

**Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS)  
Executive Council Business Meeting Notification and Agenda**

October 25, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

NSCS Boardroom, 1233 Lincoln Mall, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508

Publicized notice of the Executive Council meeting was given by posting the date, time, and location on the NSWERS.org website.

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – President Paul Turman called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call showed the following Executive Council members in **attendance**:

Chancellor Paul Turman, NSWERS President  
President Paul Illich, NSWERS Vice-President  
Commissioner Brian Maher, NSWERS Secretary/Treasurer

Roll Call showed the following NSWERS member **absent**:

Chief of Staff/Corporation Secretary Phil Bakken, NSWERS Member

**Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information**

Dr. Turman announced that information regarding the Open Meetings Act is available in a binder at the front of the NSCS Boardroom and also available on the NSWERS.org website.

**1.1 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

**1.2 APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No agenda items were removed, added, or corrected.

Approval of the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Dr. Paul Illich, second by Dr. Brian Maher.

Mr. Phil Bakken	Absent
Dr. Paul Illich	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Dr. Brian Maher	Yea

### **1.3 Approve Minutes of NSWERS business meeting, August 15, 2023**

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023, NSWERS Executive Council Business meeting passed with a motion by Dr. Brian Maher, second by Dr. Paul Illich.

Dr. Brian Maher	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Mr. Phil Bakken	Absent
Dr. Paul Illich	Yea

## **2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

- 2.1** The NSWERS Staff provided a presentation and demonstration of the minimum viable product (MVP) of the High School Graduation outcome in the secure web portal, insights+. The NSWERS team also showed a few new enhancements that will be available to beta testers soon.

Ongoing feedback and demonstrations to Executive Council members would be appreciated as the NSWERS team continues to progress through developing and implementing the remainder of the outcomes in insights+.

## **3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

- 3.1** Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to a contract for services related to expanded employment outcome information.

Motion for the Executive Council to direct the Executive Director to negotiate terms and enter into an agreement for services related to obtaining expanded employment outcome information not to exceed the cost of \$300,000. The motion was made by Dr. Paul Illich and seconded by Dr. Brian Maher.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Hastings provided information related to the proposed contract for services, reminding the Council of the work NSWERS and stakeholders have done in the past eighteen months to find a path for expanded workforce outcomes. There are limitations in the data available in the Nebraska Dept of Labor UI report, which is the source for the workforce data in the NSWERS data system. NSWERS has been researching other external sources to assist with expanded workforce-related information to support processes.

After many discussions with other organizations, Equifax has stood out as a source that would most likely meet all the needs for the expanded workforce-related information. They have a national frame of workforce data, hire date and dates of service, and access to an affluence index. In the proposal that NSWERS has received, the team would receive access to a system – for privacy, no individual-level data would be shared back – and analysis would be run within that system's environment. Per the proposal, a two-year license for this program would cost \$300,000; in the first year, there would be a 6-month trial period for \$45,000 for NSWERS to ensure that it has the anticipated value, with the ability to step away

from the agreement with no additional cost. The proposal and potential data sharing agreement have been reviewed and revised by NSWERS legal counsel, and the company accepted the proposed changes. NSWERS also continues to explore additional vendors for expanded workforce-related data.

The Executive Council recommends that Dr. Hastings have a discussion with an industry expert or one of the partner security officers about related data security practices to ensure we keep that at the top of mind. They also recommend that after the trial period with any external company, NSWERS should come back to the Council with findings to determine if the agreement will be a value add and if it should continue after the trial period.

Dr. Paul Illich	Yea
Mr. Phil Bakken	Absent
Dr. Brian Maher	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea

#### 4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Hastings, Executive Director, NSWERS made a presentation on behalf of himself and the Management Team. (See attached PowerPoint.)

**Data Submission Calendar.** Now that the majority of the ten-year tranche of data has been certified, NSWERS is moving along with the regular cadence of the data submission process, with October being a busy month with most partners submitting annual or triennial data to be validated and certified.

**NSWERS Data Submission Progress.** Dr. Hastings provided an update regarding data submission progress for the partners. All historical data has been fully submitted, validated, and certified for all partners except for Central Community College, though they have signed their data sharing agreement and have been provided instructions to submit historical data. October is a busy month with data submission, validation, and certification, which the NSWERS team is working through currently. Data from all partners that submit in October has passed validation and are working towards certification with the exception of some data that needs to be re-submitted.

