

ATTACHMENT C - Scoring and Weighting Sheet

Criteria	Points Available	Y/N	Points	Reference Sheet Lookup
Financial Capability	N/A		N/A	A
Financial Capability - Points	20			
Legal Capability	N/A		N/A	B
Legal Capability - Points	10			
<u>Technical Capability</u>				C
Broadband Data Collection	0-10			
Website Offerings	0-5			
Lack of Community Support	(-10)			
Dig. Inclusion Plan/Low-Income Offering	0-5			D
<u>Rate Comparability</u>				E
100/100+ Mbps Comparability	0-5			
Median Rate Comparison	0-5			
Rate Deductions	(-10)			
Speed Additive	0-10			F
Match Source	0-10			G
Match Percentage	0-60			H
Location Density	0-20			I
ETC Certification	0-5			J
PPP Participation	0-5			K
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>		<b>0</b>	

## Reference Sheet – Scoring Criteria

### A – Financial Capability – (Yes/No), and up to 20 points

- In order to be considered for grant support, non-ETC applicants must submit financial statements that demonstrate overall financial viability. ETC applicants must have submitted financial statements to the Commission that demonstrate overall financial viability. This item will be scored as a Yes/No, where the lack of required financial information demonstrating financial capability (No) would disqualify the applicant from receiving a grant.
- Up to 10 scoring points will be available if  
A business plan is included that provides the required details about the project, cash flow projections, including a description of revenue and take rate assumption, including a statement detailing how the take rate assumption was determined, for a period of five years following completion of the project, and a description of how the proposed network will be maintained over the expected useful life of the facilities.
- Long-term viability of the project and long-term commitment is a priority, and up to 10 scoring points will be available, which will be scored as follows:
  - i. Useful Life of the Facility (Up to 5 points):
    1. Clear demonstration of plans to extend the facility's useful life (3 points).
    2. Consideration of environmental factors (2 points).
  - ii. Long-Term Commitment to Serve Area (Up to 5 points):
    1. Evidence of a pre-existing commitment to the project area (1 point).
    2. Community outreach efforts, including participation in local government, townhall events, or community forums (2 points).
    3. Commitment to community benefit programs or discounted services for low-income households ( 1 point).
    4. Investment in customer support and a commitment to address issues promptly (1 point).

### B – Legal Capability – (Yes/No), and up to 10 points

- Applicants are required to include contact information for their legal representation. Omission of this information will disqualify the applicant from grant consideration. Legal representative must be licensed and in good standing to practice law in Nebraska, or an attorney admitted to practice pro hac vice in Nebraska.
- If this information is included, applicant will be awarded up to 10 points, but deductions will be made if: applicant/carrier partner has late filed annual reports (-2 points), applicant/carrier partner has late-filed NUSF remittances (-2 points), applicant fails to identify legal challenges that are anticipated, such as local zoning, permitting, access to rights-of-way, etc. (-2 points).

### C – Technical Capability – (Yes/No), and up to 15 points

- Applicants are required to include information with their application that demonstrates their technical ability to deploy and operate broadband Internet service at speeds of at least

100/100 Mbps. If this information is included, the application can be scored as follows:

- Broadband Data Collection – Does the most recently available Broadband Data Collection data demonstrate that the applicant offers 100/100 Mbps (or greater) service in Nebraska? If Yes, 10 points will be awarded. If no, 0 points will be awarded.
- Website Offerings – Does the applicant’s (or carrier partner’s) public-facing website clearly state that they offer services that meet the 100/100 Mbps or greater speed minimum? If yes, 5 points will be awarded. If no, 0 points will be awarded.
- Deductions to technical capability may be made if the project receives negative support from the community it proposes to serve. Deductions will be made on a case by case basis up to 10 points deducted from this category (-10 points).

**D – Digital Inclusion Plan – (Yes/No), and up to 5 points available**

- Digital Inclusion Plans (DIP) are required for all applications for Capital Projects Funds – applications submitted without a DIP will be disqualified from further consideration.
- Does the digital inclusion plan offer a discounted service plan to low-income subscribers that is below their standard rate and eligible to be discounted further with Lifeline or Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) discounts?
- Plan must be below \$50 per month prior to discounts being applied, or cost 25% less on a monthly basis than the carrier’s next lowest price plan, whichever is lower.

**E – Rate Comparability – 10 points available**

- Are the rates included in the application for 100Mbps/100Mbps or the next highest tier if applicant does not offer 100/100 Mbps comparable to what they offer in other areas they serve in Nebraska? If yes, 5 points will be awarded.
- Are the rates included in the application for 100Mbps/100Mbps service at or below \$65 per month? If yes, 5 points will be awarded. If no, 0 points will be awarded.
- Applications will receive score deductions for rate comparability as follows: Plans requiring long-term contracts (-2), plans throttling speeds after usage limits are reached (-2), plans with data caps (-2), plans with Early Termination Fees (-2), metered service or pay-as-you-go models (-2).

**F – Speed Additive – Up to 10 points available**

- Additional points will be awarded if applicant/carrier partner includes evidence that they plan to offer speeds in excess of the 100/100 Mbps minimum. These additional speed tiers must be available to customers at the time of application, and offerings have to meet both the upload and download speed minimums to be awarded points. Points will be awarded as follows:
  - o 100/100 Mbps only – 0 points
  - o 500/500 Mbps – 5 points
  - o 1 Gbps/1Gbps – 10 points

**G – Match Source – Up to 10 points available**

- Sources of match that are outside of existing federal or state broadband programs will be given additional points, as outlined here:

- NUSF High Cost – 0 points
- Federal Broadband Funds match – 5 points
- Applicant and/or carrier outside funds – 10 points
- See Program Guide for additional details

#### **H – Match Percentage – Up to 60 points available for projects that include a match**

- Points will be awarded for each percentage point of match up to 60%.

#### **I – Location Density – Up to 20 points available**

- Does the application serve low density areas of the state? If yes, up to 20 points will be awarded as follows:
  - Less than or equal to 10 locations per square mile – 20 points
  - More than 10 locations per square mile, but less than or equal to 20 locations per square mile – 12 points
  - More than 20 locations per square mile, but less than or equal to 42 locations per square mile – 5 points

#### **J – ETC Certification – Up to 5 points available**

- If the applicant/carrier partner is an ETC at the time of application, 5 points will be awarded.
- If an ETC application is pending, 3 points will be awarded.
- If the applicant/carrier partner plans to file for ETC Certification within 30 days of the application deadline, 1 point will be awarded.
- If the applicant does not fall under an ETC certification category as listed above, 0 points will be awarded.

#### **K – Public Private Partnership – 5 points available**

- Does the applicant identify an eligible public/private partnership as part of the application? Eligibility is determined based on a documented contribution of a public partner. Documentation of the contribution commitment must be submitted with the application. The non-public partner in the PPP must be an ETC in the portions of Nebraska to be served by the project.