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Jim Pillen, Governor

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Nebraska Broadband Office names Approved Applicants**

March 31, 2025 (Lincoln, Neb.) — The Nebraska Broadband Office (NBO) has completed its first phase of applications for the Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (NBEAD) program – the Organization Application. We are pleased to announce that 26 organizations are officially Approved Applicants (AAs). A complete list of AAs is available at: <a href="mailto:broadband.nebraska.gov/nbead/approved-applicants/">broadband.nebraska.gov/nbead/approved-applicants/</a>.

With Nebraska receiving \$405 million in federal funding through BEAD, this program is set to transform communities by ensuring Nebraskans have access to high-speed internet. Reliable broadband is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity that fuels economic growth, enhances education, supports businesses, and connects families. Expanded broadband access will provide new opportunities for small businesses, increase telehealth availability for rural communities, and give students better access to digital learning resources. It will also allow farmers and ranchers to integrate precision agriculture technologies that improve efficiency and productivity.

Following the Challenge Process, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved NBO's final inventory of 29,597 unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs).

AAs are eligible to proceed to the next phase of the NBEAD program, Project Applications (PAs). The first round of PAs opens April 1, 2025, and will remain open for 30 days. All technologies are encouraged to apply within the first round. The outcome of round one will determine the necessity and length of future PA rounds.

For more information, visit <a href="https://broadband.nebraska.gov">https://broadband.nebraska.gov</a>.

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