

**Rock County Telephone Company  
Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program  
Grant Application  
Bassett, Nebraska**

**REDACTED PUBLIC COPY**

**Submitted to the Nebraska Public Service Commission  
March 1, 2013**

Rock County Telephone Company  
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**Application Checklist Item #1:**

**“A listing of all companies associated with the proposed broadband project that will provide the broadband or voice component of the service to consumers, including a main point of contact for all companies. (This requirement does not refer to vendors such as construction companies or equipment providers.)”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company (“RCTC”) is the incumbent local exchange carrier that will be responsible for managing the implementation of the project submitted through this application and will be providing the facilities for the proposed broadband project. RCTC will be providing the voice component of the service to the consumers in the proposed project area.

HunTel.net, is the Internet service provider (“ISP”) that will be providing the broadband services over Rock County Telephone Company’s facilities.

The mailing addresses for these companies are:

Rock County Telephone Company  
PO Box 400  
1638 Lincoln Street  
Blair, NE 68008

HunTel.net, Inc.  
PO Box 400  
1638 Lincoln Street  
Blair, NE 68008

The main point of contact for this project is:

Joe Jetensky  
Director of Regulated Operations  
Office Telephone Number: [REDACTED]  
Email: [jjetensky@americanbb.com](mailto:jjetensky@americanbb.com)

**Application Checklist Item #2:**

**“A description of the proposed broadband project plan for which NEBP funding is being requested including download and upload speed capabilities which can be provided using the proposed infrastructure. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.”**

*Narrative:*

In this application, Rock County Telephone Company (“RCTC”) proposes to construct broadband infrastructure in the rural, underserved areas near Bassett, Nebraska. RCTC has determined that the proposed project service area, as depicted in the map submitted with this application, is underserved because it lacks access to broadband service at the 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload speed capabilities that the Nebraska Public Service Commission has set as the speed threshold definition of broadband service.

The proposed project area near Bassett, Nebraska is a vast, rural area with an extremely low population density, making the area an exceptionally high-cost area to serve. In the National Broadband Plan, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) found that the broadband availability gap is greatest in areas with low population density. In an effort to make broadband services more widely available in Nebraska and to close the broadband availability gap, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) established the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program (“NEBP”) to provide specific and targeted broadband support to unserved and underserved areas.

To more efficiently deploy broadband service, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

The financial support provided by the NEBP for broadband capital improvement projects will

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] By closing the broadband availability gap in this area, rural customers in Bassett will have access to the benefits of broadband service including the economic development and E-commerce opportunities that occur when local businesses and consumers are linked to regional, national and worldwide markets, the Telehealth and Telemedicine consultations that can provide remote diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and appointments with specialists, access to distance learning and other online educational opportunities and provide rural consumers with access to a wide range of cultural and recreational opportunities and resources.

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**Application Checklist Item #3:**

**“A description of which areas are “unserved” or “underserved” in accordance with the Commission’s definition.”**

*Narrative:*

The proposed project service area is an underserved, rural area in RCTC’s Bassett, Nebraska exchange. The proposed project service area consists [REDACTED] in the Bassett exchange. There are [REDACTED] households in the proposed project area. A map depicting the proposed project service area is included with this application. RCTC considers the proposed project area underserved because the households in this area do not have access to broadband service that provides 4Mbps download and 1Mbps upload capability.

