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## **Attachment J**

### **Digital Inclusion Plan**

The project covers unincorporated rural areas south of the Platte River in Polk and Butler County, NE and proposes to serve 162 locations. According to the 2020 U.S. Census and the 2021 American Community Survey, the median household income is \$66,486 in Polk County and \$64,837 in Butler County, both of which are less than the nationwide median of \$69,717 (although these values are likely lower in the rural areas covered by our project). Notably, 14.4% of residents in Polk County and 14.3% of residents in Butler County reported living without an internet subscription, compared with only 9.7% nationwide. These figures, in conjunction with the lack of robust existing service as demonstrated below, suggest a community with a significant need for expanded broadband access that is affordable and accessible. We discuss our local outreach efforts regarding service and affordability concerns in [Attachment G](#).

#### **Community Needs**

The COVID-19 public health emergency immediately emphasized the consequences of the digital divide, as communities without widespread access to high-speed internet were unequipped to adapt to the rapid societal changes. Students suddenly moved to remote learning, found themselves unable to consistently attend virtual classrooms or complete homework assignments online; many workplaces whose employees lacked reliable internet during work-from-home arrangements suffered losses in productivity; and the rise of telemedicine created new gaps in healthcare access among Americans. Vyve's South Platte River Expansion project will address these needs by ensuring that high-speed service is not only available to residents, but more importantly, affordable to even the most disadvantaged households at all income levels.

The proposed project area consists of neighborhoods that are primarily served by unreliable fixed wireless service. Using this technology, residents would find it difficult to work or study from home, stream digital entertainment, and meet the data needs of an entire family at the same time. There is also inconsistent, high-latency satellite service. Our project will bring high-speed fiber internet to these communities and ensure reliable access to telehealth, remote learning, shopping, and entertainment platforms.



### **Affordability**

Affordability has traditionally been a major obstacle to broadband adoption efforts. Vyve already offers 105/105 Mbps speeds in comparable Nebraska markets for \$59.99/month, which is regularly discounted for new subscribers through various promotional and introductory offers. In addition, we have been a proud participant in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) from its inception and publicly offer the ACP discount to low-income subscribers. To further maximize accessibility through this Digital Inclusion Plan, Vyve plans to offer 105/105 Mbps speeds without any data caps or throttling for \$49.99/month to customers in the proposed project area. These rates are eligible for the ACP discount, and when combined with our introductory and promotional rates, some customers may have no out-of-pocket costs for their internet service.

### **Existing Service**

The proposed project area appears to be "unserved" by existing broadband internet service providers. Based on the FCC National Broadband Map, firsthand knowledge, and observation of the project area, our operations team is not aware of any broadband provider offering speeds exceeding 25/3 Mbps using a qualifying service that is not copper, DSL, fixed wireless, or satellite. We researched a representative sample of addresses in the project area, a few of which are below, as well as the providers in the area. The first group of providers are Space Exploration Technologies Corp., Hughes Network Systems, LLC, and Viasat, Inc., whose satellite service offerings are not considered "served" under the program. The second group of providers includes AMG Technology Investment Group LLC, JAB Wireless, Inc., T-Mobile USA, Inc., and US Cellular, who are fixed wireless providers; per our June 13, 2023 email correspondence with the PSC, the PSC does not "typically consider unlicensed fixed wireless as a competitive service." We are not aware of any cable or fiber service in the project area that is capable of providing 25/3 Mbps speeds. Vyve's low-latency, reliable, and symmetrical gigabit internet will be a leap forward for residents and businesses.



Figure 1. Sample address in project area from the FCC National Broadband Map.

14152 S RD BLDG 2 COLUMBUS, NE 68601

**14152 S RD BLDG 2**  
**COLUMBUS, NE 68601**  
 Business and Residential | Unit Count: 2

▶ Filter Details

▶ Broadband Funding Not Funded

▼ Availability Not Served

**Residential** | Business

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)
▶ AMG Technology Investment Group LLC	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	50	10
▶ Hughes Network Systems, LLC	GSO Satellite	25	3
▶ JAB Wireless, Inc.	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	100	20
▶ Space Exploration Technologies Corp.	NGSO Satellite	220	25
▶ Telephone & Data Systems, incl. UScellular	Licensed Fixed Wireless	10	1
▶ Viasat, Inc.	GSO Satellite	50	3



Figure 2. Sample address in project area from the FCC National Broadband Map.

296 COUNTY ROAD 41 BELLWOOD, NE 68624

**296 COUNTY ROAD 41**  
**BELLWOOD, NE 68624**  
 Residential | Unit Count: 1

▶ Filter Details

▶ Broadband Funding **Not Funded**

▼ Availability **Not Served**

**Residential** | Business

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)
▶ AMG Technology Investment Group LLC	Licensed Fixed Wireless	100	20
▶ Hughes Network Systems, LLC	GSO Satellite	25	3
▶ JAB Wireless, Inc.	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	100	20
▶ JAB Wireless, Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	50	10
▶ Space Exploration Technologies Corp.	NGSO Satellite	220	25
▶ T-Mobile USA, Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	0.2	0.2
▶ Telephone & Data Systems, incl. UScellular	Licensed Fixed Wireless	10	1
▶ Viasat, Inc.	GSO Satellite	50	3



Figure 3. Sample address in project area from the FCC National Broadband Map.

105 41ST RD COLUMBUS, NE 68601

County Rd 141

41ST RD

66

**105 41ST RD**  
**COLUMBUS, NE 68601**  
 Business and Residential | Unit Count: 7

▶ Filter Details

▶ Broadband Funding **Not Funded**

▼ Availability **Not Served**

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)
▶ AMG Technology Investment Group LLC	Licensed Fixed Wireless	100	20
▶ Hughes Network Systems, LLC	GSO Satellite	25	3
▶ JAB Wireless, Inc.	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	100	20
▶ JAB Wireless, Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	25	5
▶ Space Exploration Technologies Corp.	NGSO Satellite	220	25
▼ T-Mobile USA, Inc. T-Mobile US	Licensed Fixed Wireless	0.2	0.2
▶ Telephone & Data Systems, incl. UScellular	Licensed Fixed Wireless	10	1
▶ Viasat, Inc.	GSO Satellite	50	3