Nebraska Capital Projects Fund

Company: Skywave Wireless, Inc.

Project: Fremont East

Document: Attachment J

Digital Inclusion Plan

Work, Education, Healthcare

Skywave fiber internet is a type of high-speed internet connection that uses fiber-optic cables to transmit data. Compared to traditional copper wire connections and fixed wireless connections, fiber internet is capable of transmitting data at much higher speeds and with greater reliability. This technology has the potential to greatly improve the ability of communities to work better, access better education, and receive better healthcare monitoring.

In terms of **work**, Skywave's fiber internet enables faster and more reliable data transfer, which is crucial for businesses that need to transfer large files, collaborate in real-time, and run cloud-based applications. With fiber internet, employees can work from home with minimal disruption, as they can access company data and systems at the same speed as they would in the office. This flexibility can lead to better work-life balance and increased productivity for both employees and businesses.

Skywave's fiber internet can also greatly enhance **education**. With the increasing prevalence of online learning, students and educators need access to high-speed internet to support online coursework, research, and communication. Fiber internet can support high-quality video and audio streaming, which is essential for delivering engaging and interactive online classes. In addition, fiber internet can enable students to access educational resources and tools from anywhere, which can expand their learning opportunities and help level the playing field for students who may not have access to these resources otherwise.

Finally, Skywave's fiber internet can greatly improve **healthcare** monitoring. With the rise of telemedicine, patients can receive medical care from home, which can improve access to care, reduce costs, and reduce the risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Fiber internet can enable high-quality video conferencing and remote monitoring, which can allow doctors to monitor patients' vital signs and progress in real-time. This can lead to better outcomes and reduced hospitalizations, especially for patients with chronic conditions.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 public health emergency has highlighted many critical needs that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, including the need for improved access to remote work and education, as well as increased access to healthcare services. In response to these needs, the proposed project aims to address a critical need by implementing a comprehensive fiber internet infrastructure in the community, which will facilitate remote work, education, and healthcare services.

With the increase in remote work and online learning, reliable high-speed internet access has become an essential service for many individuals and businesses. However, many communities still lack adequate broadband infrastructure to support these services, resulting in disparities in access and opportunities. The proposed Skywave fiber internet

infrastructure will provide a more stable and faster connection, allowing individuals to work and learn from home with fewer disruptions. This will help to ensure that the community can continue to work and learn during periods of lockdowns or other disruptions.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the need for expanded access to healthcare services, particularly for remote or underserved populations. With the proposed fiber internet infrastructure, healthcare providers will have the ability to offer telemedicine services and remote patient monitoring. This will allow patients to receive care from the comfort of their homes, reducing the risk of exposure to infectious diseases and improving access to healthcare services for individuals who may otherwise face barriers to care.

Critical Needs

The critical needs of the community intended to be served by the project include improved access to reliable high-speed internet for remote work, online learning, and healthcare services. Additionally, the project aims to address the issue of affordability, ensuring that all members of the community can access these services regardless of their income level.

To meet these needs, the project will be tailored to provide fiber internet infrastructure with speeds capable of supporting remote work, education, and telemedicine services. Skywave will also offer a variety of service plans tailored to meet the different needs and budgets of community members. To ensure affordability, Skywave participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Disadvantaged

The project will have a significant impact on access to and use of information and communication technologies within the communities it serves, particularly for individuals and communities that are the most disadvantaged.

The project will provide access to digital resources for individuals and communities that are currently underserved or disadvantaged. With the availability of online resources, individuals and communities can access educational resources, job opportunities, and healthcare services regardless of their location or socioeconomic status. The use of information and communication technologies can also facilitate remote work, reducing barriers to employment for individuals who may have difficulty accessing traditional job opportunities.

Pricing Structure

The pricing structure of the 100/100 Mbps plan being offered to subscribers will be designed to be affordable and accessible. Skywave will be pricing the 100/100 Mbps plan at the current rate of $50 with no upfront cost or contract commitment.   For subscribers that qualify for the ACP discount, Skywave will offer any regularly available plan with a $5 discount. This price along with the Affordable Connectivity Program will allow those who qualify to receive 100/100 Mbps internet for the low price of $15 a month. This pricing structure aims at benefiting the most disadvantaged within the community.

Note: See Attachment M for evidence of community outreach.