

NUSF 99.59

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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 Nebraska City RL02 Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 6.8 miles north of the Nebraska City Central Office where fiber back haul is nearby. The Nebraska City remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Nebraska City 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 – NEBRASKA CITY EXCHANGE RL02

**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 Northern area of Nebraska City, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Nebraska City 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 Northern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 6.8 miles north of the Nebraska City Central Office where fiber back haul is nearby.
- The Nebraska City remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Nebraska City 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 \$136,770, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$95,552, 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 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 - Nebraska City RL02

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	%
310259660003195	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	22	30%
310259660003306	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	51	70%
310259660003307	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
310259660003312	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	0	0%
310259660003332	CAF2			CAF2	<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100%</b>
310259660003334	CAF2			CAF2			
310259660003341	CAF2			CAF2	<b>Eligible for Funding</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>69.9%</b>
311319666002003	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002004	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002007	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002008	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002009	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002011	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002158	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002159	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002162	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002163	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002164	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002166	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002168	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002172	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002186	CAF2			CAF2			
310259660003191	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003234	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003311	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003322	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003323	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003324	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003331	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003333	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003336	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003339	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003346	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003347	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
310259660003350	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002002	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002005	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002006	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002010	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			

Check List #3 Subscribers - Nebraska City RL02

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Nebraska City	91

Estimated Broadband Take Rate            50%  
New Broadband Subscribers                 46

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

**Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Nebraska City RL02**

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 - Nebraska City RL02

**Budget**

**Remote Sites**

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,065	\$0	\$1,065	1	\$0	\$1,065	
Fiber Buildout	\$7,088	\$3,038	\$10,125	1	\$3,038	\$10,125	Placement of 1,500 ft of fiber cable
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	91	\$0	\$1,638	
Site Engineering	\$3,600	\$0	\$3,600	1	\$0	\$3,600	
Site Acquisition	\$10,183	\$0	\$10,183	1	\$0	\$10,183	
Power Make Ready	\$7,995	\$0	\$7,995	1	\$0	\$7,995	
110' AGL Wood Pole	\$0	\$27,354	\$27,354	1	\$27,354	\$27,354	
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	0	\$0	\$0	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,000	\$12,600	\$17,600	1	\$12,600	\$17,600	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$0	\$13,500	\$13,500	1	\$13,500	\$13,500	Pole-mounted
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$78,545</b>	<b>\$132,843</b>	

Tax \$78,545 5.00% \$3,927

**Grand Total \$136,770**

**Excluded**

ROW 2 \$0  
 IDC \$78,545 5.00% \$3,927

**Total Project Costs \$136,770**  
**% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2 69.9%**  
**Requested Funding Amount \$95,552**

**Depreciation Lives Life in Years**  
 Fixed Wireless Assets 45  
 Poles 33

**Check List #6 Pricing - Nebraska City RL02**

<b>Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)</b>				
<b>Speed</b>		<b>Standard Price</b>	<b>Current Promo</b>	<b>Net Price</b>
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

<b>Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder</b>				
<b>Speed</b>		<b>Standard Price</b>	<b>Current Promo</b>	<b>Net Price</b>
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.



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



Notary Public

