

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	Application No. NUSF-99.37
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)	
Request.)	Entered: March 19, 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 January 4, 2019, 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 January 9, 2019 and in the Columbus Telegram on January 15, 2019. CTC-Nebraska filed this application with four other projects including service upgrades near Duncan, Edison, Heartwell and Wilsonville.

In its application, CTC-Nebraska seeks support in the amount of thirty-one thousand two hundred and eighty five dollars (\$31,285) for a fiber project which would extend the existing fiber system from Columbus Main Central Office to a remote cabinet. CTC-Nebraska would also use support for transport connectivity equipment upgrades, and for the installation of a new DSLAM at the remote. After the project is complete CTC-Nebraska expects to provide broadband at download speeds of up to 15 Mbps. The speeds CTC-Nebraska would be able to deliver would depend on the location of the subscriber. CTC-Nebraska estimates that this project will impact 59 households and businesses.

The estimated cost for the Columbus project is thirty-one thousand two hundred and eighty five dollars (\$31,285.00). CTC-Nebraska estimates the project will be completed within 12 months of application approval. If the project is approved, CTC-Nebraska 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 by CTC-Nebraska 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.

On February 7, 2019, Community Internet Systems, Inc. provided notice that it offers broadband service as a fixed wireless provider and a reseller of digital subscriber line service in certain listed areas. The information filed did not identify individual census blocks; rather 11 digits were provided, which only indicated the census block tracts where services could be provided. When the FCC Form 477 deployment data was analyzed, there was one census block reported by Community Internet Systems located within the project area, and the service reported was a fixed wireless service offered at speeds of 5/1.5 Mbps down/up respectively. Based upon past practice of the Commission, the Commission staff did not remove the one census block from the applicant's project area.¹

The Commission finds the Columbus project should be approved as requested. CTC-Nebraska must comply with the conditions set forth below.

Requests for Reimbursement:

CTC-Nebraska must first make the investment and then may file a request for reimbursement with the NUSF Department. CTC-Nebraska 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 CTC-Nebraska 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, CTC-Nebraska shall file a request for support, provide the NUSF Department with documentation consistent with Department policy and shall certify to the

¹ To date, the Commission has indicated that it would remove census blocks being served by a competitive wireline provider offering voice service, and areas where federal CAF II support has been targeted.

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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 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 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. CTC-Nebraska 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 CTC-Nebraska be and it is hereby granted as described herein.

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

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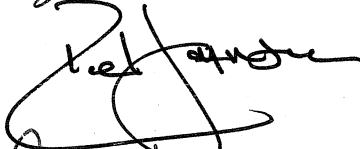


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ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this
19th day of March, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

 Chair





ATTEST:


Executive Director