**Dual Enrollment Report.** NSWERS continues to receive updated data from the partners that is needed to finalize the report. Once the data is updated and certified, NSWERS will engage in another round of quality review with the Management Committee. A special briefing will be held with the Executive Council and Dr. Michael Baumgartner of CCPE to review the findings after completion of the updated report.

**Statewide Longitudinal Data Ecosystem Summit.** Dr. Hastings recently attended the Statewide Longitudinal Data Ecosystem Summit, which was hosted by the National Governors Association at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute in Washington D.C. The meeting showcased best practices, promising strategies, and innovative approaches to longitudinal data

ecosystem design and use. There was a lot of interest in the work NSWERS is doing and Dr. Hastings has already had follow-up inquiries from folks met during the meeting.

**insights+ Technical Enhancements.** The procurement process is nearly complete for work on the next phase of technical enhancements to insights+. A request for proposal (RFP) was completed and the contract was awarded to Don't Panic Labs of Lincoln, Nebraska. Paperwork is being finalized now and the NSWERS team will work with Don't Panic Labs to create a development schedule in the coming days and aim to begin work as soon as possible.

**Addition of New Data Elements.** Dr. Hastings provided an overview of the new data element request process, which is outlined in the NSWERS Data Management Policy. New data element proposals are first reviewed by the NSWERS staff, then the NSWERS Management Committee will determine their approval by the end of March. The proposals will go before the NSWERS Executive Council at the second business meeting of the year (typically April) for final approval. The NSWERS team is currently evaluating requests for the addition of measures related to economic needs.

**Evaluation Requests.** As an update, there have been six partner evaluation requests from the Nebraska Community Colleges for the evaluation of the educational and workforce outcomes of the Peter Kiewit Foundation Vocational Scholarship Program. The supplemental data sharing agreements have been fully executed, and evaluation activity will start in earnest in the fall of 2024. There have been no formal general evaluation requests, though several informal conversations about the process.

**NSWERS Staffing Update.** Dr. Hastings provided a brief staffing update. There has been an ongoing search for two web development staff to support David Hefley's team, and both of those positions have now been hired. The front-end web developer, Akshdeep Singh Rajawat, started on August 21, and the back-end web developer will start on November 1.

**NSWERS Strategic Plan Progress.** Dr. Hastings gave an updated overall progress towards NSWERS Strategic Plan 2021-2023, which is updated quarterly prior to Executive Council meetings and available on the NSWERS website at [www.nswers.org/progress](http://www.nswers.org/progress). Overall Progress is at 87%, up 3% since August 2023; Goal 1 (Establish Data System) is at 96%; and Goal 2 (Evaluate Efficacy) is at 79%.

## **5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORT**

### **5.1 NSWERS Treasurer's Report – Dr. Brian Maher and Dr. Matt Hastings**

Dr. Maher reported that he had a discussion with Dr. Hastings about the financial reports for NSWERS and turned it over for his discussion. The NSWERS budget is in good standing. The cash at the University of Nebraska Foundation is not reflected in the total net position due to previous suggestions from the auditor. Another reminder regarding the line item related to capital assets, which is the development of the secure web portal, insights+. A note that the contracts page shows the life to date of the contracts, not just the fiscal year total of the contract expense.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the NSWERS Executive Council Business Meeting passed with a motion from Dr. Paul Illich, second by Dr. Brian Maher

Dr. Brian Maher	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Dr. Paul Illich	Yea
Mr. Phil Bakken	Absent

