BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act. Application No. C-5272

ORDER ISSUING ADDITIONAL GRANT AWARD

Entered: February 1, 2022

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 8, 2021, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) initiated this proceeding on its own motion to implement the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act (“the Act”) and administer the 2021 grant cycle of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (“NBBP”). In this docket, on January 4, 2022, the Commission entered an order issuing grant awards and the results of challenges.

Pursuant to the January 4 order in this docket, the Commission provided an opportunity for applicants whose applications had been denied due to a partial challenge to reapply for the remaining grant funding available in 2021. Two applications were eligible for modification under these criteria. Of these applications, one was modified and resubmitted prior to the January 28, 2022 deadline. This application was submitted by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. (“Glenwood”) and was located in Fillmore County. The application as modified will hereafter be referred to as the “Fillmore County Project”.

Following resubmission of the Fillmore County Project, staff reviewed the application for completeness and for compliance with NBBP requirements. Glenwood requested $1,445,692.70 in grant funding for their resubmitted Fillmore County project. Upon review, the Fillmore County Project, as modified, meets all necessary criteria and should be approved for funding.

$574,660.91 in funding remains to be awarded from the 2021 NBBP program year. This amount will be added to the funds available for the 2022 NBBP program year.

Project Completion and Testing

The deadline for completion of the Fillmore County Project shall be August 2, 2023. Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. must submit to the Commission on or before August 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.
Central Time a certification that the broadband network described in the application has been completed.¹

If Glenwood is unable to complete the project by August 2, 2023, one extension of the deadline of up to six months may be available pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1304(2)(a). If Glenwood seeks an extension, it must submit a request for extension to the Commission by July 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The request for extension must include a detailed explanation of the circumstances and reasons surrounding the request, along with any and all relevant documentation for the Commission’s review. Requests for extension are encouraged to be submitted as soon as possible.

Following completion of the project, Glenwood shall conduct speed testing as described in the January 4, 2022 order in this docket. Upon successful completion of the project and required speed testing, the final 50% of grant funding will be made available to Glenwood. Final payments may be adjusted based on actual eligible project costs and match percentage. Glenwood must submit to the Commission documentation and invoices necessary to support the project costs no later than ninety (90) days following project completion.²

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Fillmore County Project, as modified and resubmitted by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc., shall be funded. The project shall be required to complete the project by August 2, 2023, unless granted an extension by order of the Commission. This project shall be subject to speed testing requirements as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1304 and as set forth above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. must submit to the Commission on or before August 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time a certification that the broadband network described in the application has been completed. Any request for an extension of this deadline must be submitted to the Commission by July 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

¹ A template certification is available as Attachment E to the January 4, 2022 order in this docket.
² A cover sheet for submitting invoicing and documentation is available as Attachment G to the January 4, 2022 order in this docket.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT disbursement of the grant award shall be conducted as described above. The final disbursement of grant awards shall be conducted following review of submitted documentation of allowable costs, and the amount distributed in grant funding shall not exceed the grant award set forth in Attachment D to this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. must immediately verify required documentation for receipt of ACH payments from the State of Nebraska is on file with the Commission.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 1st day of February, 2022.