



## Attachment J – Digital Inclusion Plan

Vistabeam is headquartered in Scotts Bluff County, with roots in Nebraska that run long and deep. We are committed to helping all of our fellow Nebraskans become digital citizens, and we are proud of the efforts we have made to close the digital divide.

### Consultation Process

Vistabeam has communicated its intent to provide fiber broadband to the Morrill County Commissioners and sought their support. Specifically, we have communicated our intent to Board Chairman Jeff Metz in person as well as via phone and email. The County Commissioners have already provided a letter of support, which is provided in Attachment M\_6.

### Program Objectives

The project's state-of-the-art 10 Gigabit Symmetrical Passive Optical Network (XGS-PON) technology will provide the fast, reliable, and future ready broadband access that is necessary to enable telehealth, remote working, and remote teaching applications. All of these needs have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 emergency and will be remedied by the project.

### Affordability

Our approach to affordability is to offer *everyone* a discounted fiber-only 100/100 Mbps package priced at \$47.95 prior to the application of discounts for the Lifeline Broadband Program and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), both in our current fiber markets and in the project area. This package will *not* have:

- Usage caps,
- Early termination fees,
- Long-term contracts,
- Throttling after usage limits have been reached, or
- Metered pay-as-you-go rates.

In addition to this, Vistabeam offers 100/100 fiber service for \$30 per month prior to the application of discounts for the Lifeline Broadband Program and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to subscribers who qualify as low-income.

We believe that offering these discounted plans is the right approach given that the entirety of Morrill County ranks “highest” (most vulnerable) in overall vulnerability according to the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index for 2020.



Vistabeam also has several programs and plans in place to ensure access to broadband for all members of a community, including:

- Lifeline Broadband Program: \$9.25/month discount on Internet Service for qualifying individuals. More information is available at <https://vistabeam.com/lifeline>; and
- Affordable Connectivity Program: \$30/month discount on broadband service and associated equipment rentals. More information is available at <http://vistabeam.com/acp>.

A combination of a \$47.95 plan with discounts up to ~82% of that price would offer everyone in the project area the opportunity to benefit from fast and reliable broadband access at an affordable price as low as \$8.70 per month. Those who qualify as low income would be able to take advantage of our 100/100 service for a price as low as \$0.00.

As part of the Affordable Connectivity Program, Vistabeam can also offer a one-time discount of \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer, with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50. More information is available at <http://vistabeam.com/acp>.

Vistabeam is aware that, without additional funding from Congress, ACP funding is projected to run out in April 2024.<sup>1</sup> If that occurs without Congressional action, we will continue to honor ACP pricing while Congress considers the 2024 budget.

Vistabeam is also a Microsoft Airband Partner and offers the following skills to promote upskilling and employability:

- Digital skills training and other virtual learning programs for all our customers. More information is available at [Digiskills - Vistabeam Internet](#);
- A toll-free number/hotline via PCs for People for all our customers to call if they have any technical questions. More information is available at <https://vistabeam.com/digiskills>; and
- Digital empowerment centers, including our recently opened center in Chappell, Nebraska, in which Vistabeam partnered with the Chappell Senior Center. More information is available at [Vistabeam Brings Digital Empowerment Program to Chappell, Nebraska - Vistabeam Internet](#).

## Additional Outreach Efforts

Vistabeam has already discussed the benefits and timelines for this fiber project with its banks, who provided the letters of support in Attachments M\_4 and M\_5.

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<sup>1</sup> See FCC ACP Wind-Down Fact Sheet at [ACP Wind-down Fact Sheet Final.pdf \(fcc.gov\)](#).