

December 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NTAP AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED NEBRASKANS

LINCOLN – Nebraskans who currently participate in any of six assistance programs are eligible to apply for the Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (NTAP) through the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

The program subsidizes a portion of the cost to connect phones and pays a portion of monthly fees for eligible participants. Federally, it is known as the Lifeline/Linkup program.

The six assistance programs are Medicaid, Children's Medicaid, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing (HUD, Section 8 and the USDA Rural Development), Low Income Energy Program and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Only telephone companies that have been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETC) may participate in NTAP. In addition to landline carriers, there are three wireless companies that also are eligible for participants. They are: Alltel, U.S. Cellular, and Viaero.

The Public Service Commission continues to work with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to contact Nebraska citizens who participate in its qualifying programs.

For information on the NTAP program, call the Nebraska Public Service Commission within the state at 1-800-526-0017 or within Lincoln at 471-3101. Or view the Commission's website www.psc.state.ne.us.

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