



# Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Grant Application

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*By carrie.gans at 3:41 pm, Oct 08, 2021*

## Section I: Applicant Details

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Applicant name:                          | Elsie Communications, Inc.             |
| 2. Applicant type:                          | Service Provider                       |
| 3. Applicant street address:                | 101 Perkins Ave.                       |
| 3a. Applicant city:                         | Elsie                                  |
| 3b. Applicant state:                        | NE                                     |
| 3c. Applicant zip code:                     | 69134                                  |
| 4. Applicant contact (first and last name): | Matt Moore                             |
| 5. Applicant e-mail:                        | mmoore@usch.com                        |
| 6. Applicant phone number:                  | 866-542-6780                           |
| 7. Provider name:                           |  |
| 8. Provider contact (first and last name):  |  |
| 9. Provider e-mail:                         |  |
| 10. Provider phone number:                  |  |
| 11. Legal representative name:              | Paul M. Schudel, Woods Aitken Law Firm |
| 12. Legal representative e-mail:            | pschudel@woodsaitken.com               |
| 13. Legal representative phone number:      | 402-437-8509                           |

|  |  |   |     |
|--|--|---|-----|
| 14. Applicant's Nebraska ETC status:   | Currently certificated as a Nebraska Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (NETC), in good standing. |   |     |
| 15. Does the applicant currently report through FCC Form 477 speeds of at least 100/100 Mbps provided to customers within the State of Nebraska? | No   | 15a. If yes, does the applicant clearly offer the minimum speeds required on their public-facing website: | Yes |
| 15b. Provide the service provider's public-facing website URL that reflects the currently available speeds:                                      | <a href="https://www.elsiecomm.net/bundles/">https://www.elsiecomm.net/bundles/</a>                |   |     |

## Section II: Project Details

|   |   |   |                                  |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Project name:  | Elsie and Grafton Broadband Infrastructure Improvements   |   |                                  |
| 2. Project location description (the cities/communities where the project(s) will take place):                                | The project is for the village of Elsie in Perkins County, Nebraska, with a population of 106 (2010 Census Data) and for the unincorporated village of Grafton. Grafton is located approximately 5 miles east of Elsie and is within Elsie's regulated boundaries. Grafton's total village area is .12 square miles with a population of 20 (2010 Census Data). |   |                                  |
| 3. Estimated number of locations served in project area:  | 3a. Unserved (<25/3 Mbps):<br>0   | 3b. Underserved (<100/20 Mbps):<br>126  | 3c. Total:<br>126                |
| 4. Technology type(s) to be deployed in project area:   | Fiber To The Premise  |   |                                  |
| 5. Current maximum connection speed bandwidth in project area (Mbps):   | 10-25 Mbps download/1 upload  | 6. Projected minimum connection speeds at completion (Mbps):  | 100/100 Mbps                     |
| 7. Monthly customer rate for proposed 100/100 Mbps service:   | \$119.95  | 7a. Does the rate plan for the proposed project area impose usage caps, early termination fees, or otherwise lock customers into a particular plan or term? | No                               |
| 8. Lowest monthly customer rate for 100/100 Mbps speed where applicant/provider currently offers that speed tier in Nebraska: | \$119.95  | 8a. If applicant does not currently provide 100/100 Mbps speed in Nebraska, has the applicant provided documentation of other carriers' rates as required?  | NA                               |
| 9. Maximum speeds all serviceable locations in project area will be capable to be scalable to upon completion:                | 1 Gig   | 10. Expected project completion date:   | 18 months from start of project. |
| 11. Project geographic contiguity type:   | Noncontiguous   | 11a. If noncontiguous, are the areas included from the same exchange or adjacent exchanges?   | NA                               |
| 12. Total project costs (based on allowed costs):   | 511654  | 13. NBBP grant amount requested:  | 255827                           |

### Attach/Include:

Please label attachments as follows: “[Applicant Name]\_[Project]\_[Attachment Letter].” If it is necessary to submit multiple attachments under one attachment letter category, label the attachments to identify the separate attachments. Ex. “[Applicant Name]\_[Project]\_[Attachment Letter]\_1”, “[Applicant Name]\_[Project]\_[Attachment Letter]\_2”, etc.

