



**A digital inclusion plan must be attached for consideration. The plan must describe: (a) the applicant's process to consult with the community and consider affordability. (b) A description of how the project will meet the objective of providing a broadband infrastructure deployment within the project area to directly enable work, education, and healthcare monitoring; (c) Identify any critical needs of the community intended to be served by the project, and how the project will be tailored to meet those needs, including the carrier's efforts to ensure members of the community to be served will be able to afford the services offered and must describe any discounts and/or support programs to be offered for low-income individuals. (d) The plan should specify how the project will impact access to and use of information and communication technologies within the communities it serves, including individuals and communities that are the most disadvantaged. (e) The plan should include the pricing structure of the 100/100 Mbps plan being offered to low-income subscribers in addition to the availability of Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) discounts and any additional terms and conditions of service. (f) Include evidence of outreach efforts to relevant stakeholders (community leaders, community members, civic organizations, etc.) in the areas they are wishing to serve.**

**NOTE: To be eligible for scoring points, the digital inclusion plan must offer at least one low-income option for a discounted service offering at a minimum of 100/100 Mbps at a monthly cost of less than \$50 per month. The applicant must participate in federal broadband internet access subsidy programs such as Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and the low-income plan must be eligible to be discounted further within Lifeline and ACP discounts.**

The proposed fiber network will establish and accelerate the enhancement of broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved rural homes in the project area by providing reliable high-speed broadband service. Like most rural areas, the Northwest Kearney area has struggled with connectivity during and beyond the COVID-19 public healthcare emergency. Lack of access resulted in community members being unable to access job, healthcare, and educational resources.

During the pandemic, there was a significant demand for reliable, high-speed internet as the extended business and school shutdowns resulted in employees working from home and students engaging in virtual learning. Those who didn't have high-speed connections were unable to compete everyday tasks or schoolwork. A lack of access to reliable, high-speed, high-capacity internet in the area continues to negatively affect the residents in this project area.

ALLO's fiber network is critical to the viability of the community and its needs. The reliable high-speed connections will allow employees to telecommute from home, students to participate in remote learning, opportunities for current and future businesses, as well as provide improved health care processes and public safety options, among other benefits.

ALLO has been leading the effort for our communities to stay connected. ALLO's service has been in high demand for learning and working from home services with a specific need to reliable, high-speed internet (symmetrical download and upload speeds, low latency) as employees and students are video conferencing, uploading school assignments, and utilizing cloud storage.

Businesses have utilized ALLO services including hosted PBX, soft phones, and additional bandwidth solutions in order to support their businesses and employees.

Parents have been able to access telehealth services, such as video consultations, check-ups, remote monitoring, and digital scans.



ALLO's network has performed in a world-class fashion – just as it was designed.

ALLO creates positive change in the communities we serve. One of our greatest joys is witnessing customers finding new and exciting ways to utilize technology and move their communities forward.

ALLO leads in the education and awareness of a fiber network which improves utilization and affordability of technology. We work with governmental programs, local non-profits, national science groups, and other organizations to eliminate the digital divide. Education, healthcare, government, and other entities within the project area will also benefit from the fiber capabilities.

ALLO will be a visible part of the community through active participation with the chamber, civic organizations, and technology-focused organizations. Building a gigabit infrastructure is an important accomplishment; however, operating and utilizing the technology to the fullest extent is more impactful through adoption, education, and collaboration.

ALLO participates in the numerous educational events in each of communities, interacting with residents and business leaders and demonstrating the capabilities of our all-fiber network. Events include trade shows, innovation and broadband summits, open houses, exhibitions, and business showcases, as well as entertainment avenues such as concert series, sporting event tailgates, lawn and leisure shows, Parade of Homes showcases, and many others.

ALLO has utilized local, state, federal, and ALLO corporate programs to encourage the adoption of world-class communications through education and financial contributions.

#### [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\) \(Recently Defunded\)](#)

In 2021, the White House announced its initiative to make 100 Mbps internet free to all ACP participants. ALLO readily adopted ACP upon its rollout on December 31, 2021. We were excited to support this program and offered 100 Mbps service for qualifying ACP households.

ALLO was one of only 11 telecom companies invited to the White House to celebrate this announcement. Additionally, ALLO was among 20 telecom providers named by the White House as supporters of ACP.

The ACP program made reliable broadband a reality for those who have only had options for mediocre or no connectivity in the past. ALLO proudly supported the FCC in this effort as it closely aligns with our purpose to expand digital inclusion and make connectivity accessible and affordable for all.

ALLO offered free 100 Mbps internet to qualifying households through the FCC's ACP. This federal broadband program provided a \$30 month subsidy, which completely covered the cost of ALLO's new 100 Mbps service option for ACP participants.

Customers who met the program requirements received 100 Mbps internet free or could apply the \$30 monthly discount to any ALLO internet option. Other ALLO internet plans include 500 Mbps and 1 GIG symmetrical speeds.

Previously, ALLO supported the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit program and continues to promote the effort to expand broadband access through the ACP.

The FCC recently announced that due to lack of additional funding the funds for this program ended on May 31, 2024. ALLO is cautiously optimistic that the ACP program will be reinstated in the near future and is actively engaging with members of Congress to ensure that the program is extended.



In the interim, ALLO is offering current ACP subscribers that were receiving our \$39/month 100 Mbps internet speed an additional \$9 off their service through the end of 2024.

On May 31, 2024 the White House released a press release highlighting internet service providers offering affordable plans to former ACP recipients. ALLO was one of only 14 providers included in this announcement. We are proud to continue this commitment to bridge the digital divide and ensure our customers can continue to access affordable high-speed internet.

### Lifeline

ALLO participates in the Federal Lifeline telecom program, part of the Universal Service Fund, which provides economy broadband and voice services at a substantially reduced cost for qualified residents on government assistance. If the customer qualifies for the Lifeline program, ALLO is able to reduce the price of internet or phone for any of our current service plans.

A customer who qualifies for Lifeline was also eligible for ACP. If the previously confirmed ACP customer has internet only, they can apply both credits to any ALLO internet option (500 Mbps and 1 GIG symmetrical speeds), including the 100 Mbps \$39/month package. If the customer has both internet and phone, they can apply the Lifeline credit to the phone and a \$9 credit to the 100 Mbps \$39/month option.

Additional information about both of the above discounted service options and program requirements is located at [AlloFiber.com/ACP](https://AlloFiber.com/ACP).

### Community Outreach

One of ALLO's four values is to be "Local". To support this core value, community engagement is an important component of the ALLO fiber buildout process.

ALLO sent a community outreach email to Kearney City Manager Brenda Jensen on July 1 requesting support for the project.

A copy of the outreach email and resulting letter of support are attached as **Attachment M-1**.

With ALLO's existing presence in the City of Kearney, ALLO personnel will be available during the early stages of the project.