President Turman adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

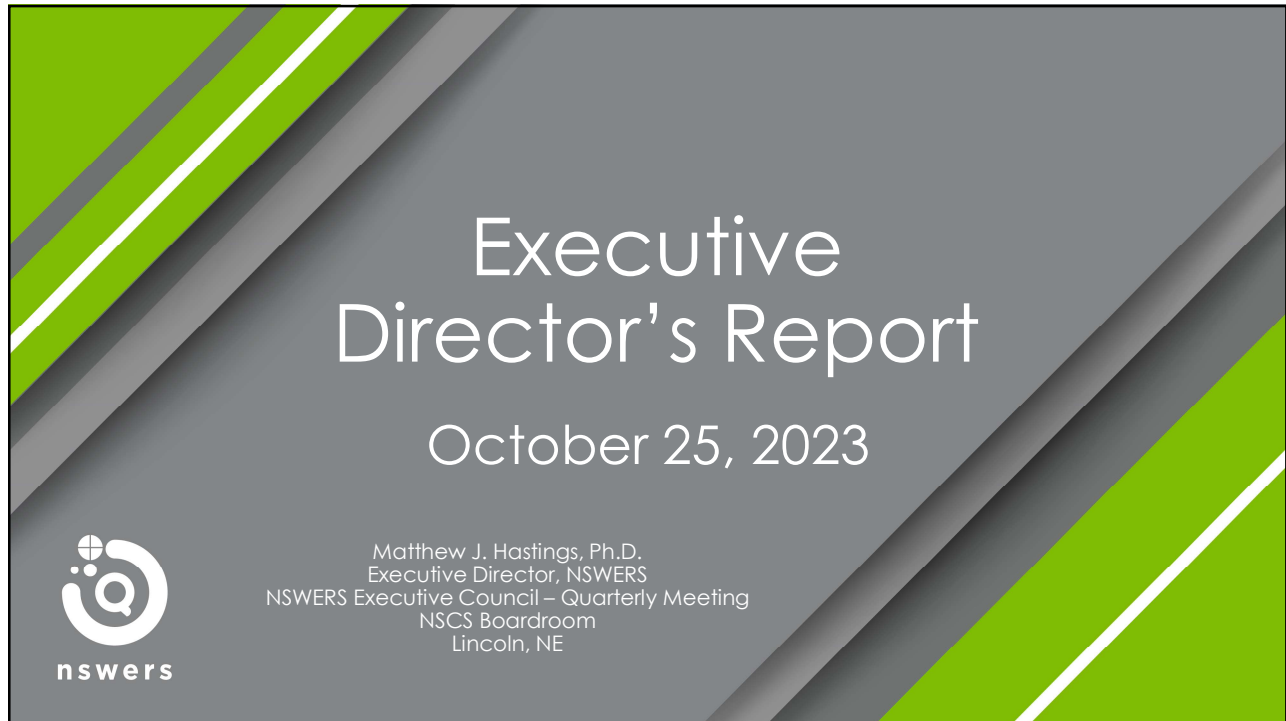
At this time, a NSWERS Executive Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on January 31, 2024, at a time and place to be determined.

## Expanded Employment Outcomes

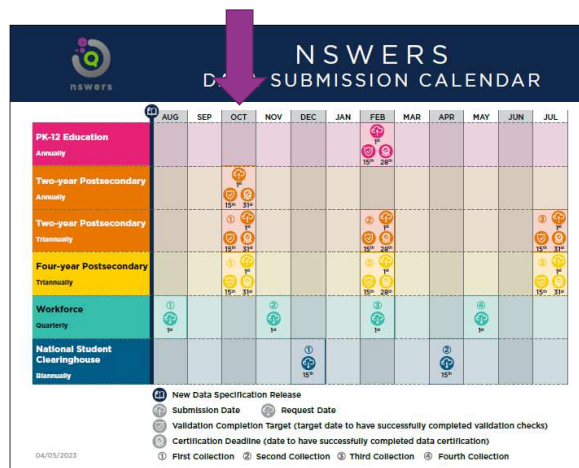
- Exploring services for access to expanded employment outcomes from Equifax and other providers.
- Current employment data limitations:
  - Restricted to NE UI system capabilities, e.g.:
    - Nebraska only
    - Lack of start date
    - Lacking job title/occupation
- Benefits of expanded employment outcomes:
  - Nation-wide frame (brain drain, brain return)
  - Hire date and length of service (employment churn)
  - Affluence index (economic mobility, college *wealth* premium)

## Cost Estimate of Service

- Two-Year Agreement, to include:
  - 6 Month Trial Period
    - \$45,000
  - Year 1 Full License Agreement
    - \$25,000 data fee
    - \$80,000 license fee
      - \$150,000 total (POC + Year 1)
  - Year 2 Full License Agreement
    - \$25,000 data fee
    - \$125,000 license fee
      - \$150,000 total (Year 2)
- Total ~\$300,000



