BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) Application No. NUSF-99.02
Nebraska Public Service	
Commission, on its own	
Motion, to administer the	
Universal Service Fund High-) GRANTED
Cost Program: Citizens)
Telecommunications Company	·)
of Nebraska Broadband Grant	
Requests 2016.) Entered: February 28 , 2017

BY THE COMMISSION:

By Application filed November 9, 2016, Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska (CTC-Nebraska) seeks high-cost support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). Notice of the application appeared in the Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska on November 15, 2016 and in the Franklin County Chronicle on November 16, 2016. No interventions or protests were filed; therefore the Commission processes this Application pursuant to its Rule of Modified Procedure.

The Applicant seeks support in the amount of one million one hundred sixteen thousand dollars (\$1,116,000) for the construction of facilities to increase transport capacity linking the exchanges of Republican City, Naponee, and Bloomington, with existing facilities in CTC-Nebraska's Alma and Franklin exchanges. The route uses both State Highway 136 and local county roads within the Alma exchange through the Republican City, Naponee, Bloomington, and Franklin exchanges with connections to each central office. The project will impact 250 households based on information from the 2010 Census Block data. The new fiber route will support a TDM SONET system and Ethernet equipment needed to support transport of broadband services. Additional expanded internet speeds and service offerings will include service at speeds up to 100 mbps and the ability to offer enhanced services to the Franklin County Courthouse, the county seat of Franklin County with direct access to this new fiber route.

CTC-Nebraska estimates the project will be completed within 210 days of application approval. If the project is approved, CTC-Nebraska will commit to providing broadband

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service to all households in the project area for a minimum of five years. CTC-Nebraska must first make the investment and then may file a request for reimbursement with the NTIPS Department. CTC-Nebraska does not need to complete the construction process prior to seeking reimbursement; rather, it may work with the NTIPS Department to develop intervals at which reimbursement can be sought. The NTIPS Department will reimburse CTC-Nebraska for improvement costs made relative to and as included in the application filed by the company for the projects approved in this Order. Once the investment is made, CTC-Nebraska shall file a request for support, provide the NTIPS Department with copies of the invoices and shall certify to the Department that it had made the described investment for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services in the described rural areas.

Reporting Requirements:

CTC-Nebraska shall file, on an annual basis, consistent with federally designated ETCs, the information required by the Commission's Telecommunications Rules pertaining to eligible telecommunications companies and the investment information required by the Commission's Order in Docket NUSF-66. The report should make clear to the Commission that CTC-Nebraska will not request reimbursement for equipment where grant money was also received from another source. CTC-Nebraska shall file its annual report on or before June 1 of each year.

In addition, the Applicant shall be required to complete the approved projects within two (2) years from the date of this Order unless good cause is shown for a later completion date.

Broadband Commitments:

The Commission maintains broadband availability data and updates that information on at least an annual basis. As a condition of this support, CTC-Nebraska must report broadband availability to the Commission upon request.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned application submitted

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by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska be and it is hereby approved as described herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Citizens Telecommunications Company of Nebraska shall be subject to all terms and conditions adopted in this Order.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 28th day of February, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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