

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. NUSF-57
Public Service Commission, on its) Progression Order No. 7
own motion, seeking to administer)
the Nebraska Telehealth Program.) ORDER ESTABLISHING
) FILING WINDOW
)
) Entered: March 29, 2022
)

BY THE COMMISSION:

On January 5, 2021, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) entered an Order in the above-captioned docket making significant modifications to its statewide Telehealth program. In its January 5, 2021 Order, the Commission adopted a proposal incorporating changes by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to its Rural Healthcare Program (RHC). The Commission also established deadlines for filing applications with the Commission for Telehealth program funding to correspond to the FCC's filing window, as well as established a program cap for FY2021 to be reviewed following the first year of the new program structure.

The FCC set the deadline for the FY2022 application filing window for the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program until April 1, 2022. The filing window opened December 2021. On March 3, 2022, the FCC found that an extension was necessary due to the ongoing disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to program participants. The deadline was extended to June 1, 2022.

The Commission recognizes that, although the FCC sought to create a more consistent application window, there may be instances where the FCC may deem it necessary to adjust dates if there is a compelling reason to do so. Any adjustments by the FCC to their filing window would require changes to the Commission's filing window. Establishing a consistent method by which program participants can anticipate the state filing timeframe would allow sufficient time to prepare and submit a funding application. To that end, the Commission finds that the state filing window each funding year should open concurrent with the opening of the FCC filing window, and the state filing window should close 15 business days after the FCC filing window closes.

After review of the first year of this new program structure, the Commission sets the program cap at \$1.5 million for FY2022 and each funding year thereafter. The program cap will remain at \$1.5 million per funding year, unless changed by Commission order.

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Applicants will be required to utilize the new application forms that will be uploaded to the Commission's website at the start of the filing window each year. As a reminder, copies of the federal funding request Form 462 should be included with each application for state funding, along with the associated Network Cost Worksheet if applicable.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the filing window for the Telehealth program be, and is hereby, established as provided herein.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 29th day of March, 2022.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Crystal Brader
Mary Kidden
Tim Schram

David W. Johnson

Chair

ATTEST:

Thomas W. Golden
Executive Director