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May 8, 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:

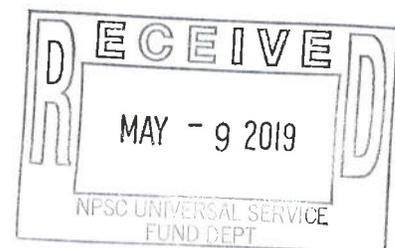
Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Northern area of Panama, NE ILEC Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 1.3 miles north of the Panama Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The Panama remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Panama Central Office.

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 – Panama EXCHANGE RL01

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

The Central Office for Panama 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 broadband or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 1.3 miles north of the Panama Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office.
- The Panama remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Panama 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 \$157,190, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$90,686, 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 - Panama Exchange RL01**

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	%
311090104001124	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	22	42%
311090104003000	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	30	58%
311090104003001	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
311090104003110	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	0	0%
311090104003124	CAF2			CAF2	<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>
311090104003125	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003126	CAF2			CAF2	Eligible for Funding	30	57.7%
311090104003128	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003129	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003130	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003137	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003138	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104003142	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001029	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001036	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001037	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001038	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001040	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001041	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001044	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001046	CAF2			CAF2			
311319668001172	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001105	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001122	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003003	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003004	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003005	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003111	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003113	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003114	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003118	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003119	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003120	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003122	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003123	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003131	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003132	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003133	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003134	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003135	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003136	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003139	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003140	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003141	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001034	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001039	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319668001042	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001123	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003002	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003112	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003121	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104003127	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			

**Footnotes:**

- \* There are three 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	Y -15/3	N	NE BB Eligible
Diode Cable Company	N	Y -12/2	Y	NE BB Eligible

**Footnotes for Table:**

- \*Windstream has contacted each of these providers' call centers and Future Technologies and Diode Cable Company said that voice services are NOT offered with 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 - Panama Exchange RL01

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Panama	172

Estimated Broadband Take Rate            50%  
New Broadband Subscribers                 86

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

**Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Panama Exchange RL01**

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 - Panama Exchange RL01

**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	\$8,505	\$3,645	\$12,150	1	\$3,645	\$12,150	Build out 1,800' of fiber.
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	175	\$0	\$3,150	
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	
100' AGL Steel Pole	\$23,645	\$20,500	\$44,145	1	\$20,500	\$44,145	
Base Station	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	4	\$24,000	\$48,000	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	\$2,780	\$4,000	\$6,780	1	\$4,000	\$6,780	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500	1	\$7,500	\$7,500	Pole-mounted
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$59,645</b>	<b>\$154,208</b>	

Tax \$59,645 5.00% \$2,982

**Grand Total \$157,190**

**Excluded**

ROW \$0  
 IDC \$59,645 5.00% \$2,982

**Total Project Costs \$157,190**  
**% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2 57.7%**  
**Requested Funding Amount \$90,686**

**Depreciation Lives**

Fixed Wireless Assets Life in Years 45  
 Poles 33

**Check List #6 Pricing - Panama Exchange RL01**

<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		\$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

<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		\$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		\$100	\$20 off for 12 months	\$80

\$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 )

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COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 16th day of May, 2017  
by Brad Brannon

  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

1/17/2024

