

# Nebraska Public Service Commission

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May 10, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEBRASKA INTERNET ENHANCEMENT FUND GRANT PRE-APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED BEGINNING MAY 16

LINCOLN – A pre-application period for counties and municipalities wishing to apply for grants from the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund (NIEF) opens May 16.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission announced that beginning May 16, pre-applications will be accepted. Pre-applications are used by the Commission to determine whether potential projects meet the requirements for a NIEF grant.

NIEF, established in 2001 by the Nebraska Legislature, uses a share of the proceeds from public entities that lease dark fiber optics to fund grants for projects to install or deliver broadband or other advanced telecommunications products throughout the state, focusing on areas of the state that are unserved or underserved by such services. The standard amount awarded to successful grant applicants is \$50,000.

Pre-application forms and other information on the NIEF grant program may be obtained on the Commission's website at [www.psc.nebraska.gov](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov) or by contacting the Commission toll-free at 1-800-524-0017. Pre-applications will be accepted through August 16, 2011, with the formal application period beginning September 1. Pre-applications are required before an invitation to submit a formal application is issued.

A timeline recommended by an advisory board and approved by the Commission calls for final awards for the new grant period to be made in December 2011 or January 2012.

Previous grants have been awarded to the communities of Chappell, Elsie, Bushnell, Dix, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Nemaha, Banner, Harlan and Furnas Counties.

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