

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public) Application No. C-1816
Service Commission on its own motion)
to consider whether to modify the) GRANTED AND INCOME
income guidelines for participation) GUIDELINES SET
in the Nebraska Equipment Distri-)
bution Program.) Entered: July 7, 1998

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Commission opened this docket May 22, 1998, to consider adjusting the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program guidelines previously established in Application No. C-1503. Notice of the application was published in the The Daily Record on May 26, 1998, and was sent by first class mail June 2, 1998, to all local exchange carriers, the Omaha World Herald, the Lincoln Journal Star, KOLN/KGIN television station, Health and Human Services - Finance and Support, Social Security Administration, Lincoln Information for the Elderly, Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Aliant, US West, the Nebraska Telephone Association, and the Lincoln Action Program. 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:

The Equipment Distribution Program was established by the Legislature in 1995 to assist low-income, hearing-impaired, speech-impaired, and deaf-blind individuals in obtaining specialized telecommunications equipment. On September 25, 1995, the Communications Department of the Nebraska Public Service Commission opened a docket to implement the Equipment Distribution Program in Nebraska. On December 12, 1995, the Commission established the Equipment Distribution Program pursuant to Commission order entered in Application No. C-1239.

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.

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

Income Guidelines According to
Percent of Credit Applied to Purchase Price

| Household size | 100% | 75% | 50% | 25% |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | \$10,465 | \$12,075 | \$16,100 | \$20,125 |
| 2 | 14,105 | 16,275 | 21,700 | 27,125 |
| 3 | 17,745 | 20,475 | 27,300 | 34,125 |
| 4 | 21,385 | 24,675 | 32,900 | 41,125 |
| 5 | 25,025 | 28,875 | 38,500 | 48,125 |
| 6 | 28,665 | 33,075 | 44,100 | 55,125 |

| | | | | |
|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 7 | 32,305 | 37,275 | 49,700 | 62,125 |
| 8 | 35,945 | 41,475 | 55,300 | 69,125 |
| 9 | 39,585 | 45,675 | 60,900 | 76,125 |
| 10 | 43,225 | 49,875 | 66,500 | 83,125 |

No objection was made regarding the proposed guidelines. We conclude that the public interest is best served through Nebraska's Equipment Distribution

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 the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program.

The Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program material should be modified to reflect the adoption of the new guidelines.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the guidelines set forth in the foregoing findings be, and they are hereby, adopted and incorporated as the guidelines for qualification in the Nebraska Equipment Distribution Program.

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

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 7th day of July, 1998.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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