

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. C-5069/PI-226
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, to implement) ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND
LB 641 [2019].) SEEKING COMMENT
)
) Entered: August 6, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 29, 2019, the Governor signed Legislative Bill 641 into law ("LB 641"). LB 641 requires the Commission to award a grant annually to a 211 Information and Referral Network, which submits an application and meets the requirements set forth in statute. The amount of each grant shall be three hundred thousand dollars.

To be eligible for the grant, the 211 Information and Referral Network shall:

1. Update the information and referral services on the network at least annually;
2. Geographically index the services to provide information on a county-by-county basis; and,
3. Be accredited as meeting the standards for service delivery and quality by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems or a similar organization.

The grant may be used to establish a web site which includes links to providers of health and human services, the name, address, and telephone number of any organization listed on the web site, a description of the type of services provided by the organization listed on the web site, and other information to educate the public about the health and human services available on a geographic basis. The grant may also be used to provide access to the network twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, through telephone access and web site access.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens this proceeding as the vehicle to implement the provisions of LB 641. The Commission seeks comment on the following:

Issues for Public Comment:

1. How should the Commission structure the grant application process?
2. Should the Commission develop a specific application form and if so, what should be included?

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3. What should the timing of the grant application window be?
4. How long should the Commission keep the grant application window open?
5. What procedural requirements should be in place to make sure grant applications are open, transparent and fairly considered?
6. By what date should the Commission decide on the grant award?
7. What considerations should the Commission take into account other than the specific requirements in the statute?
 - a. For example, the Commission was notified¹ that Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-7606 specifically prohibits the use of funds from Nebraska's Health Care Cash Fund (HCCF) for abortion referrals. How should the Commission structure the grant to ensure compliance with § 71-7606.
 - b. Are there any other restrictions on the HCCF that the Commission needs to consider?
8. What should the ongoing grant report requirements look like?

Comment Deadline and Procedure

Comments responsive to the questions and issues set forth above and any other issue germane to this proceeding should be filed by interested parties on or before **September 10, 2019**. Interested parties should file one (1) original paper copy and one (1) electronic copy in Word or PDF format to Cullen.Robbins@nebraska.gov and Susan.Horn@nebraska.gov.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the questions and issues set forth above be and they are hereby open for public comment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that comments responsive to this Order may be filed on or before **September 10, 2019** in the manner prescribed above.

¹ See the July 17, 2019 letter from the Administrator of the Nebraska State Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services to the Commission's Executive Director.

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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 6th day
of August, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Cynthia L. Linder

Mary Riddell

Chair

Don W. Wenzel

ATTEST:

Jim Schram

Michelle H. H. H.

Executive Director