional allegiance of the NSHS staff is to the institution as a whole; 5) Excellence-We recognize and value the talent, expertise, and contributions of all those associated with NSHS including trustees, volunteers, members, and staff. Together we work to meet the highest professional and personal standard.

Goals:

Institutional Goals (drawn from the 2004 Strategic Plan): As an agency of the State, the NSHS is rightly concerned with the needs of the people for whom it works: the people of Nebraska and all those who have an interest or a stake in Nebraska. Communication is the primary theme of the 2004 Strategic Plan, including communications with the Executive and Legislative branches of state government, members and users of NSHS and its services, and with funding sources beyond state-appropriated dollars, (the federal government, private organizations, individuals, and those who pay for products and services).

Goals from the 2004 plan key to success over the next two biennia are: 1) Ensure that every Nebraskan knows how to access the resources of NSHS for information and services related to the history and heritage of the people of the state; 2) Ensure that the NSHS collections, constituents, staff, and volunteers occupy safe and secure buildings that meet 21st century standards; 3) Refine existing programs and services consistent with the NSHS statutory responsibilities and prioritize them to fulfill the mission; 4) Stress on-going learning opportunities for all associated with the workings of NSHS, including paid and volunteer staff and trustees; 5) Improve NSHS's operating systems, advancing technological capabilities to better efficiencies and improve service; and 6) Build necessary financial resources (state, federal, private, grants, earned income) to achieve goals.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	3,980,156	4,247,921	4,735,136	4,330,629	4,741,963	4,433,375
Cash Fund	795,242	1,408,202	1,532,202	1,423,131	1,532,202	1,439,764
Federal Fund	810,762	695,115	702,296	706,313	702,296	718,760
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	5,586,160	6,351,238	6,969,634	6,460,073	6,976,461	6,591,899

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Program 648 - Nebraska State Historical Society

Program Objectives:

The Nebraska State Historical Society has the primary responsibility for the preservation of Nebraska's history. The Society has been given authority to fulfill its mission by Chapter 82 (as amended) Section 101-118 of the Revised Statutes and related laws.

The Society is the primary institution with responsibility to collect, preserve, research, and interpret artifacts, documents, and published materials related to Nebraska's heritage. As an agency of state government, the Society holds all of the Society's current and future collections in trust for the state and has all the authority granted to it by law.

Financial Data:

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Performance Measures:

Administration: Provides overall leadership for the Society and secures and administers the resources necessary to accomplish the overall mission of the Society.

Research and Publications: Promotes research for a better understanding of the State's history and culture.

Library/Archives: Safeguards the documentary heritage of Nebraska for the use of all.

Museum Divisions: The purpose of the museum is to gather, preserve, research, and interpret artifacts and sites representing Nebraska's rich and diverse human experience, and to provide the broadest possible public access to these resources.

Historic Sites: Educates people about Nebraska's past through historic artifacts and historic places, which are carefully preserved and interpreted at seven sites.

Archeology: Preserves, enhances, explores and interprets Nebraska's archeological resources for the benefit of the public and the advancement of science.

Ford Conservation Center: Conserve the historical, cultural and educational collections of the state through preservation activities and conservation treatment of objects, books, manuscripts and photographs.

Skeletal Remains Protection Act: Archeological staff consults with law enforcement officials and county attorneys as needed (ten to thirty such cases per year) to determine the origin and identity of remains as required by the Unmarked Human Burial Sites and Skeletal Remains Protection Act, LB 340 and other related federal legislation.

State Historic Preservation Office: Administers state/federal partnership related to historic buildings, including Nebraska entries to the National Register of Historic Places; reviews compliance on federally funded projects; administers federal and state tax advantage programs to preserve cultural resources.

Governor's Recommendation Includes:

Note: the budget recommendation and historical spending presented for Program 648 includes programs 542 and 647.