

NUSF-99.57

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March 12, 2019

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) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Southern area of the Elmwood RL07 Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place one remote Base Station approximately 4 miles west southwest of the Elmwood Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The Elmwood remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Elmwood 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,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures

WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Elmwood EXCHANGE RLO7

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.

- Fixed Wireless to serve the Southeastern area of Elmwood, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Elmwood is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Southeastern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and have no or limited broadband (below 25 Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 2.2 miles Southeast of the Elmwood Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office.
- The Elmwood remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have wireless backhaul to the Elmwood Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$145,417, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$87,878, 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 or have a wireline competitor. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

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 - Elmwood Exchange RL07

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?	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Qualify as Competitor? *	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
310259659001117	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	41	29%
310259659003003	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	84	60%
310259659003018	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
310259659003020	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	14	10%
310259659003021	CAF2			CAF2	Total	139	100%
310259659003026	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003027	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003028	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003042	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003046	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003047	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003093	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003115	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003116	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003117	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003119	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003123	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003124	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003127	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003131	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003135	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003136	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003137	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003138	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003140	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003141	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003142	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003143	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003144	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003145	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003146	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003150	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003151	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003152	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003153	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003154	CAF2			CAF2			
310259659003157	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668002003	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668002004	CAF2			CAF2			
					Eligible for Funding	84	60.4%

310259659001058	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003033	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003035	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003040	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003043	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003044	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003048	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003049	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003050	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003052	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003053	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003054	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003055	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003056	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003063	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003064	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003065	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003075	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003076	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003077	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003078	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003081	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003082	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003085	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003090	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003091	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003092	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003094	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003095	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003096	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003097	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003101	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003103	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003105	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003108	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003110	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003111	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003112	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003113	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
310259659003114	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003121	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003122	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003128	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003132	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003133	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003134	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
310259659003169	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319668002002	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319668002049	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319668002050	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible

Footnotes:

* There are two Fixed Wireless providers per Form 477 data that provide broadband in these census blocks.

Below is a table explaining why each of these providers should not be considered a valid competitor for purposes of reviewing whether each of the above census blocks should be NE BB Eligible:

Name as Used on FCC Form 477	Do they Provide Voice Service?*	Speed equal to at least 10/1?	Is Provider Unsubsidized?*	NUSF Eligibility?
Future Technologies	N	Y - 20/5	Y	NE BB Eligible
Skybeam Acquisition Corporation	Y	N - 5/1	N	NE BB Eligible

Footnotes for Table:

*Windstream has contacted each of these providers' call centers and Future Technologies said that voice services are NOT offered with their fixed wireless internet service and Skybeam Acquisition Corp said they do provide voice service.

** Skybeam Acquisition Corporation receives \$21,813 per month in Federal USF support for Nebraska per the 2nd Quarter 2019 USAC Report

Check List #3 Subscribers - Elmwood Exchange RL07

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Elmwood	128

Estimated Broadband Take Rate 50%
New Broadband Subscribers 64

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

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Elmwood Exchange RL07

Proposed Schedule:

Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Site Acquisition, permitting & material acquisition	90 to 120 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	30 Calendar Days

Notes:

If multiple sites are involved, work activities will be conducted concurrently, so that total time for the project is 150 to 180 days

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

Check List #5 Budget & Depreciation - Elmwood Exchange RL07

Budget

Remote Sites

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	1	\$0	\$1,000	
Fiber Buildout	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	54	\$0	\$972	
Site Engineering	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300	1	\$0	\$3,300	
Site Acquisition	\$10,183	\$0	\$10,183	1	\$0	\$10,183	
Power Make Ready	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	1	\$0	\$18,000	
95' AGL Wood Pole	\$10,000	\$23,800	\$33,800	1	\$23,800	\$33,800	
Base Station	\$4,433	\$5,513	\$9,946	4	\$22,054	\$39,784	5 GHz PtMP radio
PtP Radio	\$7,125	\$8,825	\$15,950	1	\$8,825	\$15,950	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,070	\$5,000	\$10,070	1	\$5,000	\$10,070	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$1,500	\$7,500	\$9,000	1	\$7,500	\$9,000	Pole-mounted
Total					\$67,179	\$142,058	

Tax \$67,179 5.00% \$3,359

Grand Total \$145,417

Excluded

ROW \$0
 IDC \$67,179 5.00% \$3,359

Total Project Costs \$145,417
% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2 60.4%
Requested Funding Amount \$87,878

Depreciation Lives

Life in Years
 Fixed Wireless Assets 45
 Poles 33

Check List #6 Pricing - Elmwood Exchange RL07

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
50Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
100Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
1 Gbps		\$75	\$20 off for 12 months	\$55

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
50Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
100Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
1 Gbps		\$95	\$20 off for 12 months	\$75

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation

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)

:SS

COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 5 day of April, 2018
by Brad Brannon

Felicia Davis

Notary Public