- A shapefile polygon (.shp) reflecting the project area **must** be included. (Attachment Letter: A)
- A point shapefile or an alternative format which identifies serviceable locations in the project area should also be included. (Attachment Letter: B)
- Applicants that answered “Yes” to section I; field 15 should attach documentation that 100/100 Mbps speeds are currently delivered to customers in other areas served by the applicant and that those speeds are advertised. (Attachment Letter: C)
- Applicants that answered “Noncontiguous” in section II; field 11, should provide a statement explaining the reasoning for including noncontiguous areas. This should include an explanation regarding what natural connection the noncontiguous project areas have to each other. (Attachment Letter: D)
- Technical capability statement: Applicants must include a statement relating to their experience providing broadband, whether they currently provide broadband at the minimum 100/100 Mbps speeds, and how the project will be resilient and sustainable in the long-term. This statement should also include the number of technical staff that will be dedicated to serving the project area once the project is complete, a description of how the service area will be maintained throughout the useful life of the facilities, and any other relevant technical expertise of the applicant. (Attachment Letter: E)

Rate comparability details: Attach information demonstrating that the retail rates for the proposed service area are comparable. Plans with usage caps, early termination fees, or that otherwise lock customers into a particular plan or term will be disallowed. For carriers currently providing 100/100 Mbps service in Nebraska, documentation of that carrier's rate for that service speed in Nebraska must be submitted. If the carrier offers that speed at more than one rate in different areas of Nebraska, the carrier must submit documentation for each rate at which it offers that speed of service, and the rate offered in the project area must be no higher than ten percent greater than the lowest rate offered by that carrier elsewhere in Nebraska. Applicants that do not currently offer 100/100 Mbps speed tier in Nebraska should provide documentation showing the rates offered by three other providers in Nebraska for service speeds of at least 100/100 Mbps; the retail rate offered in the proposed service area must be no higher than ten percent greater than the average rate of the three submitted providers. (Attachment Letter: F)

A business plan for the proposed network that includes details of the project including a description of any legal challenges that must be addressed prior to or during the project in question, such as local zoning, right of way, and permitting processes, and demonstrates capability to maintain the network over the long run. The plan should also include a financial analysis for the project, including a description of how project costs and expected revenue will result in financial viability of the project over the expected useful life of the facilities. (Attachment Letter: G)

A funding breakdown for the grant must be attached in Excel format. This should include a proposed budget reflecting a clear and detailed breakdown of cost elements based on total allowable project costs. This should also include the total grant amount requested (up to 50% of estimated eligible costs, but not greater than \$5,000,000). (Attachment Letter: H)

Non-ETC applicants should attach the most current year's audited financial statements. (Attachment Letter: I)

If the project includes underserved customers, a digital inclusion plan must be attached for consideration. The plan should not impose data caps on consumer usage and 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. (Attachment Letter: J)

Applications proposing to use technology other than fiber or proposing to use a combination of fiber and other technologies, must include an attestation from a qualified engineer describing the speed capabilities of the proposed technology, including but not limited to the maximum speeds possible through use of that technology. The attestation should also include an explanation as to whether the technology will be affected by outside factors such as inclement weather, and the results of speed tests performed at customer premises using the same technology during peak usage hours. (Attachment Letter: K)

Match source documentation: A table detailing the confirmed matching fund commitments by source must be included. Documentation of the match source(s) should also be provided. This could include but is not limited to a signed contribution certification for community partner match, NUSF census block information (in Excel format), documentation regarding timeline for RDOF deployment, justification for the value of any in-kind contributions such as equipment and inventory on hand. (Attachment Letter: L)

Other supporting documentation (if applicable), such as supplemental speed test data, letters of support from members of the community, supplemental financial information such as the most recent year's federal tax return, etc. (Attachment Letter: M)

**APPLICANT CERTIFICATION:** By signing this statement, the applicant certifies that the information submitted on the application and all supporting documents are true and correct. The applicant agrees to perform and adhere to all grant requirements, and to comply with all state and federal regulations and requirements pertaining to this program. In addition, the applicant agrees not to use equipment prohibited by the FCC within the network, to offer rates in the project area that are comparable to the rates offered by the applicant outside the project area, to submit network speed testing information as prescribed by the Commission, and to complete the project build within eighteen months following the grant award unless granted an extension.

Deborah Rand

10/1/21

Printed Name of Authorized Person

Date

CEO

Title of Authorized Person

*Deborah Rand*

Signature of Authorized Person

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