

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public) Application No. C-1304
Service Commission on its own motion)
to consider whether to modify the) GRANTED AND INCOME
income guidelines for participation) GUIDELINES SET
in the Link-Up Nebraska program and)
the Nebraska Relay Equipment program.) Entered: April 23, 1996

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

The Commission opened this docket March 8, 1996 to consider adjusting the Link-Up Nebraska and Nebraska Relay Equipment guidelines previously established in Application No. C-1157. Notice of the application was published in the Omaha Daily Record on March 14, 1996 and was sent by first class mail, March 21, 1996 to all local exchange carriers, the Omaha Daily Record, the Lincoln Journal/Star, the Nebraska Department of Social Services, the United States Social Security Administration, the Nebraska Department of Aging, the Lincoln Information for the Elderly, the Nebraska Telephone Association, the Lincoln Action Program and the Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired. No one protested the application and therefore, it will be processed by modified procedure (see Title 291, NAC Ch. 1, Rule 018.03).

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

Being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds:

Link-Up Nebraska was instituted by a Commission Order in Application No. C-747 (1988). Link-Up Nebraska is a part of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) Link-Up America program which helps individuals obtain basic local telephone service. The program waives one-half of the customer's installation charge, up to thirty dollars (\$30), if the customer meets certain guidelines.

The Nebraska Relay Equipment Program was instituted pursuant to the Commission Order entered in Application No. C-1239 (1996). The Relay Equipment Program was established by the Legislature in 1995 to assist low-income, hearing-impaired individuals obtain specialized telecommunications equipment, such as TDD's and amplifiers.

One of the guidelines for participation in these programs is based on household size and income. This guideline is annually changed based on figures released by the federal government's Office of Management and Budget, which is subsequently adjusted by the State of Nebraska.

Application No. C-1304

PAGE TWO

The proposed guidelines (as adjusted by the State of Nebraska) sets the following income levels:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$10,062
2	13,468
3	16,874
4	20,280
5	23,686
6	27,092
7	30,498
8	33,904
9	37,310
10	40,716

There were no objections offered to the Commission regarding the contents of this docket. We conclude that the public interest is best served through Nebraska's Link-Up program and the Nebraska Relay Equipment Program by matching the income guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget. Therefore, we adopt the adjusted figures listed in the table above as the income guidelines to be used in implementing the Link-Up program and the Nebraska Relay Equipment program.

The application is fair and reasonable, is in the public interest and should be granted as described above. The Link-Up Nebraska application and Nebraska Relay Equipment Program material should be modified to reflect the adoption of the new income figures.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the income figures previously discussed in this order be, and hereby are adopted and incorporated as the guideline for qualification for Link-Up Nebraska and Nebraska Relay Equipment program applicants.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all local exchange telephone companies hereafter use the household/income guidelines established in this Order in implementing the Link-Up Nebraska program for qualifying subscribers until the Commission makes further modification, if any, to said guidelines.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the application form for Link-Up Nebraska be redrafted to reflect the income changes made in this order. Each local exchange telephone company, as

Application No. C-1304

PAGE THREE


well as the advocacy agencies previously served notice of this docket, shall be sent a copy of the redrafted application form along with a copy of this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any materials used for the Nebraska Relay Equipment program reflecting income requirements be modified to reflect the guidelines adopted in this order.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 23rd day of April, 1996.


NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


//s//Rod Johnson
//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//James F. Munnelly
//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

Chairman

ATTEST:


Deputy Executive Director

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