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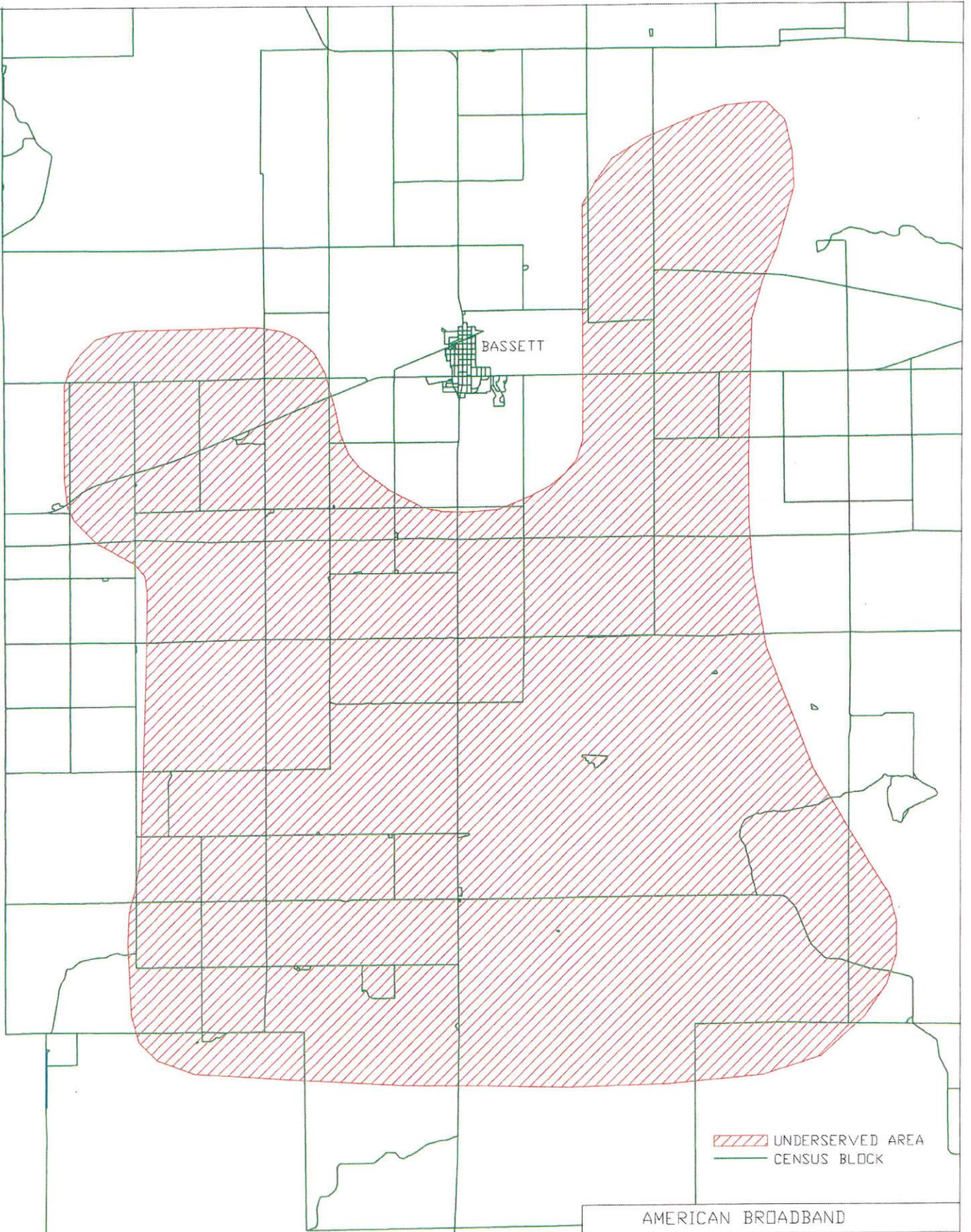
**Application Checklist Item #4:**

**“An electronic map of all geographic locations where broadband facilities would be deployed under the proposed project which shall include 2010 Census Block boundaries of service area, by project, along with a demonstration that the area is currently unserved or underserved. The map must demonstrate coverage in 2010 census blocks. (The map must show proposed project locations and does not need to depict the applicant’s other service territory.)”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company has provided electronic maps in an editable ESRI format. A PDF printout of the map detailing the proposed project service area is also included with this application.

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AMERICAN BROADBAND	
ROCK COUNTY TELEPHONE	
BASSETT EXCHANGE	
DATE:	2-21-2013
 <b>HunTel Engineering</b> <small>P.O. Box 800          1612 Lincoln Street          Blair, Nebraska 68008</small>	
Ph - (402) 426-6100	Fax - (402) 533-5727
<a href="http://www.HunTelEngineering.com">www.HunTelEngineering.com</a>	

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**Application Checklist Item #5:**

**“An estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers.”**

*Narrative:*

In order to determine an estimate of the number of potential new broadband subscribers, Rock County Telephone Company utilized the mapping and engineering plans for the proposed project area to determine how many households in the proposed project area would gain access to increased speed capabilities and broadband availability.

An estimate of the number of households which will have access to broadband service at the 4/1 Mbps speed level in the proposed project service area is included in the table below:

	<b>Bassett</b>
<b>Underserved</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	

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**Application Checklist Item #6:**

**“A schedule for broadband deployment with commitment to complete the build-out within 24 months of approval of the application. The schedule should describe milestones in project completion increments of 25 percent, and the estimated date by which the milestones will be completed.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company has estimated the major milestones and completion dates for the Bassett project. However, because the actual construction schedule is contingent upon the application approval process and timeline, RCTC submits that the estimated completion dates are fluid, and while RCTC intends to have the Bassett project completed in late 2013, construction on the project could flow into early 2014. In developing the project milestone schedule, RCTC has presumed that the approval notifications would be made in mid-2013.

