

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">2024</div> This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)

a single-employer plan a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report

an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.

D Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program

special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
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1a Name of plan <u>TAX-FAVORED SAVINGS PROGRAM</u>	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>002</u>
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA</u> <u>1919 AKSARBEN DRIVE</u> <u>OMAHA, NE 68180</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>02/01/1985</u> 2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>47-0095156</u> 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>402-982-7000</u> 2d Business code (see instructions) <u>524150</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/08/2025	ASHLEY LEONARD
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	1519
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	1169
	6a(2)	1228
	6b	24
	6c	299
	6d	1551
	6e	5
	6f	1556
	6g(1)	1512
	6g(2)	1509
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2S 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>1</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

<p>SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)</p> <p>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Insurance Information</p> <p>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p> <p>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</p>	<p>OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p>2024</p> <hr/> <p>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

<p>A Name of plan TAX-FAVORED SAVINGS PROGRAM</p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</p>	<p>002</p>
<p>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA</p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 47-0095156</p>	

Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
06-1050034	93629	556550-01	1494	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II	Investment and Annuity Contract Information	
	Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.	
4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	33676545
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	107061209
6	Contracts With Allocated Funds:	
a	State the basis of premium rates ▶	
b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d
e	Type of contract: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> individual policies (2) <input type="checkbox"/> group deferred annuity (3) <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ▶	
f	If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)	
a	Type of contract: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> deposit administration (2) <input type="checkbox"/> immediate participation guarantee (3) <input type="checkbox"/> guaranteed investment (4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT	
b	Balance at the end of the previous year	7b 28691943
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1) 2855963
	(2) Dividends and credits.....	7c(2)
	(3) Interest credited during the year.....	7c(3) 752066
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4) 10091217
	(5) Other (specify below)..... ▶ LOAN INTEREST, LOAN PRINCIPAL, ROLLOVER, TRANSFER FORFEITURE	7c(5) 347854
	(6) Total additions	7c(6) 14047100
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))	7d 42739043
e	Deductions:	
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1) 5471308
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2) -4616
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3) 3380040
	(4) Other (specify below)..... ▶ LOAN DISTRIBUTION	7e(4) 215766
(5) Total deductions	7e(5) 9062498	
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d).....	7f 33676545

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information
 If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** Health (other than dental or vision)
- b** Dental
- c** Vision
- d** Life insurance
- e** Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- f** Long-term disability
- g** Supplemental unemployment
- h** Prescription drug
- i** Stop loss (large deductible)
- j** HMO contract
- k** PPO contract
- l** Indemnity contract
- m** Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a	Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)		
	(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
	(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)	0
b	Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	9b(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
	(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)	0
	(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c	Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
	(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
	(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
	(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
	(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
	(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
	(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	9c(1)(F)		
	(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
	(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> credited.)		9c(2)	
d	Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
	(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
	(3) Other reserves		9d(3)	
e	Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a	Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a		
b	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.	10b		

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? Yes No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan TAX-FAVORED SAVINGS PROGRAM	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 47-0095156	

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... Yes No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

06-1050034

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

06-1050034

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13 50 15 64 37	RECORDKEEPER	98397	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

NFP RETIREMENT INC

120 VANTIS STE 400
ALISO VIEJO, CA 92656-2689

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	50000	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

LUTZ & COMPANY PC

13616 CALIFORNIA ST STE 300
OMAHA, NE 68154

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
10	AUDITOR	16500	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

ADVISED ASSETS GROUP, LLC

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
28	INVESTMENT MGMT	5963	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 <hr/> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>TAX-FAVORED SAVINGS PROGRAM</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>47-0095156</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>SMALL CAP VALUE / VICTORY FUND</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>06-1050034-701</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>8354010</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>LARGE CAP GROWTH I FUND</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPA</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>06-1050034-274</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>37641444</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN CENTURY MID CAP VAL (IS PL</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>06-1050034-850</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>8937264</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>CORE PLUS BOND / PGIM FUND</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>06-1050034-299</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>26596546</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>LARGE CAP GROWTH I FUND (PUTMAN)</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>06-1050034-274</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>25531945</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan TAX-FAVORED SAVINGS PROGRAM	B Three-digit plan number (PN) 002
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 47-0095156

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets		
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	
(3) Other	1b(3)	
c General investments:		
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	2652887
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	96813491
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	62423570
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	28691943
(15) Other	1c(15)	2790506
		107061209
		64320138
		33676545

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	190581891	207848398
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	190581891	207848398

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	9208464	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	9211578	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	663378	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		19083420
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	186051	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)	752066	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		938117
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	3698568	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		3698568
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		11491172
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		3553050
c Other income	2c		257571
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		39021898

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	21563694	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		21563694
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		15231
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	23988	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	74409	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)	16500	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	55963	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	5606	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		176466
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		21755391

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		17266507
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: LUTZ

(2) EIN: 47-0625816

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	X		
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	X		

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>TAX-FAVORED SAVINGS PROGRAM</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>47-0095156</u>	

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....

