

November 18, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC APPROVES 2-1-1 FOR CEDAR COUNTY

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission approved an application to add another northeast Nebraska county to those who may dial 2-1-1 for health and human service referrals.

The Commission approved implementation of three-digit dialing for the referral service, First Call for Help, in Cedar County. First Call for Help, a program of United Way of the Midlands of Omaha, provides trained personnel to refer callers to public and private agencies that can assist with health and human service issues.

Cedar County joins 35 other Nebraska counties with the 2-1-1 dialing option. With the addition of Cedar County 78.6 percent of the state's population now has access to this valuable service. No objections to the proposed service were received by the Commission during a public comment period. The Commission acted upon the application by United Way of the Midlands to extend the service to Cedar County on November 8 and set a February 8, 2006 deadline for implementation of the service by telephone service providers in Cedar County.

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