Additional information regarding the project milestones or estimated completion dates will be provided to the Commission upon request.

**PROJECT MILESTONES SCHEDULE**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Hardware Selection/Ordering	June 2013
Outside Plant Construction/Equipment Configuration & Installation	October 2013
System Turn-up/Testing	November 2013
Service Implementation	December 2013

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**Application Checklist Item #7:**

**“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.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company has included a proposed budget, showing total project costs, including a detailed breakdown of the cost elements and a depreciation schedule showing the life of the investment. RCTC has provided the budget and depreciation schedule in an electronic, Excel Spreadsheet format and has included a print out of the budget and depreciation schedule in this application.

Summary totals from the proposed project budget, along with a summary of the depreciation schedule, are provided below:

Description	Gross Investment	Depreciable Life	Depreciation Per Year
<b>Electronics</b>			
<b>Plant</b>			
<b>Plant</b>			
<b>Total Capital Budget</b>			
<b>RCTC Matching Amount (25%)</b>			

Rock County Telephone Company commits to using the NEBP broadband support only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission through the application process.

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**Application Checklist Item #8:**

**“Proposed retail pricing, including both monthly recurring costs and nonrecurring costs for the new broadband service(s) to be offered.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to offering voice and broadband service at reasonably comparable rates for comparable services in urban areas.

In the table below, RCTC details the recurring pricing of the broadband services offered through this project, as well as any nonrecurring costs associated with the broadband service to be offered through the proposed project.

<b>Recurring Monthly Prices</b>		
<b>Bundle Package</b>	<b>Residential Price</b>	<b>Business Price</b>
<b>Nonrecurring Prices</b>		
Broadband Activation Charge		
Customer Modem (CPE)		
*Nonrecurring charges are often waived or discounted during marketing of broadband services		

**Application Checklist Item #9:**

**“A description of the applicant’s commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company is committed to providing the supported broadband service upon completion of the deployment to all household within the proposed project service area for a period of no less than five years.

The proposed project area is within Rock County Telephone Company’s incumbent local exchange service area, and as the Carrier of Last Resort, RCTC is committed to offering a voice grade service to all customers within the proposed project service area, including access to emergency services.

The funding requested in the application will provide RCTC [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Application Checklist Item #10:**

**“A description of the applicant’s commitment to provide broadband data to the Commission and its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program so that this broadband coverage area can be depicted on the Commission’s state broadband data inventory map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA’s) national broadband map.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company has been and will continue to be committed to providing its broadband data to the Nebraska Public Service Commission and to its vendors for the duration of the State Broadband Data and Development Program.

As a successful applicant to the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program, RCTC will continue to provide all required mapping data to the Commission and its vendors for its existing and new service areas so Rock County Telephone Company’s broadband service coverage areas will be depicted on the Nebraska Broadband Map and on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s National Broadband Map.

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**Application Checklist Item #11:**

**“A description of the applicant’s financial qualifications, which may be filed on a confidential basis, to meet the commitments made in the application.”**

*Narrative:*

The Commission has indicated that for companies filing Annual Report Form M, the information contained in Form M would be sufficient to meet the application requirement.

Rock County Telephone Company’s Annual Report Form M illustrates the company’s financial position and is on file with the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

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**Application Checklist Item #12:**

**“If the applicant does not have a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in Nebraska, a demonstration of the applicant’s financial, technical, and managerial competence.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company is an established rural, incumbent local exchange carrier operating in Nebraska and holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide telecommunications services in the State of Nebraska.

RCTC commits to abide by all applicable Commission rules, regulations and orders.

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**Application Checklist Item #13:**

**“A description of the applicant’s financial match which will be used to meet the commitments made in the application. Applicant shall submit a proposed budget for the entire project cost.”**

*Narrative:*

Rock County Telephone Company’s proposed budget for the entire project costs has been included with the application.

Rock County Telephone Company [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RCTC commits to provide project invoices as required based upon the completion milestones identified in NUSF 77 P.O. No. 5. RCTC further commits to fulfilling all reporting and audit requirements adopted by the Commission for oversight of the NEBP program.

A summary of the total project cost and match amount is included below:

Total Capital Budget	Rock County Telephone Company 25% Match	NPSC 75% Grant Request
[REDACTED]		

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**Application Checklist Item #14:**

**“An affidavit from the Applicant attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in the application.”**

*Narrative:*

Included with this application is an Affidavit of George J. Mack, President and General Manager of Rock County Telephone Company attesting to the truth and accuracy of all information included in this application.

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