

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska ) Application No. NUSF-92  
Public Service Commission, on ) Progression Order No. 10  
its Own Motion, to Administer )  
the Nebraska Universal Service ) ORDER EXTENDING PROGRAM  
Fund Broadband Program. ) WINDOW  
)  
) Entered: November 4, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On March 24, 2020, the Commission issued a Progression Order in the above-captioned docket to provide additional assistance for connecting low-income subscribers to broadband in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Historically, the Commission has made support available through its Broadband Adoption program for pilot projects finding that universal service support should be used to assist low-income subscribers in obtaining affordable access to broadband services in their homes. The Commission allocated \$1 million for reimbursement of broadband adoption projects designed to provide free or reduced broadband services to low-income consumers where needed to facilitate online learning. On May 5, 2020, the Commission modified its criteria in response to a request by the Rural Independent Companies (RIC). On October 20, 2020, the Commission approved reimbursements to carriers totaling \$204,911.84 which provided support to roughly 2,000 consumers. According to the Commission's March 24<sup>th</sup> Order, the support window for this pilot program ran from March through the end of May.

The Commission finds that Nebraska consumers continue to face the same challenges as they did last March, which includes maintaining access to affordable broadband services to facilitate online learning. Accordingly, we find that our pilot program support should continue to be available. We hereby extend this program so that it includes services provided between August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Carriers seeking reimbursement for this extended time period may file funding requests consistent with the parameters of the program adopted in its March 24, 2020 Order as modified on May 5, 2020. This would include reimbursement for WiFi hotspots. The deadline for filing those requests shall be January 29, 2021.

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Application No. NUSF-92,  
Progression Order No. 10

Page 2

The Commission will continue to evaluate the program following the August to December 2020 time period, and may continue the program into 2021.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the pilot program established in this docket be extended as provided herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the pilot program be extended from August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Requests for reimbursement are due no later than January 29, 2021.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 4th day of November, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

  
  
  


  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director