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November 7, 2018

Mr. Michael Hybl
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508C

RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests

Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF). We have two projects in the Murray exchange identified as Murray Exchange – Central Office and Murray Exchange – Northwest. The attached application is for the Murray Exchange – Central Office. An electronic version of this filing has also been submitted to the NUSF Staff.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Steve Meradith

Enclosures

AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.
2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

BB

Brad Brannon

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

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COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 16th day of November, 2018
by Brad Brannon

Leslie Lovett

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:
January 17, 2024



WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Murray EXCHANGE – Central Office

Checklist Item No. 1:

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fiber fed DSLAMs to serve portions of the central office area of the Murray, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

This area of the Murray Exchange is currently offered limited broadband service. Customers within reach of the existing DSLAM are qualified for 1.5Mbps up to very few 25Mbps broadband, depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address these customers by placing a fiber fed DSLAMs within an appropriate distance to provide a minimum of 25Mbps up to 100Mbps download speeds.

- The project will place one DSLAM site at a remote location approximately 1 mile west of the Central Office, and another DSLAM site approximately 1 mile east of the Central Office, along with fiber cable placed to the nearest available connection on an existing fiber route.
- The remote DSLAMs will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Central Office location.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$81,210 and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$64,490, not including ROW, IDC, and Tax. The difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the available 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Checklist Item No. 2:

A list in Excel Format of all the census blocks where broadband facilities would be deployed for the proposed project, which shall include 2010 Census Block identification number of service area, by project.

Windstream's Response:

See Attached Checklist Item #2.

Checklist Item No. 3:

An estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers for each project.

Windstream's Response:

See Attached Checklist Item #3

Checklist Item No. 4:

An estimated schedule for broadband deployment.

Windstream Response:

Windstream stands ready to begin project work immediately upon approval of the application, the deployment schedule will be as indicated in the Attached Checklist Item #4.

Checklist Item No. 5:

A proposed budget, showing total project costs, in electronic format, with a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment.

Windstream Response:

Please see Attached Checklist Item #5 which also includes the depreciation schedule showing the life of investment for the major plant categories associated with these projects.

Checklist Item No. 6:

Proposed retail pricing, including both monthly recurring costs and nonrecurring costs for the new broadband service(s) to be offered. At a minimum the pricing should reflect the stand alone price for the speeds to be offered to the customer.

Windstream Response:

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

Checklist Item No. 7:

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Checklist Item No. 8:

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Murray Exchange Central Office

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks in Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service in the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC?	Is Project Technology Wireline Based	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
310259660001011	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	7	20.6%
310259660001062	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	27	79.4%
310259660002007	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	0	0.0%
310259660002023	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	0	0.0%
310259660002080	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	34	100.0%
310259660002095	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
310259660002098	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
310259660001009	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible	Eligible for Funding	27	79.4%
310259660001010	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001029	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001030	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001053	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001054	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001055	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001056	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001058	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001059	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001060	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001064	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001065	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001066	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002046	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002048	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002054	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002056	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002057	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002082	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002093	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002096	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002097	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001052	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001057	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660001061	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			
310259660002055	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	Y	NE BB Eligible			

Check List #3 Subscribers - Murray Exchange Central Office

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Murray	287

Estimated Broadband Take Rate 50%
New Broadband Subscribers 144

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Murray Exchange Central Office

Proposed Schedule: Total time for project is 120 to 150 days:

	<u>DSLAM Site</u>
Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Permitting & material acquisition	30 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	60 to 90 Calendar Days

Schedule is subject to seasonal limitations regarding when construction can commence or be completed.

Check List #6 Pricing - Murray Exchange Central Office

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$60	\$10 off for 12 months	\$50
50Mb		\$70	\$10 off for 12 months	\$60
100Mb		\$80	\$10 off for 12 months	\$70
1 Gbps		\$90	\$20 off for 12 months	\$70

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$70	\$10 off for 12 months	\$60
50Mb		\$80	\$10 off for 12 months	\$70
100Mb		\$90	\$10 off for 12 months	\$80
1 Gbps		\$90	\$20 off for 12 months	\$80

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation