



A digital inclusion plan must be attached for consideration. The plan should specify: the applicant's process to consult with community and consider affordability; a description of how the project will meet the objective of providing broadband infrastructure deployment within the project area to directly enable work, education, and healthcare monitoring; a description of how the project will address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency; 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; 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; 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; include evidence of outreach efforts to relevant stakeholders (community leaders, community members, civic organizations, etc.) in the areas they are wishing to serve.

The proposed fiber network will establish and accelerate the enhancement of broadband infrastructure in the unserved area of Branched Oak Observatory, an astronomy park and education complex 20 miles outside of Lincoln, by providing reliable high-speed broadband service.

Branched Oak Observatory has faced numerous obstacles due to the lack of reliable high-speed internet. The current providers in the area are unable to give the Observatory the reliable quality connections needed in order to accomplish its mission of "sharing the wonders of the night sky with Eastern Nebraska".

It is crucial for the Observatory to have high speed internet for remote viewing of its telescopes, for teleconferences, and remote learning. In addition, the Observatory needs a solid high-speed connection for remote connections for its Earth Moon Earth communications system which demands the least amount of lag time and a large amount of bandwidth for accurate communications for learners who log in from around the world.

The Observatory is adding a new multipurpose center that will demand high-speed high-capacity internet for learning. The Phase 2 expansion includes an 18,000 square foot learning center that will include classrooms, science labs, meeting and convention space, traveling exhibits, and more. All of this functionality demands high-speed internet. Without it, the new phase will never come to fruition.

Like most areas lacking adequate broadband service, the Observatory has struggled with connectivity during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Lack of access has resulted in community members unable to access educational resources.

The Observatory's current provider has frequent drops in signal. Due to the lack of reliable internet service during the COVID-19 outbreak the Observatory was unable to have learners who normally come in person to experience the night sky be able to at experience it at all. This



was an unfortunate reality, and it greatly affected the Observatory's operations and reputation.

Reliable high-speed internet is absolutely necessary to not only sustain what the Observatory has established and will be critical in its growth.

ALLO's fiber network is critical to the viability of the Observatory, as our reliable high-speed connections will allow for remote learning opportunities.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, 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 for 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.

ALLO does not utilize data caps. Unfettered access is a key component of ALLO's Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) networks. The ability to provide broadband and internet without data caps or other limits is essential to quality service.

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

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.

We participate in numerous educational events in each of our communities, interacting with residents and business leaders and demonstrating the capabilities of our all-fiber network.

ALLO will be a visible part of the community through active participation with technology-focused organizations, such as Branched Oak Observatory. 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 has utilized local, state, federal and ALLO corporate programs to encourage the adoption of world-class communication through education and financial contributions.

Many community members who will access Branched Oak Observatory educational resources will qualify for the following government assistance programs that ALLO fully supports.

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

The White House recently 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 are excited to support this program and offer 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 is making reliable broadband a reality for those who have only had options for mediocre or no connectivity in the past. ALLO is proud to support 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 offers free 100 Mbps internet to qualifying households through the FCC's ACP. This federal broadband program provides a \$30 monthly subsidy, which will completely cover the cost of ALLO's new 100 Mbps service option for ACP participants.

Customers who meet the program requirements can receive 100 Mbps internet free or apply the \$30 monthly discount to any ALLO internet option. Other ALLO internet plans include 500 Mbps, 1 GIG, and 2.3 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. ALLO has participated in the ACP since its rollout on December 31, 2021. More than 10 million Americans currently utilize this program.

Additional information about ALLO ACP service options and program requirements is located at.

[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 is also eligible for ACP. If the customer has internet only, they can apply both credits to any ALLO internet option (500 Mbps, 1 GIG, and 2.3 GIG symmetrical speeds), or receive the 100 Mbps option for free. If the customer has both internet and phone, they can apply the Lifeline credit to the phone and the ACP credit to the internet.

[Community Outreach](#)

ALLO emailed a community feedback letter to Matthew Nelson, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Branched Oak Observatory, on February 21, 2023 and copied in the Nebraska Public Service Commission.