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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Pillen Highlights Next Step in Connecting Nebraskans: Broadband Office Advances BEAD Program with Second Round of Broadband Awards and New Broadband Map

Nov. 16, 2026 (Lincoln, Neb.) — Today, Governor Pillen and the Nebraska Broadband Office (NBO) announced results from the 2026 Re-Award Round of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The second round of applications under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BEAD program will connect the remaining 12% of eligible BEAD locations across Nebraska.

NBO opened a second BEAD round in June to enhance coverage of broadband serviceable locations (BSLs). The re-award round focused on quality and end-user experience while incorporating feedback from stakeholders and providers. As a result, all 14,002 of Nebraska's BEAD eligible BSLs are covered for service.

In addition to the 1,705 locations that will now be served, NBO secured funding for an additional 139 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs), bringing the total number of CAIs awarded to 166. CAIs are entities such as fire departments, law enforcement offices, community support organizations, court houses, and healthcare centers.

"These are more positive steps forward in connecting Nebraskans and communities around the state to reliable, high-speed broadband," Governor Jim Pillen said. "But there is still work to be done. We have just received guidance on the next step of the program to capture additional unserved locations. My office is already working hard to bring the next phase of this federal investment home to Nebraska."

The following providers were awarded BEAD funding through the second application round:

- AMG Technology Investment Group LLC/Nextlink – 1,461 Licensed Fixed Wireless locations
- Midstates Data Transport LLC/Stealth – 155 Fiber locations
- Northeast Nebraska Telephone Co – 224 Fiber locations
- Quick Current – 4 Licensed Fixed Wireless locations

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“Governor Pillen and NBO have been relentless in their pursuit of delivering high speed broadband to Nebraskans,” Interim NBO Director Vicki Kramer said. “Pursuing a second round to fully cover our eligible locations while incorporating additional CAIs is a win and shows the agility of the office in being able to evolve within the opportunities and constraints of BEAD. Because of this, we are a step ahead in navigating September’s BEAD Supplemental Deployment Policy Notice.”

"The Re-Award and release of NBO’s new map marks significant progress in reaching our goal of connecting Nebraskans and moves us closer to deployment. We have learned from previous rounds and are committed to continuous improvement. I am thrilled to be working with Nebraska’s providers, and I am confident they will uphold the high standards we have set," Patrick Redmond, Deputy Director of the Nebraska Broadband Office, said. "We look forward to improving connectivity across the state."

An additional $11,988,144.13 of BEAD funding has been approved with these awards along with $4,100,114.32 in matching funds. Nebraska’s BEAD technology composition now stands at 10% fiber, 67% fixed wireless, and 23% satellite.

The provisional awards have been posted to Nebraska Broadband Office's website at broadband.nebraska.gov/nbead/2026-awards/.

As work advances on the 2026 awards, NBO is also preparing for the next round of BEAD funding. NBO has received Nebraska’s supplemental BEAD location list from NTIA and has begun its review in accordance with NTIA’s Supplemental Deployment Policy Notice. Following this review, NBO will publish the revised list and open a challenge process to verify which locations qualify for BEAD funding.

Following the approval of the 2026 Re-Award Round awards, the Nebraska Broadband Map has been updated to reflect the most up to date information available to the office. Included is a new feature which indicates locations that are “Nebraska Served” at 100Mbps/100Mbps, not just the federal minimum standard of 100Mbps/20Mbps. The map is available for viewing on NBO’s website at broadband.nebraska.gov/nebraska-broadband-maps/.

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