

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) Application No. NUSF-99.39
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: April 2, 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, and the Holdrege Daily Citizen, Holdrege, Nebraska, on January 16, 2019. No protests or interventions were filed; accordingly, the Commission processes this application pursuant to its Rule of Modified Procedure.

CTC-Nebraska seeks support in the amount of five hundred fifty-seven thousand three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$557,385) for an inter-office fiber build from the Beaver City Central Office to the Edison Central Office, transport connectivity equipment upgrades, and installation of a new DSLAM in the Edison Central Office. After the project is complete CTC-Nebraska expects to provide broadband at speeds of up to 20 Mbps. The speeds will depend on the location of the subscriber. CTC-Nebraska estimates that this project will impact 134 households and businesses.

CTC-Nebraska filed this application with four other projects including service upgrades near Columbus, Duncan, Heartwell and Wilsonville. In total, CTC-Nebraska seeks \$2,355,904.00. The estimated cost of the Edison project is \$557,385.00.

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 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 CTC-Nebraska.

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 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.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 2nd day of April, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Crystal Knodes

Mary Reddel
Chair

Dee Johnson

ATTEST:

Michelle H. J.
Executive Director

Donna M. Mace
Tim Schram