1		0
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2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
EIN(s): 20-3691708 22-1211670

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....

3	
---	--

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?..... Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?..... Yes No N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?..... Yes No N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box..... Increase Decrease Both No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... Yes No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?..... Yes No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)..... Yes No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?..... Yes No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation: _____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 11 / 14 / 2022 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702518A.

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska
Tax-Favored Savings Program**

Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report

December 31, 2024 and 2023



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

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Note: Schedules required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 that have not been included herein are not applicable.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program
Omaha, Nebraska

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institutions).

Management has obtained certifications from qualified institutions as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by qualified institutions agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by institutions that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certifications, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audits, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audits.

Other Matter – Supplementary Information Required by ERISA

The supplementary information as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplementary information, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplementary information that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplementary information, we evaluated whether the supplementary information, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplementary information, other than the information in the supplementary information that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplementary information related to assets held by and certified by qualified institutions agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by institutions that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Lutz & Company, P.C.

October 6, 2025

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Investments at Fair Value	\$ 171,381,347	\$ 159,237,061
Investments at Contract Value	33,676,545	28,691,943
<hr/> Total Investments	<hr/> 205,057,892	<hr/> 187,929,004
Notes Receivable from Participants	2,790,506	2,652,887
<hr/> NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<hr/> \$ 207,848,398	<hr/> \$ 190,581,891

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO		
Investment Income		
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	\$ 15,301,793	\$ 23,044,454
Interest and Dividends from Investments	4,450,634	2,290,103
Total Investment Income	19,752,427	25,334,557
Interest Income on Notes Receivable from Participants	186,051	152,234
Contributions		
Employer	9,208,464	8,738,532
Participant	9,211,578	8,750,827
Rollover	663,378	647,576
Total Contributions	19,083,420	18,136,935
Total Additions	39,021,898	43,623,726
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO		
Benefits Paid Directly to Participants	21,578,925	15,116,268
Administrative Expenses	176,466	167,743
Total Deductions	21,755,391	15,284,011
NET INCREASE	17,266,507	28,339,715
Net Assets Available for Benefits, Beginning of Year	190,581,891	162,242,176
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	\$ 207,848,398	\$ 190,581,891

See Notes to Financial Statements.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

1. Plan Description

The following brief description of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Plan was established to provide retirement benefits for the employees of Blue and Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska and its subsidiaries (the Company).

Employees are eligible to make salary deferral contributions and receive Company safe harbor matching contributions after attaining age 18 and are eligible to receive a supplemental Company contribution after completing six months of service.

Contributions

Participants may contribute up to 90% of pre-tax annual compensation as defined by the Plan, up to the maximum dollar limits allowable by law. The Plan also allows participants to designate a portion or all of their elected salary deferral contributions as designated after-tax Roth contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. Participants are automatically enrolled with an initial 6% salary deferral contribution. At any time, a participant can elect not to contribute or may increase or decrease his or her deferral rate to any rate allowed under Plan provisions. Participant pre-tax deferral contributions will increase by 1% per year up to a maximum of 6% (10% effective January 1, 2025) of eligible compensation. The Company is required to make a "safe harbor" matching contribution to the Plan. Company safe harbor matching contributions are equal to 100% of the participant's elective deferral up to 6% of eligible compensation. Supplemental Company contributions are made based on employer discretion. All participants who are eligible to make deferral contributions and who are projected to attain age 50 before the close of the calendar year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and an allocation of a) Company safe harbor matching contributions, b) supplemental Company contributions and c) Plan earnings and losses. The Company's safe harbor matching contributions are allocated among participants based upon each participant's elected salary deferral. The supplemental Company contributions are allocated based on eligible compensation of eligible participants. Plan earnings or losses are allocated on the basis of actual results of the investments selected by each participant. Investments are maintained in individual member accounts managed by Empower Annuity Insurance Company and Empower Trust Company, LLC, formerly Prudential Bank & Trust, F.S.B. (collectively, Empower).

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions and Company's safe harbor matching contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the supplemental Company contributions credited to participants' accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100% vested after three years of credited service.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 reduced by the excess, if any, of their highest outstanding balance of notes from the Plan during the one-year period ending on the day before the date of the new note over their current outstanding balance of notes as of the date of the new note, or 50% of their vested account balance. The notes are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates which are commensurate with local prevailing rates. The terms of the notes are limited to five years, unless the loan is for the purchase of a primary residence, in which case a longer term may be permitted. Principal and interest payments must be made through payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits

Upon retirement, termination, disability, or death, the participant or beneficiary may elect to receive either a lump-sum, partial or installment payments equal to the value of the vested funds allocated to the participant's account. The Plan requires that distribution payments between \$1,000 and \$5,000 (\$7,000 effective January 1, 2025) be directly rolled over to an individual retirement account designated by the plan administrator in the event the participant does not elect otherwise. Distributions under \$1,000 will be paid out to the participant in the event the participant does not elect a payout option. Participants may also receive in-service and hardship distributions, as permitted in the Plan document. Benefits are recorded when paid.