## Data Submission Calendar



## Data Submission Progress

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
												Feb	Jul	Oct
Central														
Metro														
MidPlains														
Northeast														
SCC														
Western														
Chadron														
Peru														
Wayne														
UNK														
UNL														
UNMC														
UNO														
NCTA														
NDE														
NDOL														

■ no data submitted  
■ data certified  
■ data uploading  
■ data validated, waiting to be certified

## NSWERS DATA SUBMISSION UPDATE

OCTOBER 25, 2023

**311**

DATA ELEMENTS

### EDUCATION



#### K-12

10 YEARS OF DATA

**55,581,378**

K-12 EDUCATION  
RECORDS

**649,272**

K-12 STUDENT  
RECORDS

**715**

K-12 COURSE RECORDS

#### POSTSECONDARY

12 YEARS OF DATA

**11,508,944**

POSTSECONDARY  
EDUCATION RECORDS

**631,786**

POSTSECONDARY  
STUDENT RECORDS

**41,280**

POSTSECONDARY  
COURSE RECORDS

### WORKFORCE



15 YEARS OF DATA

**13,593,652**

WORKFORCE RECORDS

**385,184**

EMPLOYEE RECORDS



## Dual Enrollment Report

We continue to receive updated data from our partners needed to finalize this report.

Once data is updated, we will engage in another round of quality review with the Management Committee.

Aim to hold a special briefing in the coming weeks with the Executive Council and Dr. Michael Baumgartner to review the findings.



## Statewide Longitudinal Data Ecosystem Summit

- Hosted by the National Governors Association October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Ronald Reagan Foundation and Institute in Washington, DC.
- Brought together state teams from across the US with education policy organizations to review the statewide longitudinal data ecosystems.
- Showcase best-practices, promising strategies and innovative approaches to SLDE design and use

## Insights+ Technical Enhancements

- Completed a request for proposals (RFP) procurement process to let a contract for technical support for enhancements to the Insight+ platform.
- The contract was awarded to Don't Panic Labs of Lincoln, NE
- Finalizing paperwork now, will create a development schedule with the contractor in the coming days and aim to begin work as soon as possible.

## Addition of New Data Elements

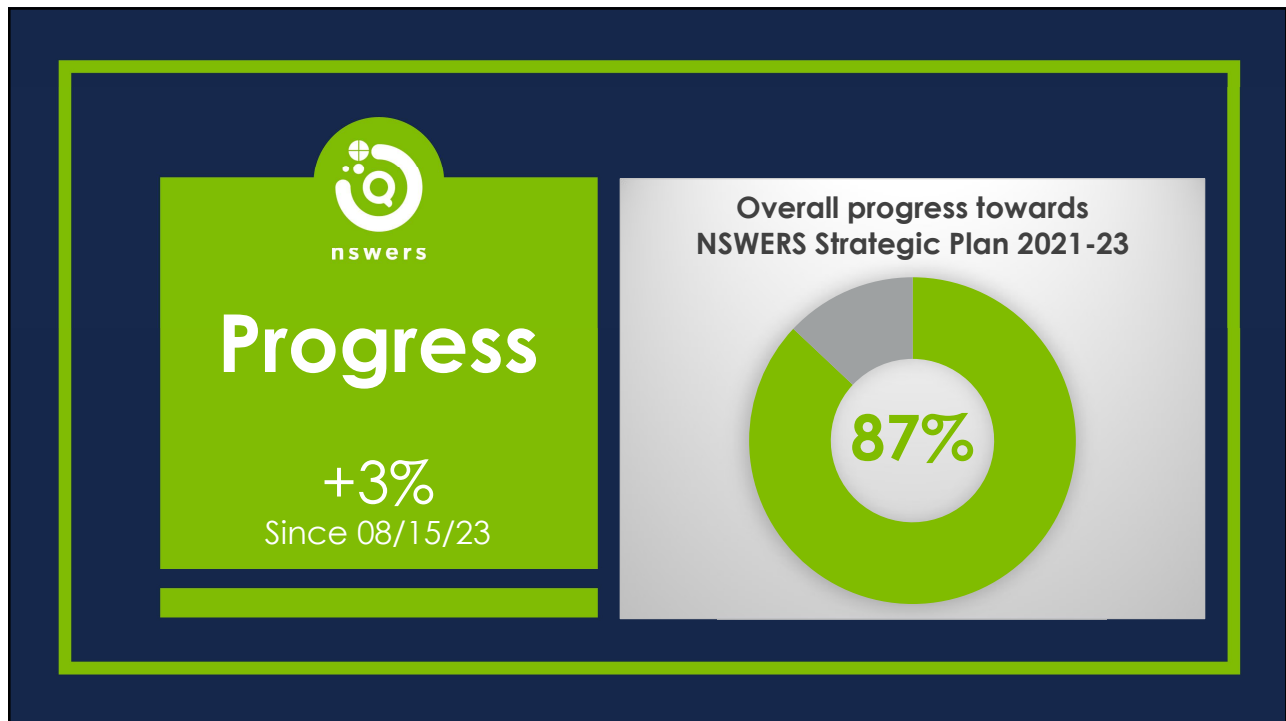
- As per NSWERS Data Management Policy:
  - New data element proposals are first reviewed by NSWERS staff
  - Then with the NSWERS Management Committee
    - Approval by March 31st
- Presented to the NSWERS Executive Council for final approval
  - At the second quarterly business meeting (typically April).
- Currently, evaluating requests for the addition of measures related to economic needs.

