

## Proposal For Red Cloud, Nebraska CCC Education Hub

**Potential Start Timeline:** Spring - Fall 2024.

**Opportunity:** Central Community College seeks to establish an Education Hub in Red Cloud, NE (Webster County), with the aim of serving neighboring counties and communities within Central Community College's 25-county service area. Key towns and villages to be covered include Red Cloud, Blue Hill, Superior, Guide Rock, and Franklin, all situated within CCC's service area counties of Nuckolls, Webster, and Franklin.

**Target Recipients:** Regions categorized as "low income" and "low population" per the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). Addressing the workforce training needs of employers and employees in areas where individuals and organizations seek upskilling for potential promotions. Data from the NDE (Nebraska Department of Education) website indicates that Red Cloud High School and Elementary School have an average of 52.26% of students eligible for free and/or reduced lunch.

2022-2023	WEBSTER	910002001	RED CLOUD HIGH SCHOOL	SECONDARY	07-12	106	49	46.23%
2022-2023	WEBSTER	910002002	RED CLOUD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY	PK-06	163	95	58.28%

Retrieved 1/11/2024 <https://www.education.ne.gov/>

**Program Needs:** Access and Opportunity for Workforce Training, Credit and Non-credit Community Education, Health Science training such as CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant), Medication Aid, Collaborative efforts with EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Training, Credit and Non-credit Live Video courses, and community engagement needs.

**Potential partners:** Central Community College (lead), Central Community College Foundation, Red Cloud Community Fund, Nebraska Community Foundation, Red Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, Red Cloud Community Schools, City of Red Cloud, Heritage Care Center, Webster County Community Hospital, and The Valley Child Development Center.

**Goals:** Establish an Education Hub in Red Cloud, NE, through a grant designed to empower recipients. The goal is to enable them to mobilize, access education, coaching, and support within community teams. This support is aimed at improving strategic planning for enhanced economic development in the region. Key objectives include creating and implementing plans to address outmigration, strengthening local leadership, involving youth, providing workforce training and development, promoting entrepreneurship, and establishing foundation endowments for sustained future support. From a current meeting with stakeholders, the following are interests and suggestions:

- Certifications and training – CNA, Med Aid, EMS, IT software, early childhood education, welding, precision agriculture, hospitality management and culinary (these connected to both the hospital and hotel), workplace apprenticeships.
- Community Education opportunities – Dance classes, Art, QuickBooks training, other IT Software training, Basic Skills in Carpentry/Plumbing/Electrical, Wine tasting.
- Entrepreneurship and other innovative collaborations with new and existing businesses
- Increase dual-credit options among the students within the local high schools.

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**Data:** Located in the rural, central region of Nebraska in Webster County, Red Cloud boasts a population of 962, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This community thrives with vitality, drawing in both funds and residents, particularly in homage to Willa Cather. In the last 12 months, 11.3% of the populace faced income challenges below the poverty threshold, surpassing the state average for Nebraska as a whole (U.S. Census Bureau, 2023). The grant initiative targets three counties—Webster, Franklin, and Nuckolls—all situated within the Urban-rural continuum (USDA). This classification denotes areas as either entirely rural or possessing fewer than 2,500 urban inhabitants, without adjacency to a metropolitan region. Combined, these three counties boast a total population of 10,614. The population in households lacking computer or broadband subscription is at 20% for Webster County. (US Census Bureau, 2023) Which, in turn, shows an opportunity for additional credit and non-credit offerings needed within the local community and greater rural area by offering options at an educational learning center. Additionally, dual-credit courses offered at the high school has grown from 6 total students in the Spring Semester of 2022 to 57 total students in the Spring Semester of 2024. This is an increase of 850% from 2022 to 2024. (CCC Internal 2024)

### Webster County, Nebraska

**Total population:** 3,487

**Aged 60 or over:** 29.7%

**Incarcerated:** 0.3%

**Veteran:** 6.6%

**With a disability:** 16.1%

**With a language barrier:** 11.5%

**English learners:** 0.4%

**Low literacy:** 14.8%

**Racial or ethnic minority:** 8.5%

**Rural:** 100.0%

**Population in households lacking fixed broadband availability:** 43.9%

**Population in households lacking computer or broadband subscription:** 20.0% (US Census Bureau, 2023)

### Nuckolls County, Nebraska

**Total population:** 4,148

**Aged 60 or over:** 35.8%

**Incarcerated:** 0.1%

**Veteran:** 8.7%

**With a language barrier:** 12.0%

**English learners:** 1.7%

**Low literacy:** 14.1%

**With a disability:** 18.3%

### Nuckolls County (continued)

**Racial or ethnic minority:** 5.4%

**Rural:** 100.0%

**Population in households lacking fixed broadband availability:** 25.9%

**Population in households lacking computer or broadband subscription:** 19.9% (US Census Bureau, 2023)

### Franklin County, Nebraska

**Total population:** 2,979

**Total covered population:** 2,979

**Aged 60 or over:** 35.1%

**Incarcerated:** 0.2%

**Veteran:** 8.2%

**With a disability:** 18.3%

**With a language barrier:** 10.7%

**English learners:** 0.3%

**Low literacy:** 14.6%

**Racial or ethnic minority:** 4.3%

**Rural:** 100.0%

**Population in households lacking fixed broadband availability:** 28.0%

**Population in households lacking computer or broadband subscription:** 20.2% (US Census Bureau, 2023)

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### Possible Leasing Arrangement:

\$1,500 per month lease plus utilities or approximately \$2,000 per month = \$24,000/year.

Total square foot of building being utilized is 2,575 so approximately \$9.32/sq. ft.

Commercial Sales in Red Cloud					
Parcel ID	Physical Address	Date of Sale	Sale Amount	Building SqFT	Price Per SqFT
107500	209 W 4th Ave Red Cloud, NE 68970	6/18/2021	\$50,000.00	4,968	\$10.06
116400	122 W 4th Ave Red Cloud, NE 68970	7/5/2021	\$45,000.00	2,600	\$17.31
116500	341 N Webster Street Red Cloud, NE 68970	5/16/2023	\$75,000.00	2,300	\$32.61
118000	330 N Webster Street Red Cloud, NE 68970	5/26/2021	\$50,000.00	4,802	\$10.41
			Average Price Per SqFT		<b>\$17.60</b>

Retrieved via Webster County Assessor Page per parcel ID <https://co.webster.ne.us/webpages/assessor/assessor.html>

**Initial Community Partners that have expressed interest in helping with grant:** A diverse group of individuals in Red Cloud, with varied professional backgrounds and interests, contribute to the community's development. Among them is a dedicated Hospital Administrator, eager to invest in training courses such as CNA, Med Aid, IT, and Culinary. The Heritage Tour and Economic Development/Chamber Director plays a vital role in promoting the town's cultural and economic growth. An Occupational Therapist from Lebanon, KS, brings unique expertise to the community. The Treasurer for the Red Cloud Community Foundation and a Board member of the Red Cloud Child Development Center actively participate in local initiatives. The owner of On the Brix, a local wine shop and bar, adds a touch of entrepreneurship. Another community member, who owns the lumber yard, is also a physical therapist, demonstrating a keen interest in economic development and educational opportunities. A former physician turned glass artist and property developer contributes to the town's artistic landscape. A lifetime Red Cloud resident, retired farmer, and former school board member actively supports economic development and education. Other key figures include the Education director and Executive Director of the Willa Cather Center, the owner of Back Alley Bike Rentals, the Superintendent of Red Cloud Community Schools, and dedicated educators fostering education and community engagement. A retired elementary school teacher, deeply involved in community and Historic Preservation, completes this vibrant and engaged group. All have shown energy, excitement, and offers to help make the new Learning Center in Red Cloud a success.

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**Start-up Estimates:** Should distance learning technology be required to complete educational offerings, approximately \$100,000 would be budgeted from capital, general fund, donations or grants. Furniture, lease and part-time personnel would be estimated at an additional \$100,000 from CCC general and auxiliary funds, donations or grants.

**Additional Revenue:** The new state funding formula allows continued tax levy authority up to 2.0 cents from these counties for capital investments and support. Additional revenue is planned with increased activity in the area. Already from community meetings this summer, enrollment in dual enrollment/early college courses have increased as well as a nursing assistant offering. For Spring Semester 24 only:

High School	Duplicate Students	Different Courses	FTE
Red Cloud	55	15	5.50
Blue Hill	20	4	2.00
Franklin	5	3	.50
Superior	24	10	2.40

Community education workshops are predicted to increase due to partnerships with regional entities including the Willa Cather Museum. Access and awareness in community should also assist the college in fulfilling our mission of maximizing student and community success. The increase presence should allow for greater relationships to be made with philanthropic donors connected to that region of our service area.

### References

*US Census Bureau.* (2023, November 13). Retrieved from Red Cloud city, Nebraska:

[https://data.census.gov/profile/Red\\_Cloud\\_city,\\_Nebraska?g=160XX00US3140920](https://data.census.gov/profile/Red_Cloud_city,_Nebraska?g=160XX00US3140920)

*US Census Bureau.* (2023, November 13). Retrieved from Digital Equity Act Population Viewer:

<https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c5e6cf675865464a90ff1573c5072b42>

The College President recommends entering into a lease, not to exceed three years, to establish an educational hub in Red Cloud and engage in purchasing equipment and furniture and hiring necessary personnel to implement community-driven programming.