Forfeitures

Upon a participant's termination of employment before normal retirement, disability or death, the portion of the Company's contributions not then vested shall be forfeited. The forfeited portion of any participant's account will be used to reduce future Company contributions or to pay Plan expenses. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled \$152,370 and \$122,285, respectively. During 2024 and 2023, \$201,337 and \$130,000, respectively, of forfeitures were used to reduce Company contributions.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A summary of the significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements is set forth below.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis and in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Presentation of Participant-Directed Funds

The Plan's presentation of participant-directed investments is in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 962, *Plan Accounting – Defined Contribution Pension Plans*.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Company determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors and custodian. See Note 4 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

Fully benefit-responsive investment contracts are reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined-contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Company invests in investment contracts through a guaranteed income fund.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Other

All fees and expenses of the custodian which are incurred in connection with the Plan are paid by the Plan and recorded in administrative expenses. Other certain expenses specifically incurred by or attributable to individual participants are paid from the applicable participants' accounts. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments. Audit, legal, and investment management and consulting fees are paid by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2023 presentation to conform to the 2024 presentation.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events are events or transactions that occur after the statement of net assets available for benefits date, but before the financial statements are available to be issued and may require potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan and Plan Sponsor have considered such events or transactions through October 6, 2025. See the "Contributions" and the "Payment of Benefits" sections of Note 1 for a description of subsequent events.

3. Information Certified by Empower

The plan administrator has elected the method of compliance as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, the plan administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to the following information certified by Empower, the custodian of the Plan, except for comparing such information certified by the custodian to information included in the Plan's financial statements and supplementary information.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

The following table presents the value of the participant-directed Plan assets in this Plan that were certified by Empower as of December 31:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Investments at Fair Value	\$ 171,381,347	\$ 159,237,061
Investments at Contract Value	33,676,545	28,691,943
Total Investments	<u>\$ 205,057,892</u>	<u>\$ 187,929,004</u>
Notes Receivable from Participants	<u>\$ 2,790,506</u>	<u>\$ 2,652,887</u>

Empower has certified to the completeness and accuracy of the following related to the aforementioned Plan assets for the years ended December 31:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments	\$ 15,301,793	\$ 23,044,454
Interest and Dividends from Investments	4,450,634	2,290,103
Total Investment Income	<u>\$ 19,752,427</u>	<u>\$ 25,334,557</u>
Interest Income on Notes Receivable from Participants	<u>\$ 186,051</u>	<u>\$ 152,234</u>

4. Fair Value Measurements

FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described below:

- Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:
- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
 - Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
 - Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
-

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset’s or liability’s fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023, except for applying the net asset value (NAV) practical expedient to certain 2024 and 2023 balances.

Mutual Funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Pooled Separate Accounts: Valued at the NAV based on the market value of its underlying investments. FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, allows NAV per unit to serve as a practical expedient to estimate the fair value as long as certain requirements are met. It is the Plan’s assessment that these accounts meet those requirements. Participants can redeem the accounts at NAV as of the measurement date on a daily basis and there are no unfunded commitments as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. The NAV is the basis for current transactions and the accounts can be redeemed at NAV as of the measurement date.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table presents by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan’s investments at fair value as of December 31, 2024:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual Funds	\$ 64,320,138	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,320,138
Pooled Separate Accounts*	-	-	-	107,061,209
Total Investments				
at Fair Value	\$ 64,320,138	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 171,381,347

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

The following table presents by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan’s investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mutual Funds	\$ 62,423,570	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62,423,570
Pooled Separate Accounts*	-	-	-	96,813,491
Total Investments				159,237,061
at Fair Value	<u>\$ 62,423,570</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 159,237,061</u>

*Investments measured at fair value using NAV per unit (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in the hierarchy tables for such investments are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the investments at fair value line item presented in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits.

5. Investment Contract with Insurance Company

The Plan has entered into an investment contract with Empower. Empower maintains the contributions in a guaranteed income fund and pooled separate accounts. The accounts are credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses charged by Empower.

The pooled separate accounts as reported by Empower are included in the financial statements at fair value, which represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less withdrawals and administrative expenses.

