

Stealth Broadband — Digital Inclusion Plan – Elgin, Nebraska

1. Current Broadband Availability in Elgin, Nebraska

- a. Stealth has a list of residents from Elgin, Nebraska requesting internet services from our company. Residents of Elgin are reporting speeds of less than 40 megabytes per second according to speedtestnebraska.org.
- b. Stealth received a speed test from the Elgin City Clerk and her speed test reflected the speedtestnebraska.org findings. The City Clerk was showing speeds of 39.23 megabytes per second download by 3.961 megabytes per second upload. (See attachment “Midstates-Data-Transport_Elgin_M”)
- c. One of the main complaints Stealth receives about current internet service in Elgin, Nebraska is that it is very expensive for what service the residents are receiving. Some are unable to afford these high price tags for Internet and are thus forced to go without.

2. Plans for Digital Inclusion

- a. Stealth is committed to ensuring that all members of the public will have access to affordable and reliable internet services.
- b. Our speeds and packages for each town will be as follows:
 - i. 500/500mbps for \$60/mo.
 - ii. 750/750mbps for \$80/mo.
 - iii. 1000/1000mbps for \$100/mo.
- c. All of our plans include the following:
 - iv. Unlimited Data
 - v. No Contracts
- d. Stealth offers the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) and Lifeline Program to all eligible participants interested in participating.
 - vi. This is advertised on our website at www.stealthbroadband.com/ebbp
It is also advertised on every town sign up page on our website.
- e. Stealth also offers the USAC Lifeline program to all eligible consumers.
 - vii. This is advertised on our website at www.stealthbroadband.com/lifeline
- f. Stealth provides flexible payment plans to all customers.
 - viii. As long as a consumer is making regular efforts to pay on their account, we do not turn off their Internet services.
 - ix. Stealth also does not charge re-activation fees for customers who have had their Internet shut off due to no payment.

3. How Digital Inclusion Will Help Elgin, Nebraska

- a. As COVID-19 showed us, broadband availability is extremely important for every household to have access too. Students were forced to school from home, and some were unable to do schoolwork at home because of no (or little) access to broadband services. Our company worked diligently to provide internet to people unable to gain access by making sure we tried everything possible to get people access to high-speed internet. We were successful in most cases, but it further showed us how important access to good quality broadband is for educating our future generations.
- b. As mentioned above, one of the biggest complaints we receive from Elgin residents is that they are unable to afford the high cost of Internet offered. Because of this, some residents are forced to go without Internet. If Stealth were able to bring Internet service to Elgin, we would make sure that all residents were able to afford a reliable, good quality, Internet connection.
- c. By providing Internet service in the unserved / underserved areas we have identified, we can help bring people back to their small communities and help spark economic growth. After the COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of professionals are working from home. We have had consumers calling in to tell us they are considering moving back to their small town after their job went from in-person to remote. Their only downfall was the lack of good quality, and affordable, broadband access. Again, in some cases we were able to serve the consumers, but in others we realized that we needed to increase our digital footprint in order to help these people.
- d. If we do not take action in the proposed communities to provide good quality, high speed Internet at an affordable rate, we are at risk for further extending the digital divide in Nebraska and losing our small communities that thrive solely on the people that live in the community.

4. Stealth's Mission

- a. Our mission has always been to provide exceptional, affordable, and reliable high-speed Internet in unserved and underserved areas of Nebraska. Stealth has proved this by building our network, with our own funding, from 1 to 18 service areas in less than 5 years. We have made it our goal to close the digital divide in Nebraska and help to ensure that future generations do not have to worry about whether or not their small community will thrive in years to come. We want future generations ensured that they would have the same opportunities larger communities have regarding access to broadband.