

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska)	Application No. NUSF-92.49
Public Service Commission, on)	
its own motion, seeking to)	
administer the Nebraska)	
Universal Service Fund's)	AMENDED APPLICATION
Broadband Program: Application)	GRANTED
to the Nebraska Broadband)	
Program received from Allo)	
Communications, LLC and Lincoln)	
Public Schools.)	Entered: February 19, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Application filed January 7, Allo Communications, LLC (Allo) and Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) (collectively referred to as the joint applicants) seek to modify the authorization granting Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) support for a broadband adoption grant in the amount of \$150,000. Notice of this application appeared in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska on January 13, 2020. No protests or petitions of formal intervention were filed by any other interested party; accordingly, the Commission processes this Amended Application pursuant to its rule of Modified Procedure.

Description of the Proposed Project as Modified:

By Order entered on August 30, 2016, the Commission authorized broadband adoption grant support in the amount of up to \$150,000 to Allo and LPS. The support was intended to be used in a pilot project designed to assist low-income, high need families with students attending LPS to obtain affordable access to broadband services in their homes.

Allo is a competitive local exchange and interexchange carrier of telecommunications services within the state of Nebraska. Allo has been designated as a Nebraska eligible telecommunications carrier (NETC). In 2015, the Lincoln City Council approved several multi-year agreements with Allo, including a broadband franchise and lease of the City's conduit infrastructure, allowing Allo to place fiber in the conduit. As a result of these agreements, Allo states that it will provide high-speed internet with speeds of up to 1 gigabit as well as digital television and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service.

LPS is the second largest public school district in Nebraska. During the 2015-2016 school year, LPS served almost 40,000 students throughout the district. In 2015, the Lincoln Board of Education approved the LPS Technology Implementation Plan. Students in grades 3-12 have begun to receive individual Chromebooks over a three year

period. LPS has advised Allo of its desire to find effective ways to ensure that all children receiving Chromebooks from LPS can effectively utilize these devices through access to affordable broadband services in their family home. Further, the in-home service will provide portability around the house, and perhaps in outside areas surrounding the house, without being tethered to a landline. Allo hopes to develop even greater service portability capability as its network is deployed and refined.

Allo and LPS jointly state they wish to help assist low-income, high-need families in their efforts to obtain affordable access to broadband services in their homes, which will further allow LPS students to increase their educational and employment opportunities.

In the Original Application, the pilot project was designed to target children attending LPS whose family income qualified them for the National School Free Lunch Program (Free Lunch Program) and who had received or were eligible to receive digital hardware from LPS (Qualified Subscriber). The Commission's August 30, 2016 Order approved the pilot project as filed. However, on December 1, 2016, following the entry of the Commission's Order, changes adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) became effective which removed the Free Lunch Program from the eligibility criteria for the federal Lifeline support program. Therefore, a family's eligibility for the Free Lunch Program could no longer be used as an eligibility criterion to become a Qualified Subscriber.

In the Amended Application filed on January 7, 2020, the joint applicants request broadband adoption support for families (i) which qualify for the federal Lifeline Program, as those eligibility criteria may hereafter be authorized by applicable FCC Orders, and (ii) who have one or more children currently attending LPS who have or will receive digital hardware from LPS and have been deemed as Qualified Subscribers. Allo states it will independently utilize available subscriber verification systems employed and authorized by the FCC to verify the Lifeline eligibility of a Qualified Subscriber under the pilot project. As LPS is prohibited from providing to Allo confidential information concerning a student or a student's family, including but not limited to financial information, LPS will coordinate with Allo in the Pilot Project to the extent that it can legally do so without disclosing confidential student information.

Allo has also decided to raise its broadband service speed to 25/25 Mbps in order to satisfy the minimum broadband speed threshold of 25/3 Mbps established by the FCC and adopted by the Commission for support from the NUSF.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Based upon the information provided in the application, the Commission finds that circumstances beyond the joint applicants' control made the original parameters of the pilot project unworkable. The amended application meets the original goal of the pilot project, which was to provide affordable access to broadband service for low-income and high-need families, and therefore increase broadband adoption. The Commission finds the amended application is consistent with state and federal law. Further, the Commission continues to find that approval of broadband pilot program support for this purpose is in the public interest. Accordingly, the Commission approves support for the proposed project in an amount up to **\$150,000.00 or the actual cost** of the project whichever amount is lower. The joint applicants shall submit detailed and accurate invoices and other documentation required by the Department prior to reimbursement for the supported project(s).

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the application as modified in the filing dated January 7, 2020 be, and it is hereby granted as provided herein.

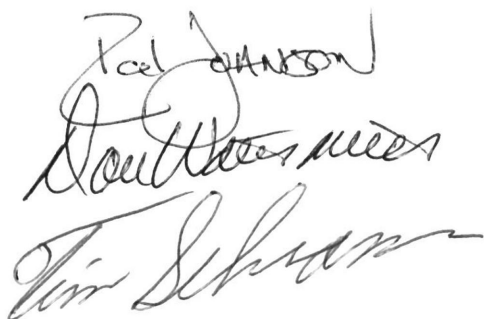
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant shall submit detailed and accurate invoices and other documentation required by the Department prior to reimbursement for the supported project(s).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Applicant shall use Nebraska Broadband Program support only for the purposes described in its application and authorized by the Commission.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 19th day of February, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



Mary Rudi
Chair

ATTEST:

Michael H. 1420
Executive Director