**Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships**

**Application of Interest and Commitment**

BACKGROUND: The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the State Office of the Chief Information Officer, plans to use the IMLS NLG SPARK Grant of $25,000 to incentivize up to five rural public school districts and five rural public libraries to work together as partners to increase the internet speeds at the public library, provide homework hotspots for students who lack internet at home, and enhance the public library role as a key Community Anchor. The **Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships** project will result in a replicable model for school/library partnerships and collaboration, interagency communication, diagnosis and resolution of technical impediments, and possible increase in Category 1 and Category 2 E-rate funding for public libraries.

If your library had an opportunity to partner with your local public school district to provide a ***minimum of 50 Mbps*** up to ***one gigabit (1,000Mbps)*** speeds for students in K-12th grade from your public school district, would you be interested? If the answer is YES!, and you want your library considered as one of the five participating public libraries, please complete the *Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships* application (below) and submit it with letters of support/participation from your local public school district superintendent (just one letter of support from whatever public school support entity your library will be partnering with) to Holly Woldt via e-mail or postal mail.

IMPORTANT: The grant award will be announced in early April 2018. Due the short timeline for the grant performance (1 year), the application for participation is being distributed ***prior*** to knowing if the Nebraska Library Commission’s proposal is awarded by IMLS. Submission and selection of the five libraries will occur prior to the award announcement. Participation in this grant is contingent on the proposal being funded by IMLS.

SUBMISSION: **E-mail submissions must be sent to** [**holly.woldt@nebraska.gov**](mailto:holly.woldt@nebraska.gov) **and received by March 9, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Mailed submissions must be postmarked on or before March 9, 2018 and addressed to Holly Woldt, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.** Please notify Holly Woldt via email or phone ([holly.woldt@nebraska.gov](mailto:holly.woldt@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4871 or 800-307-2665) when a postal mail submission has been mailed so that she can watch for it in the USPS mail.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Holly Woldt at 402-471-4871 or [holly.woldt@nebraska.gov](mailto:holly.woldt@nebraska.gov) if you have any questions about the grant application and/or your community library and school’s participation in the grant application.

Thank you,

Holly Woldt, Infrastructure Specialist, Nebraska Library Commission

Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager, Nebraska Office of the CIO

**Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships**

**Application of Interest**

Library Name:

Contact Person:

E-mail:

Phone:

Library Address:

City:

Minimum requirements: Check ‘Yes’ to the items below that you can confirm:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assurances Required of Participating Libraries** | Yes |
| The library is an accredited Nebraska Public Library |  |
| The library is within five miles of a school district building (60 to 70 blocks) and there are no geographic or structural impediments between the library rooftop and the school district building’s rooftop (e.g. trees or other buildings blocking line of sight from rooftop to rooftop) OR The community has a water tower, grain elevator, or other high point that is in line of sight to the rooftops of both the library and the school district building and the total relay distance is no greater that five miles. |  |
| The library is willing to partner with the local school district. This partnership will include internal and external wireless infrastructure upgrades to increase the library’s internet speed for K-12 student and teacher access AND the school district may be willing to provide technical support to enable K-12 students and teachers to use the augmented internet connection within the library. |  |
| Agreement with school district and library to cost share up to $960. This will cover the cost of the 802.11ac wireless router (or wireless access point) and installation, CAT6 indoor cabling, one folding table and 4 stacking shell chairs. |  |
| Library staff is willing to share their experiences as grant participants with other public libraries and public schools through webinars and/or conference presentations. |  |
| [Optional Phase 2] The library is willing to file for E-rate funding for E-rate Category 1 as a member of a mini-consortium and possible infrastructure upgrades [E-rate Category 2] for fiscal year 2019-2020. |  |

**Use as much space as you need to answer the following questions:**

1. Why does your library wish to participate in the *Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships* project and how do you believe your library or community may benefit from participating?

**E-rate Program Questions**

1. Does your library currently subscribe to E-rate funding?
   1. If yes:
      1. How many years has the library participated in E-rate?
      2. What types of Category 1 E-rate services has the library participated? (e.g. phone and/or internet)
      3. Has the library ever filed for Category 2 E-rate funding? If yes, were you able to secure Category 2 funds for library infrastructure projects?
   2. If no:
      1. Has the library ever participated in the E-rate program in the past? If so, when?
      2. Are you willing to file for E-rate funding if you are selected to participate in this grant?
      3. Are you willing to participate in E-rate training to learn more about the program and how to properly file for E-rate funding?
2. Who are the decision makers at the library related to participation in E-rate funding?

**Library School Partnership for Internet (K-12 Public School Students)**

1. Do the library and the public school system collaborate on or co-sponsor any programs at the library or the school?
2. Does the library experience a surge of K-12 student usage of the library after school and on weekends? If yes (check all that apply):
   1. Do the students use their own devices?
   2. Do the students use devices issued from school?
   3. Do the students use library computers?
   4. Do the students use the library Wi-fi from their car, parking lot, or in close proximity to library grounds?

**Additional Documentation**

1. Please provide a scanned copy of a MapQuest or Google Map that identifies the driving route between the library and the closest school building.
2. Please provide a letter of support from the School District Superintendent to participate in the grant and provide strong consideration for filing an E-rate joint entity application for the library and the school.
3. Please provide any other letters of support from community members, local decision makers, elected officials, etc.

Please contact Holly Woldt at 402-471-4871 or [holly.woldt@nebraska.gov](mailto:holly.woldt@nebraska.gov) if you have any questions about the grant application and/or your community library and school’s participation in the grant application.

**Nebraska Schools and Libraries—Breaking the Ice and Igniting Internet Relationships**

**Online resources related to the IMLS Sparks Grant proposal**

1. More information about IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) National Leadership and Sparks Grants <https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/national-leadership-grants-libraries>
2. [E-rate basics](http://www.usac.org/sl/about/getting-started/default.aspx) http://www.usac.org/sl/about/getting-started/default.aspx
3. About E-rate Category 1 and Category 2 funding available for libraries – Eligible Services <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/eligible-services/default.aspx>
4. Public Schools and Network Nebraska http://www.networknebraska.net/members/index.html
5. Project Timeline