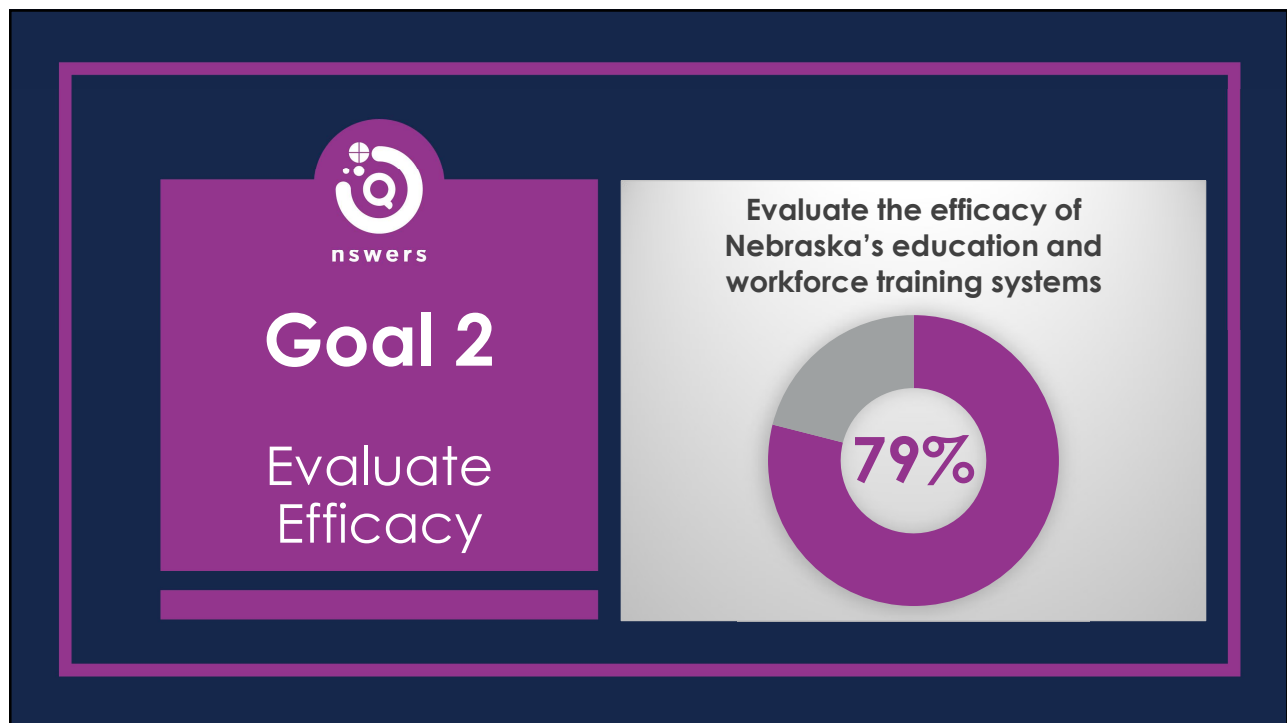
## Evaluation Requests

- Partner Evaluation Requests:
  - All six Nebraska Community Colleges
    - Evaluation of the educational and workforce outcomes of the Peter Kiewit Foundation Vocational Scholarship program
  - Supplemental data sharing agreements fully executed
  - Analytic activity to start in earnest in the fall of 2024
- General Evaluation Requests:
  - No formal requests
  - Informal conversations as they arise