As the guaranteed income fund is fully benefit-responsive, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits attributable to the guaranteed income fund. Contract value, as reported to the Plan by Empower, represents contributions made under the account, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value. Crediting rates are a guaranteed rate determined every six months subject to a minimum crediting rate. For the years ending December 31, 2024 and 2023, the crediting rate was 2.35% and 2.20%, respectively.

The Plan’s ability to receive amounts due in accordance with fully benefit-responsive contracts is dependent on the third-party issuer’s ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer’s ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic developments. No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuers and that also would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

6. Tax Status

The Plan is qualified as a profit sharing plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2021.

7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue their contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested. Distributions to participants of the account balances would be made as soon as practicable after the termination date.

8. Related Party Transactions

At December 31, 2024 and 2023, certain Plan investments are mutual funds, pooled separate accounts, and a guaranteed income fund managed by Empower. Empower is the custodian of the Plan; therefore, transactions with Empower qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

9. Change in Custodian to Empower

During April 2022, Empower acquired certain Prudential entities who previously were the custodians and record-keeper of the Plan. In February 2024, Plan assets migrated from Prudential to Empower's record-keeping platform. The migration initiated a "black-out" period beginning February 1, 2024 and continued through February 6, 2024. During this period, funds could not be applied to the employee-selected funds with Empower or withdrawn from the Plan until the migration was complete. The Plan's investments options did not change during this period, however.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) – Schedule H – Item 4i

Year Ended December 31, 2024

Employer Identification Number 47-0095156
Plan Number 002

	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
<u>EMPOWER TRUST COMPANY, LLC</u>			
MFS Value Fund	Mutual Fund	**	\$ 22,996,766
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	11,912,667
* PGIM Global Total Return Fund	Mutual Fund	**	7,994,082
Nationwide Geneva Small Cap Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	**	7,071,914
Massmutual Sel Mid Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	**	6,703,165
Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral Fund	Mutual Fund	**	2,524,675
Vanguard Small Cap Index Admiral Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,984,304
Vanguard Total Stock Admiral Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,775,014
Pioneer Strategic Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	380,531
DFA Real Estate Securities Fund	Mutual Fund	**	320,672
JP Morgan Emerging Markets Equity Fund	Mutual Fund	**	268,143
Invesco International Small-Mid Company Fund	Mutual Fund	**	263,330
DFA Real Estate Securities Fund	Mutual Fund	**	124,875
* Notes Receivable from Participants	4.25% to 9.50%	**	2,790,506
<u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY</u>			
Capital Group EuroPacific Growth Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	37,641,445
* Guaranteed Income Fund	Guaranteed Income Fund	**	33,676,545
* PGIM Core Plus Bond Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	26,596,546
T. Rowe Price Institutional Large Cap Growth Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	25,531,945
American Century Mid-Cap Value Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	8,937,264
Victory Sycamore Small Company Opportunity Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	8,354,009
Total Investment Assets			\$ 207,848,398

*Indicates party-in-interest

**Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Tax-Favored Savings Program

Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) – Schedule H – Item 4i

Year Ended December 31, 2024

Employer Identification Number 47-0095156
Plan Number 002

	<u>Description of Investment</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Current Value</u>
<u>EMPOWER TRUST COMPANY, LLC</u>			
MFS Value Fund	Mutual Fund	**	\$ 22,996,766
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund	Mutual Fund	**	11,912,667
* PGIM Global Total Return Fund	Mutual Fund	**	7,994,082
Nationwide Geneva Small Cap Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	**	7,071,914
Massmutual Sel Mid Growth Fund	Mutual Fund	**	6,703,165
Vanguard Mid Cap Index Admiral Fund	Mutual Fund	**	2,524,675
Vanguard Small Cap Index Admiral Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,984,304
Vanguard Total Stock Admiral Fund	Mutual Fund	**	1,775,014
Pioneer Strategic Income Fund	Mutual Fund	**	380,531
DFA Real Estate Securities Fund	Mutual Fund	**	320,672
JP Morgan Emerging Markets Equity Fund	Mutual Fund	**	268,143
Invesco International Small-Mid Company Fund	Mutual Fund	**	263,330
DFA Real Estate Securities Fund	Mutual Fund	**	124,875
* Notes Receivable from Participants	4.25% to 9.50%	**	2,790,506
<u>EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY</u>			
Capital Group EuroPacific Growth Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	37,641,445
* Guaranteed Income Fund	Guaranteed Income Fund	**	33,676,545
* PGIM Core Plus Bond Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	26,596,546
T. Rowe Price Institutional Large Cap Growth Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	25,531,945
American Century Mid-Cap Value Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	8,937,264
Victory Sycamore Small Company Opportunity Fund	Pooled Separate Account	**	8,354,009
Total Investment Assets			\$ 207,848,398

*Indicates party-in-interest

**Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.