



# Callaway District Hospital *and* Medical Clinics

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|                         |                        |              |                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Callaway Medical Clinic | 213 E. Kimball Street, | Callaway, NE | Telephone (308) 836-2294 |
| Arnold Medical Clinic   | 104 No. Broadway       | Arnold, NE   | Telephone (308) 848-3259 |

June 21, 2022

Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N Street, #300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Great Plains Communications Application for Nebraska Rural Broadband Bridge Act Grant

Nebraska Public Service Commission:

On behalf of Arnold Medical Clinic and the area residents we serve, I write to endorse the application for a Nebraska Rural Broadband Bridge Act Grant being submitted by Great Plains Communications, a telecommunications partner in the Arnold community for many years.

The need for high-bandwidth broadband services to healthcare providers and the public has become of utmost importance during these challenging times dealing the COVID-19 pandemic. Especially in the area of providing telehealth services. Since the majority of the residents in the Village of Arnold currently lack access to internet services at speeds of 100/20 Mbps, approval of this grant is critical to bringing the highest-quality remote healthcare services to the public that our hospital and clinic serves.

I strongly support approval of Great Plains Communications' application.

Sincerely,

Brett D Eggleston  
Chief Executive Officer



6/20/2022

Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N St  
#300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Endorsement of Great Plains Communications Application

Public Service Commission:

On behalf of the businesses and residents of Arnold, the Arnold Economic Development Cooperation writes to endorse the application of Great Plains Communications for a grant from the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act Grant Program, to construct and operate a fiber to the home network in Arnold.

Most residents and businesses in Arnold lack access to broadband at speeds of 100/20 Mbps, which is particularly crucial as many people in our community need access to higher-quality Internet services. Daily life requires technology that keeps up with the times, which is vital in both aspects of private life as well as business life.

Recently, Arnold held a public Community Vision Meeting, and broadband was one of the leading high priority topics for the attendees. In addition, I've personally had many conversations with business owners, residents, and individuals who visit our community and area, contacts inquiring about our access because they are considering relocating to Arnold, to find we are not as prepared as they hoped. The conversation is always the same; we NEED better!

Another example of falling behind in our rural areas is home-based employment opportunities in rural communities like Arnold. In 2019, the Nebraska Economic Development department brokered a deal with Transcom to bring 700 jobs to Nebraska which were to be home-based work. Tony Goins, state of Nebraska Economic Development Director, was quoted in an interview with News Channel Nebraska as saying, "We would like to see a large portion of these jobs go to rural part or greater part of Nebraska." The mission was and is to recruit and create more home-based work-from-home job opportunities for rural areas, not just in Omaha and Lincoln, but it's very reliant on high speed connectivity.



I personally contacted Transcom to see what the up and download speed requirements would be for our community to take advantage of these jobs. When I contacted Great Plains Communications to compare the information provided by Transcom, I found our community of Arnold would not be able to take advantage of this opportunity at that time. This is just one prime example, among others, of why we support Great Plains Communications in their efforts to take care of their communities like Arnold and bridge that gap!

As you know, access to high speed broadband is important for proper economic growth, education for youth and adults both in schools and homes; health, and safety of rural communities like Arnold.

Completion of this project will also be vital to our community of Arnold in attracting new businesses and to help keep young people from moving elsewhere because of the lack of competitive broad band services.

Thank you for your consideration of the Great Plains Communications application for the Village of Arnold. We urge its adoption.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl Carson*

Cheryl Carson

Executive Director

Arnold Economic Development Corporation



Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N. St  
#300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

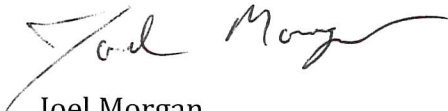
June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Re: Great Plains Communications Application for Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act Grant Program

On behalf of the students, families, and staff of our school district, I write to endorse the application of Great Plains Communications for a Broadband Bridge Act grant to provide broadband services to the Village of Arnold. As required, most residents in our community lack access to broadband at speeds at least 100/20 Mbps, and approval of this grant will be critical to meeting the online learning needs of our students and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of our community for deployment of these essential services in Arnold,

Sincerely,



Joel Morgan  
Superintendent

