

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	Application No. NUSF-99.29
Nebraska Public Service)	
Commission, on its own)	
Motion, to administer the)	GRANTED
Universal Service Fund High-)	
Cost Program: Windstream)	
Nebraska, Inc. Broadband)	
Grant Request.)	Entered: April 9, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

By Application filed November 13, 2018, Windstream Nebraska, Inc. (Windstream) seeks high-cost support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). Notice of the application appeared in The Daily Record, Omaha, Nebraska, on November 19, 2018. No protests or interventions were filed; accordingly, the Commission processes this application pursuant to its Rule of Modified Procedure.

Windstream seeks support in the amount of seventy-one thousand seventy-seven dollars (\$71,077.00) for installation of a new DSLAM to serve a portion of the Northeastern area of the Fairbury, Nebraska, ILEC Exchange. After the project is complete Windstream expects to provide broadband at speeds of up to 100 Mbps. The speeds will depend on the location of the subscriber. Windstream estimates that this project will result in at least 18 new broadband subscribers.

Windstream filed this application with one other project providing service upgrades affecting the Southeastern area of the Fairbury Exchange. In total, Windstream seeks \$266,827.00. The estimated cost of the project serving the Northeastern area of the Fairbury Exchange is \$71,077.00.

Windstream estimates the project will be completed within 150 days of application approval. If the project is approved, Windstream will commit to providing broadband service to all households in the project area for a minimum of five years.

The Commission staff conducted an analysis of the census blocks submitted and compared the information against the Connect America Fund Phase II eligible areas. The Commission

staff also reviewed the census block information and compared it to its wireline Broadband Mapping data, which uses FCC Form 477 deployment data collected by the FCC biannually. The Commission finds support should be granted as requested by Windstream.

Requests for Reimbursement:

Windstream must first make the investment and then may file a request for reimbursement with the NUSF Department. Windstream does not need to complete the construction process prior to seeking reimbursement; rather, it may work with the NUSF Department to develop intervals at which reimbursement can be sought. The NUSF Department will reimburse Windstream for capital 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, Windstream shall file a request for support, provide the NUSF Department with documentation consistent with Department policy 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:

Windstream shall file, on an annual basis, consistent with federally designated eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs), the information required by the Commission's Telecommunications Rules pertaining to ETCs and the investment information required by the Commission's Order in Docket NUSF-66. The report should make clear to the Commission that Windstream will not request reimbursement for equipment where grant money was also received from another source. Windstream 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, Windstream must report broadband

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availability to the Commission upon request. Windstream must also confirm that it will not seek duplicative support through the FCC's funding mechanisms.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned application submitted by Windstream be and it is hereby granted as described herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Windstream shall be subject to all terms and conditions adopted in this Order.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of April, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Many Reddis
Chair

ATTEST:

Phillip H. [Signature]
Executive Director

[Signature]
[Signature]
Tim Schram