

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	Application No. C-5069/PI-226
Nebraska Public Service)	
Commission, on its own)	ORDER OPENING APPLICATION
motion, to implement LB 641)	WINDOW
[2019].)	
)	Entered: October 6, 2020

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 (\$300,000). On August 6, 2019, the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") opened this proceeding as the vehicle to implement the provisions of LB 641.

According to LB 641, in order to be eligible for the grant, the 211 Information and Referral Network applicant 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 support 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.

On November 5, 2019 the Commission established the grant criteria and opened the grant window. We concluded that applicants should be required to complete and submit an application to the Commission. We again find that applicants should be required to

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complete and submit an application to the Commission using Exhibit "A", which is attached hereto and fully incorporated herein. All requirements outlined in the attached application must be met in order for grant funding to be awarded.

We further find that as a condition precedent to any grant consideration, an applicant must answer the following questions in the application:

- (a) Whether any funds appropriated or distributed through this grant will be used for abortion, abortion counseling;
- (b) Whether any funds appropriated or distributed through this grant will be used for referrals for abortion; or
- (c) Whether any funds appropriated or distributed through this grant will be used for research or activity of any kind involving the use of human fetal tissue obtained in connection with the performance of an induced abortion or involving the use of human embryonic stem cells or for the purpose of obtaining other funding for such use.

Finally, each applicant will be required to certify compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-7606 in the grant application and the awardee must certify compliance on an annual basis in its report.

Grant Window

The Commission finds that the grant window shall open on October 6, 2020. All applications should be submitted to the Commission in the manner prescribed below. Any confidential information shall be clearly marked. If confidential information is contained within the application, the applicant shall file one redacted version of the application with the confidential information removed. Applicants should file one (1) original paper copy and (1) electronic copy in Word or PDF format with Cullen.robby@nebraska.gov and susan.horn@nebraska.gov, and/or mailed to the PSC at: ATTN: Telecommunications/NUSF Department; 300 The Atrium; 1200 N Street; Lincoln, NE 68508.

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The application window will close on December 1, 2020. All applications must be received by the Commission prior to 5:00 p.m. central time on this date.

O R D E R



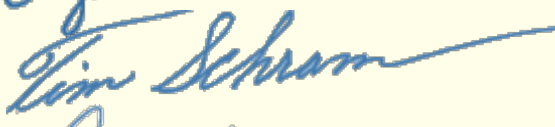

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the window for grant applications shall be and it is hereby open commencing October 6, 2020. All applications must be filed prior to 5:00 p.m. central time, on or before December 1, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that applicants must provide the Commission with all information requested in Exhibit A, attached to this Order and incorporated herein, in order to be considered eligible for the grant.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 6th day of October, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



Chair

ATTEST:



Executive Director

EXHIBIT A

211 Information and Referral Network Application

During the 2019 Legislative session, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 641, and the Governor signed the bill into law on May 29, 2019. LB 641 provided for a grant process to develop and maintain a 211 Information and Referral Network. As outlined in Chapter 75, Section 1101 (3), in order to be eligible for the grant, the applicant must:

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. Shall be accredited as meeting the standards for service delivery and quality by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems or a similar organization

2020/2021 Grant Schedule

- **October 6, 2020 – Application window opens. All applications should be submitted to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) Contact as outlined below**
 - **December 1, 2020 – Application window closes. All applications must be received by the Commission prior to COB on this date.**
 - **January 5, 2021 – Grant award announced.**
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Applicant must provide **all of the following** in their application in order to be considered:

1. Timeline for development of the 211 Information and Referral Network ("Network")
2. Proposed budget for development and maintenance of the Network
3. Description of relevant expertise in managing any prior resources similar to the Network

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4. Description of methodology and frequency for updating information on the Network
5. Description of methodology for geographically indexing services by county
6. Description and any relevant documentation of accreditation to meet standards for service delivery and quality
7. Description of the resources that will be available on the Network
8. Will the network be available for use throughout the state?
9. Describe the other resources that will be made available by the applicant
 - a. Will a helpline be available? If so, what hours will the helpline operate?
 - b. Will language assistance be available for non-English speaking users?
 - c. What outreach will the applicant undergo to promote use of the Network?
 - d. Describe measures used to make the Network ADA compliant
10. Will the applicant utilize other outside funding sources for development of the Network?
11. In order to receive a grant funded through Nebraska's Health Care Cash Fund (HCCF), Applicant must provide attestation that the Network complies with Nebraska Revised Statute Chapter 71, Section 7606(3).
12. The PSC will require ongoing reports to be made available at least annually. The report should include at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Number of Calls, Texts, and Referrals provided in the previous year, indexed by geography
 - b. Analysis and Description of relevant trends
 - c. List and Description of outside entities/partners that were utilized in providing the Network
 - d. Description of updates made to the Network over the preceding year
 - e. Summary of outreach efforts made over the preceding year
 - f. Summary of feedback regarding customer satisfaction and quality assurance
 - g. Statement of compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-7606(3).

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