

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public) Application No. C-1503
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 29, 1997

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Commission on its own motion opened this docket March 12, 1997 to consider adjusting the Link-Up Nebraska and Nebraska Relay Equipment guidelines previously established in Application No. C-1239. Notice of the application was published in the Omaha Daily Record on March 13, 1997 and was sent by first class mail March 24, 1997 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; therefore, it will be processed by modified procedure (see Title 291, NAC Ch. 1, Rule 018.03).

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, if the customer meets certain guidelines.

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

The household size and income guideline for participation in these programs is annually changed based on figures released by the federal Office of Management and Budget adjusted for the State of Nebraska.

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

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$10,257
2	13,793
3	17,329
4	20,865
5	24,401
6	27,937
7	31,473
8	35,009
9	38,545
10	42,081

No objection was made to the Commission regarding the proposed guidelines. 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 Link-Up Nebraska application and Nebraska Relay Equipment Program material should be modified to reflect the adoption of the new standards.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the standards set forth in the forgoing findings be, and they are hereby, adopted and incorporated as the guidelines 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 further order of the Commission.

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

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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 29th day of April, 1997.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson

Chairman

Rod Johnson

ATTEST:

Anne C. Boyle

Robert R. Logsdon

Executive Director

//s//Rod Johnson

//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Daniel G. Urwiller

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
