

NUSF-99.45

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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 Yutan Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at two sites. One remote base station approximately 3.25 miles south of the Yutan Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The cost for the equipment at the Central Office is included in the fixed wireless application for the Yutan Exchange RL01, filed the same time as this application. The Yutan remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have wireless backhaul to the Yutan 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Meradith".

Steve Meradith

Enclosures

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2019

Nebraska
Public Service Commission

WINDSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Yutan EXCHANGE RL05

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 Southern area of Yutan, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Yutan 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 Southern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore are not broadband qualified by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at two sites, one remote Base Station approximately 3.25 miles south of the Yutan Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The cost for the equipment at the Central Office is included in the fixed wireless application for the Yutan Exchange RL01 filed at the same time as this application.
- The Yutan remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have wireless backhaul to the Yutan 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 \$142,058, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$114,588, 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.

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:

Upon approval of the application, the deployment schedule will be as indicated in the Attached Checklist Item #4 with the caveat that given the time of year, construction may be delayed due to weather conditions.

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 shows the proposed budget and the depreciation schedule showing the life of investment for the major plant categories associated with this project.

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 - Yutan Exchange RLOS

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	%
311559684001253	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	35	19%
311559684001254	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	146	81%
311559684002000	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	0	0%
311559684002001	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	0	0%
311559684002002	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	181	100%
311559684002004	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002005	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002007	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002008	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002010	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002012	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002053	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002054	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002055	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002059	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002064	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002068	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002069	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002071	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002073	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002089	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002091	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002105	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002109	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002116	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002120	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002121	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002267	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684002268	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684003066	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684003076	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684003077	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684003092	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684003103	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
311559684003107	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2		
310550075081066	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible	CAF2		
310550075081069	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible	CAF2		
311559684001079	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible	CAF2		
311559684001158	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible	CAF2		
					Eligible for Funding	146	80.7%
					CAF2	35	19%
					NE BB Eligible	146	81%
					Competition - FW	0	0%
					Competition - Other	0	0%
					Total	181	100%

311559684002661	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003003	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003005	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003009	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003010	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003016	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003018	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003048	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003049	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003050	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003051	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003069	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003075	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003078	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003079	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003080	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003081	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003082	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003083	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003084	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003085	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003086	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003087	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003088	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003089	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003090	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003091	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003097	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003098	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003099	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003100	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003101	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003102	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003105	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003106	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003108	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003109	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003110	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003111	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003112	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003119	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311559684003120	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	N	Y - 15/3	N	NE BB Eligible

Footnotes for Table:

*Windstream has contacted each of these providers' call centers and they all said that voice services are NOT offered with their fixed wireless internet 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 - Yutan Exchange RL05

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Yutan	201

Estimated Broadband Take Rate 50%
New Broadband Subscribers 101

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

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Yutan RL05

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 - Yutan Exchange RB05

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	

Grand Total **\$67,179** **\$142,058**

Excluded

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

Total Project Costs **\$142,058**

% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2 **80.7%**

Requested Funding Amount **\$114,588**

Depreciation Lives

	Life in Years
Fixed Wireless Assets	45
Poles	33

Check List #6 Pricing - Yutan Exchange RB05

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		\$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)

:SS

COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 7th day of March, 2019
 by Brad Brannon



 Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

11/17/2024

