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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FIRST NEBRASKA INTERNET ENHANCEMENT FUND
GRANT PROJECT COMPLETED AT CHAPPELL**

LINCOLN – The first of five projects that made up the initial grants from the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund has been completed, and the Public Service Commission authorized final payment at its weekly meeting August 23.

Chappell received a grant allocation of \$29,500 on January 11 to provide access to local high-speed broadband Internet service for the city's approximately 1,000 residents. The grant will provide the necessary equipment for five government users and 30 community residents selected through a lottery process. The project was completed for about \$5,500 under original estimates.

Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook, who represents Chappell on the Commission, said use of the grant by Chappell was what the Legislature had in mind when it created the Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund. "Chappell and NIEF teamed together to make broadband Internet possible for Chappell residents," Vap said. "Without the grant, Chappell would still be without total access to this form of high speed Internet," said Vap, who currently serves as chairman of the Commission.

Other NIEF grants were awarded in January to Box Butte County, Cheyenne County, Dawes County, and the Nemaha County Development Alliance based in Auburn. The completion of those projects is pending.

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