

**Great Plains Communications - Bloomfield Project
Attachment J**

GPC Digital Inclusion Plan

Great Plains Communications realizes the need to continue the tradition of giving back to the communities we serve and the need to exude and nurture the strong company culture that has been built over the past century. We also understand that one of the barriers to quality broadband service is affordability. Therefore, the company continues our ongoing traditions of sponsoring our communities and having employees living, working and giving back to the areas they serve. These efforts and traditions not only solidify and leverage ongoing relationships with clients, they strengthen and position us for strong growth as the brand gains traction in the marketplace.

GPC Digital Inclusion Plan Highlights:

1. Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB). We participate in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an [FCC program developed](#) to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. We have many customers in our footprint who take advantage of this program.
2. Nebraska Public Service Commission Low Income Program. In 2020 we participated in the Nebraska Public Service Commission's low-income program. During the initial Covid crisis in 2020, GPC offered free or reduced service to low-income customers and offered free speed upgrades and free installation to numerous customers who were impacted by the crisis.
3. Commitment to Schools. Great Plains Communications believes in the power of education. Therefore, we focus on helping students in the communities we serve attend college by offering over \$15K in scholarships each year. We also provide over \$25K in annual grants.
4. Volunteerism. With both integrity and community as core values, Great Plains Communications believes in giving back. That is why over half of our 350+ employees live and work in the communities they serve. On top of this they actively take part in community causes, donating thousands of hours as firefighters, paramedics, mentors, board members, scout or church leaders and to other community-based organizations.
5. Community Engagement and Local Economic Development. To ensure we were working more effectively in the area of Economic Development, a new internal Economic Development committee was formed at the beginning of 2019. This group helps to stay on top of initiatives within current service areas as well as areas where the company is looking to expand and prioritizes both monetary contributions and time allotment accordingly. In addition, we direct charitable dollars each year to an IMPACT program designed to encourage nonprofit organizations to undertake projects that have a positive community IMPACT.

6. Culture. The internal culture of Great Plains Communications is very collaborative and focused on the core values of accountability, community, integrity, quality, service and teamwork. Employees strive to work together providing a superior customer experience and making a difference in the communities and to the customers served. We pride ourselves on making each other better and living up to our motto: High Performing Network, High Performing People.