

## Minette M. Genuchi

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**Subject:** FW: County Litter Cleanup Funding

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**From:** Kenneth L. Prey  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2018 10:50 AM  
**To:** Bradley L. Johnson  
**Subject:** FW: County Litter Cleanup Funding

Brad, Here is the explanation from KLLCB on what happened to the grant funding for our liter removal program. It looks as though the Legislature is using the a large sum of the funding elsewhere. Let me know if you would like to continue the program this year, with the Department providing all funding.

### Ken Prey

Jail Administrator  
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**From:** Willa M. DiCostanzo  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2018 9:12 AM  
**To:** Kenneth L. Prey  
**Cc:** Scott E. Holmes; Renae M. Rief  
**Subject:** County Litter Cleanup Funding

Ken,

It was nice to meet you over the phone. Again, I apologize that Keep Lincoln-Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) cannot move forward with a contract this year for litter cleanups with LCC. We receive our funds from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) through the Litter Reduction and Recycling Funds. This funding source allows us to apply for Cleanup Grants and Public Education funding.

Last year, the 2017 Legislature passed LB331 which transferred funds from the Litter Reduction & Recycling funds to the State general fund. As passed, LB331 transferred \$700,000 in July 2017 and \$200,000 in July 2018. The bill also included language that authorizes the Legislature to transfer funds from the Nebraska Litter Reduction and Recycling Act to the General Fund at the direction of the Legislature.

This year, during the 2018 Legislative session LB945 would authorize the transfer of \$700,000 on or before June 30, 2019 from the Litter Reduction & Recycling Fund. (It was \$200,000 from LB331 passed in the 2017 Legislature - so an increase of \$500,000 in this new bill.)

Scott Holmes, LLCHD, testified in opposition to LB 945 because of the huge reduction of Litter Reduction and Recycling grant funding to Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) this year caused by LB331.

In 2017, KLLCB received \$19,000 for Cleanup Grants, but in 2018, we only received \$6,000. Here was the email explanation we received from NDEQ:

**To all 2018 Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Recipients:**

Within the next few days you will receive the official notification of your 2018 Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant award(s).

This year, the Department received nearly \$3.6 million in eligible grant requests; an increase of over \$900,000 from 2017. Last year, the Department awarded nearly \$2.5 million in grant awards to 57 projects. Based on projected funds available, and considering Litter grant obligations for 2017, the Department will have \$1.3 million available for 2018, and anticipates making awards to 53 projects.

All applications were independently scored using the Program Priority System. A copy of this document is available on our website.

To keep grant awards within the amount of funds available, and to remain within the funding percentage allocation approved by the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council on November 15, 2017, the following decisions were made:

**Cleanup applications:** Grant funds were awarded only for the cleanup of miles and acres, and supply expenses. So that as many cleanup applications could be funded as possible, all requests were capped at \$6,000.

**Public Education applications:** The grant scorers made funding recommendations for each application. An average funding recommendation was then determined for each application. So that as many applications could be funded as possible, the first \$12,000 of the recommended average funding amount was awarded as a base amount. Then an additional award of 50% between the \$12,000 base amount and recommended average funding amount was made.

Thus, KLLCB had to make some very difficult decisions on how to prioritize the meager amount of funding. We chose to fund volunteer group cleanups due to the tremendous impact this funding strategy provides in terms of low cost and high benefit. I hope this helps clarify to your director why KLLCB doesn't have the funding available this year to support the cleanup work of the Lincoln Correctional Center. If you are still interested in doing a litter cleanup KLLCB does have an abundance of trash bags and we could support your cleanup by offering you supplies to complete the excellent work that you have done in the past. I very much appreciate this partnership and I hope that we can reunite once again in the future.

Thanks Ken,

**Willa DiCostanzo**

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