

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 ESTABLISHING GRANT
) SCHEDULE
)
) Entered: October 17, 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)*. The NIEF "shall be used to provide financial assistance to install and deliver broadband or other advanced telecommunications infrastructure and service throughout the state."¹

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],"² the Commission opened grant application periods in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2016, and 2017, 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. A grant period was opened and one party was invited to submit a full Application. No Application was received. The Commission accepts the recommendation of the Department and Advisory Board to open an additional grant period.

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.³

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

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-579 (Reissue of 2008).

² Neb. Rev. Stat. §86-580 (Reissue of 2008).

³ 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)*.

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October 17, 2017: The Pre-Application Period opens.

November 10, 2017: The Pre-Application Period ends. All Pre-Applications must be submitted to the Commission no later than 5:00 p.m.

December 11, 2017: The Application Period opens. Approved Pre-Applications will be notified and asked to submit a full application.

February 23, 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.

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 this grant cycle.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 17th day of October, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Mary Ridd
Frank E. Landis

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

Tim Schram
Chairman

ATTEST:

Michael J. ...
Executive Director