

Agency 087 - NE ACCOUNTABILITY & DISCLOSURE COMM.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

The Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act (NPADA) was passed in 1976 and became effective in 1977. See sections 49-1401 through 49-14,141 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. The NPADA created the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. The Commission is charged with the administration and enforcement of the State's campaign finance disclosure laws, its lobbying laws and its conflict of interest laws.

In 1992 the Legislature enacted the Campaign Finance Limitation Act (CFLA). The CFLA is cited within sections 32-1601 through 32-1613 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. Pursuant to the CFLA, candidates for certain public offices who agree to abide by voluntary spending limits may become eligible public funds for use in their campaigns.

VISION:

The vision of the Accountability and Disclosure Commission is to advance integrity in state and local government through disclosure and accountability.

MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:

The Mission of the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission is to administer and enforce the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and the Campaign Finance Limitation Act.

GOALS:

1. Campaign Activity, Program 94: To ensure that campaign finance information is readily available to the public.
2. Conflicts of Interest, Program 94: To administer a process that encourages public officials and public employees to seek advice and publicly disclose conflicts of interest and thus promote making independent and impartial governmental decisions and policies.
3. Lobbying, Program 94: To provide information to the public of the identity of lobbyists, their principals including the disclosure of the receipts and expenditures of lobbyists and principals.
4. Campaign Financing, Program 95: To provide public funds to candidates for public office who meet statutory requirements.

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Financial Data

	FY08 Actual	FY09 Approp	FY10 Request	FY10 Recomm	FY11 Request	FY11 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	320,760	430,726	448,792	357,246	465,099	433,805
Cash Fund	192,640	139,565	143,987	214,565	148,674	139,565
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations	513,399	570,291	592,779	571,811	613,773	573,370
Aid Funding						
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	891,786	863,502	863,502	969,902	969,902
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Aid Funding	0	891,786	863,502	863,502	969,902	969,902
Total Funding						
General Fund	320,760	430,726	448,792	357,246	465,099	433,805
Cash Fund	192,640	1,031,351	1,007,489	1,078,067	1,118,576	1,109,467
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	513,399	1,462,077	1,456,281	1,435,313	1,583,675	1,543,272

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Program 094 - ADMINISTRATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The NPADA provides for the administration and enforcement of Nebraska's campaign finance disclosure laws, its conflict of interest laws, and its lobbying laws.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Program 94 is the agency's administrative program. There are three categories in the program. They are campaign finance (CF), conflicts of interest (CI), and lobbying activity (LA). The objective of CF is to collect information on the financing of political campaigns from candidates and others and to make the information available to the public. The objective of CI is to provide information to public officials and public employees so that they can properly handle and disclose potential conflicts of interest.

The objective of LA is to promote openness in the legislative process by collecting information from lobbyists and principals and making this information available to the public.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Performance measures of state agencies are typically based upon work output or volume of reports filed. This is not a useful measure. The number of reports filed changes each year depending upon whether it is an election year and upon whether it is a gubernatorial election year. A year to year comparison of the number of reports filed does not show the level of compliance with NPADA. A better measure is to compare the number of reports timely filed to the number of reports filed late and compute the percent of variance. While this is more a measure of the performance of the filers than of the agency, it may provide anecdotal information on the effectiveness of the Commission's instructional materials.

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Program 094 - ADMINISTRATION

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Agency 087 - NE ACCOUNTABILITY & DISCLOSURE COMM.
Program 095 - CAMPAIGN FINANCE LIMITATION AC

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Campaign Finance Limitation Act provides for voluntary limitations on campaign expenditures for certain offices. A candidate who agrees to abide by voluntary spending limits may become eligible for public funds from the CFLA Cash Fund for campaign use.

The fund consists of late fees and penalties paid to the Commission for violations. It includes Nebraska income tax check-offs and donations. The CFLA provides for a regular adjustment to the voluntary spending limits based upon the Consumer Price Index.

Public campaign funds in the amount of \$364,636 have been distributed since 2000.

The distribution of public funds for the 2008 general election began on September 8, 2008.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The objective of the CFLA is to encourage candidates for certain offices to limit campaign spending by providing public funds for campaign use to those candidates who abide by voluntary spending limits and meet other statutory criteria.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The development of performance measures in this program is problematic. The number of candidates participating in the program (either as abiding candidates or non-abiding candidates) is expected to vary significantly. Typically, there are more candidates in a gubernatorial election year (in which candidates for Attorney General, Auditor of Public Accounts, Secretary of State and State Treasurer also seek office). The amount of public funds distributed is not a useful measure since no public funds are distributed in races in which all candidates abide by voluntary spending limits.

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Program 095 - CAMPAIGN FINANCE LIMITATION AC

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