

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. C-3206
on its own motion, to administer)
the Nebraska Internet)
Enhancement Fund.) ORDER ADOPTING GRANT
) DOCUMENTS AND FORMS AND
) GRANT SCHEDULE
)
) Entered: August 5, 2008

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened the above-captioned docket, on its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund (NIEF) established by the Legislature pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-579 through 86-580 (2006 Cum. Supp.). NIEF is to "be used to provide financial assistance to install and deliver broadband or other advanced telecommunications infrastructure and service throughout the state." Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-579 (2006 Cum. Supp.).

In furtherance of its statutory duty to "establish an application process through which any county or municipality in the state may apply for financial assistance from [the Fund]," the Commission staff, with the assistance of the NIEF Advisory Board¹, (Board) opened a grant application period in 2004 and 2006 and has awarded eight grants. The Commission staff, with the assistance of the Board has evaluated the grant process from the 2004 and 2006 grant periods and is prepared to recommend that another grant application period be opened. In furtherance of that goal, Commission staff and the Board has reviewed the grant documents including the Program Description and Grant Application Guidelines, Pre-Application Form, Application Form and Scoring Sheet and Grant Agreement. Copies of these documents are attached hereto as Exhibits A, B, C and D, respectively.

The NIEF Advisory Board recommends that the Commission approve and adopt them for use in administering the 2008 round of Grant Applications and Awards from the Fund.

The NIEF Advisory Board further recommends that the Commission adopt the following schedule for the grant application period:

¹ Established pursuant to Title 291 Chapter 5 of the Nebraska Administrative Code, Section 6.15.

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August 1, 2008: The Pre-Application period opens.

October 10, 2008: The Pre-Application period ends. All Pre-Applications must be submitted to the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m.

November 1, 2008: The Application period opens. Approved Pre-Applicants will be notified and asked to submit a full application.

January 15, 2009: The Application period ends. All Applications must be submitted to the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m.

The Advisory Board will then evaluate all Applications and submit its recommendation to the Commission as soon as possible. The Commission anticipates announcing the recipients of the grants in March 2009.

O R D E R

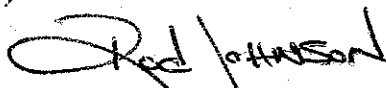
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Program Description and Grant Application Guidelines, Pre-Application Form, Application Form, Scoring Sheet and Grant Agreement are approved and adopted for use in administering the Fund for a 2008 round of Grant Applications and awards.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the schedule for the grant application period as described herein is adopted.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of August, 2008.

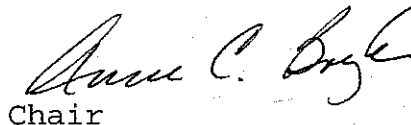
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s// Frank E. Landis

//s// Anne C. Boyle



Chair

ATTEST:



Executive Director