## NSWERS Staffing Update

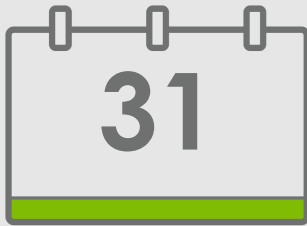
- Final two NSWERS staff positions:
  - Front-End Web Application Developer
    - Successful search
      - New hire began full-time on August 21st
    - Welcome, Akshdeep Singh Rajawat!
  - Back-End Web Application Developer
    - Successful search
      - New hire begins full-time on November 1st
    - Welcome, Scott Jonker!



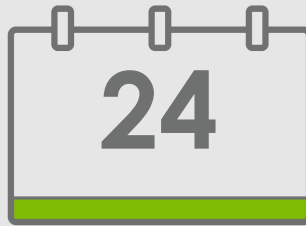


## Upcoming Executive Council Meetings

January  
2024



April  
2024



August  
2024



# Thank You

Next Executive Council Meeting: January 31, 2024



## NSWERS

### Statement of Net Position

September 30, 2023 and June 30, 2023

Unaudited

Assets	9/30/2023	6/30/2023
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash & Investments (Note A)	\$ -	\$ -
Accounts Receivable	385,412	670,403
Prepaid Expenses	23,075	32,964
Capital Assets	424,312	357,216
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>832,798</u>	<u>1,060,583</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable	10,397	29,228
Due to the University of Nebraska	264,020	255,765
Accrued Compensated Absences	62,414	62,414
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>336,831</u>	<u>347,406</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Unrestricted	495,967	713,177
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 495,967</u>	<u>\$ 713,177</u>
 Note A: Excludes cash held by the University of Nebraska Foundation		
Foundation Cash	<u>\$ 2,435,951</u>	<u>\$ 2,426,884</u>

**NSWERS**

**Change in Net Position**

**For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2023**

Unaudited

		<b>Fiscal YTD</b>	<b>Fiscal YTD</b>
	<b>FY24 Budget</b>	<b>9/30/2023</b>	<b>Budget Variance</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>			
Foundation contributions	\$ 991,496	\$ 94,868	\$ (896,628)
University of Nebraska contributions	145,006	-	(145,006)
Metro Community College contributions	70,000	-	(70,000)
Department of Education contributions	139,480	-	(139,480)
Interest income		-	-
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>1,345,982</b>	<b>94,868</b>	<b>(1,251,114)</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Wages	915,345	176,453	(738,892)
Benefits	294,836	40,436	(254,400)
Total Personal Services	1,210,181	216,889	(993,292)
Operating expenses	34,910	37,949	3,039
Rent	-	-	-
Travel	32,565	1,546	(31,019)
Insurance	60,000	9,889	(50,111)
Legal services	25,000	4,430	(20,570)
Auditing services	25,000	10,000	(15,000)
Business services	85,000	21,147	(63,853)
Other contractual services	377,000	10,226	(366,774)
Software	80,300	-	(80,300)
Equipment	12,250	-	(12,250)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,942,206</b>	<b>312,077</b>	<b>(1,630,129)</b>
<b>Increase in Net Position</b>	<b>(596,224)</b>	<b>(217,210)</b>	<b>379,014</b>
<b>Net Position</b>			
Net position, beginning of year	-	713,177	-
Net position, end of year	<b>\$ (596,224)</b>	<b>\$ 495,967</b>	<b>\$ 379,014</b>



**NSWERS**

**Supplemental Information**

**September 30, 2023**

Unaudited

<b>Contractual Services:</b>	<b>Contract Amount</b>	<b>Paid as of September 30, 2023</b>	<b>Remaining Contract Amount</b>
Magnolia Consulting	129,936	122,444	7,492
University of Nebraska (Annual)	84,588	21,147	63,441
University of Nebraska IT	Billable Rate	53,769	N/A
KSB School Law	Billable Rate	59,395	N/A
Don't Panic Labs	386,440	370,258	16,182
			-