

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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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 ESTABLISHING GRANT  
  ) SCHEDULE  
  )  
  ) Entered: May 16, 2017  
  )

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 (Reissue of 2008). NIEF is to be used to "be used to provide financial assistance to install and deliver broadband or other advanced telecommunications infrastructure and service throughout the state."<sup>1</sup>

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],"<sup>2</sup> the Commission opened grant application periods in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2016, and has awarded fourteen grants. It was the Board's intention that two grants would be awarded in 2016. Only one grant was awarded. The Commission determined that another grant period be opened.

The Commission finds the grant documents adopted by the Commission in 2016 be utilized for the 2017 round of grant applications and awards from the Fund. These grant documents include: the Program description and Grant Application Guidelines, Pre-Application Form, Application Form and Scoring Sheet, and Grant Agreement.<sup>3</sup>

The Commission approves and adopts the following schedule for the 2017 grant application period:

May 16, 2017: The Pre-Application Period opens.

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<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-579 (Reissue of 2008).

<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-580 (Reissue of 2008).

<sup>3</sup> Application No. C-3206; *In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund, Order Adopting Grant Documents and Setting Grant Schedule*, (August 30, 2016).

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. C-3206

Page 2

June 9, 2017: The Pre-Application Period ends. All Pre-Applications must be submitted to the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m.

July 3, 2017: The Application Period opens. Approved Pre-Applications will be notified and asked to submit a full application.

September 15, 2017: The Application Period ends. All Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm.

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 before the end of 2017.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that a new grant application period be opened following the schedule outlined herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Grant Documents listed above and previously adopted by the Commission be utilized for the 2017 grant cycle.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Mary Ridd*  
*Crystal Goodrich*

//s//Frank E. Landis  
//s//Tim Schram

*Tim Schram*  
Chair

ATTEST:

*Jeffrey L. Peltz*

Executive Director