

August 15, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNITED WAY OF MIDLANDS SEEKS EXTENSION
OF 211 SERVICE TO THAYER COUNTY**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission formally opened proceedings on August 9 to expand 2-1-1 dialing for health and human services referrals to Thayer County in south central Nebraska.

The Commission acted on a request by United Way of the Midlands of Omaha, the agency that holds the authority to operate 2-1-1 services in Nebraska. By dialing 2-1-1, a caller is provided with free referral service through United Way of the Midlands' First Call For Help program.

Commissioner Rod Johnson of Sutton, whose Fourth District includes Thayer County, said 2-1-1 service has proven itself to be a valuable community asset. "Thirty counties now have 2-1-1 dialing, representing 75 percent of Nebraska's population. United Way of the Midlands has demonstrated its ability to operate the system efficiently and professionally for the benefit of persons in need of the service."

Persons wishing to comment on the application have 30 days to do so. If no protests or interventions are received in that time, the Commission will hold a public meeting in the area before addressing United Way's request for 2-1-1 for Thayer County.

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