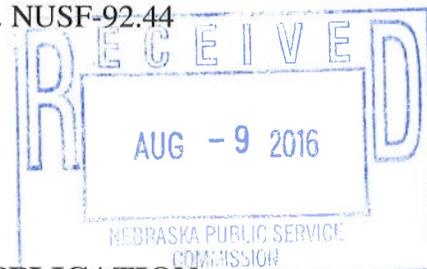


BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service )  
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to )  
administer the Nebraska Universal Service )  
Fund's Broadband Program: Application )  
to the Nebraska Broadband Program )  
Received a as a RLEC Joint Application )  
Consortia )

Application No. NUSF-92.44



**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF DAN DAVIS IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION**

**Q. Please state your name.**

A. My name is Dan Davis.

**Q. Please state your position with and the name of your current employer and provide a summary of your duties.**

A. I am the Director of Policy Analysis and Advocacy at Consortia Consulting. I work on behalf of Rural LECs across the State of Nebraska and in the Midwest. My duties include providing regulatory and financial support for our client companies.

**Q. Please describe Consortia's and its business.**

Consortia Consulting is a Nebraska Company that has been providing financial, regulatory, and managerial resources and services to rural telecommunications companies for 25 years. Consortia assists clients make financial and operational decisions encountered in today's rapidly changing environment. Consortia is an employee-owned company dedicated to the well-being of rural companies and the people who work tirelessly to ensure that all customers in Nebraska and across the country have access and the knowledge to use the most advanced communications network in the world.

**Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A. My testimony is provided to support the RLECs' Joint application filed with the

Commission for funding under the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Adoption Program (“Application”).

**Q. Please Describe Consortia Role in this Application.**

A. Consortia will provide training to the Joint Applicants’ personnel utilizing what we term as the “train-the-trainer” model. Consortia will train individuals from each RLEC, and will provide all necessary materials and resources needed for the local provider to offer successful workshops in their communities. By training individuals within each local company and providing them with the requisite skills, tools, and materials, they can be the “go-to” place for training and supporting their community members in the use of the Internet with on-line skills and knowledge. The local provider can repeat its training at multiple locations and at multiple times depending on the relevant needs of those individuals in the communities they serve.

Consortia will train RLEC personnel so that they are able to train individuals within their communities that may not understand the relevance and usefulness of the Internet and may lack the basic digital literacy skills to feel comfortable accessing the Internet. Through proper training, it is our goal for those who attend the training sessions will be able to overcome these barriers.

The training programs for this application are designed to increase individuals’ knowledge of the Internet and relevant skill set in an easy to understand, non-intimidating format. By increasing the confidence and digital literacy in current non-adopters, including the elderly and low income populations, we believe the objectives of increased adoption and utilization can be achieved.

In addition, we believe providing digital literacy training to those with low income could in fact enhance the value of the FCC’s Lifeline for broadband program. We

believe individuals who qualify for the program are more likely to apply for the program if they have the knowledge to use broadband to enrich them personally and professionally.

**Q. Please Provide additional information regarding Consortia's trainer?**

A. Consortia's trainer, Carissa Swenson, has a background in education and training. She has a Master's degree in Instructional Technology and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Business Education. Carissa has spent most of her professional career teaching and training. Carissa's background has enabled her to help people learn how to utilize broadband and devices that connect to it through presentations, hands-on training, educational materials and videos. Her experience will help guide the trainers through the process.

**Q. Did you provide an exhibit as part of the application which itemized the cost for each RLEC participating in and providing the digital literacy training?**

A. Yes. I provided an exhibit which was attached to the Application which estimated the cost for each RLEC. The total cost was estimated to be \$17,000 per company, or \$102,000 in total.

**Q. Was a description for each line item on the exhibit included as part of the application?**

A. Yes. A description of the itemized cost categories included in the grant were provided on page 11 of the Application.

**Q. Do the RLECs and Consortia commit to fulfilling all reporting and audit requirements adopted by the Commission for oversight of the Broadband Adoption Grant Program funds?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

A. Yes.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 9th day of August, 2016, the original, five copies and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

Nebraska Public Service Commission  
Shana Knutson  
1200 N Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
[Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov](mailto:Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov)



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Dan Davis