

**ATTACHMENT J  
ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS SUPPORT**

**10a. The applicant's process to consult with the community and consider affordability.**

Company representatives contacted the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska to solicit their support of the Winnebago project encompassed in this application (refer to Attachment J2).

The Company also made local residents in the area aware of the proposed project by mailing a letter describing the project and asking for their support via the Company website (refer to Attachment J3).

To date the Company has not received evidence of support or any opposition to the proposed project. The Company will continue its efforts to engage the community and, if permitted, will update this application with additional evidence when received.

**10b. 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.**

and

**10c. 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.**

and

**10d. The plan should 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.**

The project identified by the Company in the NBBP grant application covers portions of the Winnebago, NE community. By leveraging the Company's existing network in Nebraska, the Company will be able to offer high-speed broadband access to residents and businesses in this area.

Within the proposed project area, the Company will be able to reach 26 underserved residents if its application is approved. The residents and businesses in this community currently receive access to terrestrial broadband services at speeds lower than 25 Mbps (down) and 3 Mbps (up). The Company's proposal to deploy a fiber-based solution will ensure all residents and businesses within the area are capable of receiving minimum broadband speeds of 100 Mbps (down) and 100 Mbps (up) should the Company be awarded this grant.

Consumers, local businesses, students, healthcare, public safety, and other civic organizations that utilize or are served by broadband in and around this area are in critical need of faster, affordable, and more reliable broadband service. The Company's proposed broadband plan will have many important benefits, including

enhancing educational opportunities and experiences, improving health and life outcomes, providing greater job opportunities, improving productivity and profitability of large, small, and home-based businesses enabling them to compete in local, national, and global markets, increasing property values, and lowering unemployment rates.

1. Health

a. County Health Rankings 2021

- i. Nebraska is at or better than the national average in almost every health category
- ii. Out of 79 ranked counties in Nebraska, health scores for the county encompassing our project – Thurston – is ranked 79<sup>th</sup>
- iii. Thurston County has predominantly minority residents with disproportionately low rankings for premature death, life expectancy, and child mortality rates

iv. Source:

[https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/CHR2021\\_NE.pdf](https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/CHR2021_NE.pdf)

- b. Nebraska’s average life expectancy at 79.6 years is above the average for the United States, Thurston County has one of the lowest in the state with average life expectancy of 69.5 years

i. Source:

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/nebraska/thurston?year=2021>

2. Education

<i>Educational Challenges</i>	<b>Winnebago High School</b>	<b>State Median</b>
<b>% of Students Economically Disadvantaged</b>	N/A	
<b>School Rankings:</b>		
<b>National Percentile</b>	25%	
<b>State Percentile</b>	37%	
<b>Mathematics Proficiency</b>	13%	30%
<b>Reading Proficiency</b>	8%	40%
<b>Graduation Rate</b>	89%	
<b>Minority Enrollment</b>	100%	

- a. Source: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/nebraska/districts/>

3. Incomes & Employment

<i>Economic Characteristics</i>	<b>Thurston County</b>	<b>State Median</b>
<b>Median Household Income</b>	\$56,223	\$66,817

<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	7.5%	1.8%
<b>Households with Broadband Subscription<sup>(1)</sup></b>	73.3%	89.8%
<b>Persons in Poverty</b>	20.5%	10.8%

**Sources:**

US Census Bureau; 2021 American Community Survey

(1) <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/infrastructurebroadband/factsheet.asp?county=Thurston>

**10e. The plan should 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.**

**Proposed Pricing**

	<b>100 Mbps</b>	<b>500 Mbps</b>	<b>1 Gbps</b>
Promotional (12-months)	\$44.99	\$54.99	\$69.99
Standard (after promotion)	\$49.99	\$74.99	\$99.99

Service Details: No data caps, no throttling speeds after usage limits are reached, no long-term contracts, no early termination fees, no metered “pay-as-you-go” service, no overage fees

**Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Pricing**

The Company provides a discount of up to:

- \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households
- \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands

**10f. Include evidence of outreach efforts to relevant stakeholders (community leaders, community members, civic organizations, etc.) in the areas they are wishing to serve.**

Company representatives contacted the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska to solicit their support of the project encompassed in this application (refer to Attachment J2). To date the Company has not received evidence of support or any opposition to the proposed project from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The Company will continue its efforts to engage with them and will update this application with additional evidence when received.

The Company also made local residents in the area aware of the proposed project by mailing a letter describing the project and asking for their support via the Company website (refer to Attachment J3). To date the Company has not received evidence of support or any opposition to the proposed project from local residents and will update the application with additional evidence when received.

**10 Note. To be eligible for scoring points, the digital inclusion plan must offer at least one low- income option for a discounted service offering at a minimum of 100/100 Mbps at a monthly cost of less than \$50 per month. The applicant must participate in federal broadband internet access subsidy programs such as Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and the low- income plan must be eligible to be discounted further with Lifeline and ACP discounts.**

The Company participates in federal broadband internet access subsidy programs (e.g., Lifeline, ACP) and its low-income plan is eligible to be discounted per those plans.