

Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program 2023 Scoring and Weighting Sheet

Criteria	Points Available	Y/N	Points	Reference Sheet Lookup
Financial Capability	N/A		N/A	A
Financial Capability - Points	10			
Legal Capability	N/A		N/A	B
Legal Capability - Points	10			
Technical Capability				C
Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Filings	0-10			
Website Offerings	0-5			
Dig. Inclusion Plan/Low-Income Offering	0-5			D
Rate Comparability				E
100/100+ Mbps Comparability	0-5			
Median Rate Comparison	0-5			
Rate Deductions	(-10)			
Speed Additive	0-10			F
Match Source	0-10			G
Match Percentage (50%) (If applicable)	0-30			H
Match Percentage (25%) (If applicable)	0-55			
Location Density	0-20			I
ETC Certification	0-5			J
PPP Participation	0-5			K
TOTAL	155		0	

Reference Sheet – Scoring Criteria

A – Financial Capability – (Yes/No), and up to 10 points

- In order to be considered for grant support, non-ETC applicants must submit financial statements that demonstrate overall financial viability. ETC applicants must have submitted financial statements to the Commission that demonstrate overall financial viability. This item will be scored as a Yes/No, where the lack of required financial information demonstrating financial capability (No) would disqualify the applicant from receiving a grant.
- Long-term viability of the project is a priority, and up to 10 scoring points will be available if a business plan is included that provides the required details about the project, cash flow projections, including a description of revenue and take rate assumption calculation, for a period of five years following completion of the project, and a description of how the proposed network will be maintained over the expected useful life of the facilities.

B – Legal Capability – (Yes/No), and up to 10 points

- Applicants are required to include contact information for their legal representation. Omission of this information will disqualify the applicant from grant consideration. Legal representative must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in Nebraska, or an attorney admitted to practice pro hac vice in Nebraska.
- If this information is included, applicant will be awarded up to 10 points, but deductions will be made if: applicant/carrier partner has late filed annual reports (-2 points), applicant/carrier partner has late-filed NUSF remittances (-2 points), applicant fails to identify legal challenges that are anticipated, such as local zoning, permitting, access to rights-of-way, etc. (-2 points).

C – Technical Capability – (Yes/No), and up to 15 points

- Applicants are required to include information with their application that demonstrates their technical ability to deploy and operate broadband Internet service at speeds of at least 100/100 Mbps. If this information is included, the application can be scored as follows:
- Broadband Data Collection (BDC) – Does the most recent publicly-available FCC Form 477 data demonstrate that the applicant offers 100/100 Mbps (or greater) service in Nebraska? If Yes, 10 points will be awarded. If no, 0 points will be awarded.
- Website Offerings – Does the applicant’s (or carrier partner’s) public-facing website clearly state that they offer services that meet the 100/100 Mbps or greater speed minimum? If yes, 5 points will be awarded. If no, 0 points will be awarded.

D – Digital Inclusion Plan – (Yes/No), and up to 5 points available

- Digital Inclusion Plans (DIP) are required for all applications. Applications submitted without a DIP will be disqualified from further consideration.
- Does the digital inclusion plan offer a discounted service plan to low-income subscribers that is below their standard rate and eligible to be discounted further with Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) discounts?
- Plan must be below \$50 per month prior to discounts being applied, or cost 25% less on a monthly basis than the carrier’s next lowest price plan, whichever is lower.

E – Rate Comparability – 10 points available

- Are the rates included in the application for 100Mbps/100Mbps or the next highest tier if applicant does not offer 100/100 Mbps comparable to what they offer in other areas they serve in Nebraska? If yes, 5 points will be awarded.
- Are the rates included in the application for 100Mbps/100Mbps service at or below \$65 per month? If yes, 5 points will be awarded. If no, 0 points will be awarded.
- Applications will receive score deductions for rate comparability as follows: Plans requiring long-term contracts (-2), plans throttling speeds after usage limits are reached (-2), plans with data caps (-2), plans with Early Termination Fees (-2), metered service or pay-as-you-go models (-2).

F – Speed Additive – Up to 10 points available

- Additional points will be awarded if applicant/carrier partner includes evidence that they plan to offer speeds in excess of the 100/100 Mbps minimum. These additional speed tiers must be available to customers at the time of application, and offerings have to meet both the upload and download speed minimums to be awarded points. Points will be awarded as follows:
 - o 100/100 Mbps only – 0 points
 - o 500/500 Mbps – 5 points
 - o 1 Gbps/1Gbps – 10 points

G – Match Source – Up to 10 points available

- Sources of match that are outside of existing federal or state broadband programs will be given additional points, as outlined here:
 - o NUSF High Cost – 0 points
 - o Federal Broadband Funds match – 5 points
 - o Applicant and/or carrier outside funds – 10 points
- See Program Guide for additional details

H – Match Percentage – Up to 30 points available for projects that include non high-cost areas, up to 55 points available for projects that cover high cost areas

- Non “high cost” project: If the applicant has sources of funds that make up more than the 50% requirement, one point will be awarded for each additional percentage point above 50%, up to a maximum of 30 points (80%).
- “High-cost” project: If the applicant has sources of funds that make up more than the 25% requirement, one point will be awarded for each additional percentage point above 25%, up to a maximum of 55 points (80%).

I – Location Density – Up to 20 points available

- Does the application serve low density areas of the state? If yes, up to 20 points will be awarded as follows:
 - o Less than or equal to 10 locations per square mile – 20 points
 - o More than 10 locations per square mile, but less than or equal to 20 locations per square mile – 12 points
 - o More than 20 locations per square mile, but less than or equal to 42 locations per square mile – 5 points

J – ETC Certification – Up to 5 points available

- If the applicant/carrier partner is an ETC at the time of application, 5 points will be awarded.
- If an ETC application is pending, 3 points will be awarded.
- If the applicant/carrier partner plans to file for ETC Certification within 30 days of the application deadline, 1 point will be awarded.
- If the applicant does not fall under an ETC certification category as listed above, 0 points will be awarded.

K – Public Private Partnership – 5 points available

- Does the applicant identify an eligible public/private partnership as part of the application? Eligibility is determined based on a documented contribution of a public partner. Documentation of the contribution commitment must be submitted with the application. The non-public partner in the PPP must be an ETC in the portions of Nebraska to be served by the project.