

## **Residential Signal Booster Grant Fact Sheet**

Improving connectivity is a priority for the State of Kansas and Wabaunsee County Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Committees and each provided federal funds that will help many residents and businesses gain access to fiber- or fixed wireless-based broadband internet.

Unfortunately, residents and businesses in less densely populated and more remote areas of Wabaunsee County will remain underserved, at least in the near term. At these locations, cellular-based internet service is common, but slower and weak or unusable signal strength often makes it unreliable or unavailable.

**Wabaunsee County is now offering a grant to help residents and businesses make an investment in improving their cellular-based internet service.** This grant will pay a portion of the purchase and installation cost for a signal booster selected by the applicant. Though a booster will not typically increase internet speeds, by strengthening weak or barely usable cellular signals, boosters can increase internet reliability and may provide access to signals not previously usable at a given location.

Each location is unique, so the County cannot guarantee results, but as a rule, with a signal booster, cell phone service should improve and internet service may improve.

To apply, residents and businesses must complete a one-page application and sign a short agreement with the County. Applications will be approved and awarded on a first come, first served basis starting on November 1, 2020 and continuing until funds are exhausted or December 1, 2020, whichever comes first. The County will make award payments once the applicant provides receipts, invoices, etc. showing an upgrade to existing service or establishment of new service.

For more information, contact [emlogistics@wbcounty.org](mailto:emlogistics@wbcounty.org).

**Signal Booster Grant Application**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

At this address, do you expect to have, before December 30, 2020, access to fiber, fixed wireless, or other internet service with 25mbps download / 3mbps upload or better speeds? **If yes, you are not eligible for the signal booster grant program.**

**YES // NO**

At this address, can you receive a signal from a carrier (i.e., Sprint, T-Mobile, US Cellular) who provides cellular-signal based internet service? **If no, you are not eligible for the signal booster grant program.**

**YES // NO**

Are you willing to contact a cellular signal-based internet provider and, at your own cost, enter into an agreement for service to begin before December 15, 2020? **If no, you are not eligible for the signal booster grant program.**

**YES // NO**

Is your household eligible for the Kansa Corporation Commission Lifeline program for low-income families and individuals? This is an optional question that does not affect your eligibility, but may affect timing of payments from Wabaunsee County.

**YES // NO**

Please provide a brief description of how you currently access the internet at this address, including carrier or provider, reliability, and speeds. Use reverse side, if necessary.

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## **Signal Booster Grant Agreement**

This is an agreement between Wabaunsee County and [REDACTED] (hereafter, the fund recipient). This agreement is being entered into because Wabaunsee County, using Coronavirus Relief funds provided to it by the State of Kansas, has awarded [REDACTED] a reimbursable grant to improve their ability to conduct telework, telemedicine, and remote learning via the internet.

This Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) is federal in origin and has been transmitted through the State to the County level for dispersal. Federal law controls permissible uses of the funds. The spirit of the fund is to mitigate and prevent harm caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The State of Kansas and Wabaunsee County determined that programs and projects to improve internet connectivity in underserved areas meet this intent.

By accepting these funds, the fund recipient agrees that the funds will be used to improve connectivity to the internet. Expenditures for this purpose must occur during the period of the public health emergency (March 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020) and they must otherwise comply with State and Federal law.

The fund recipient affirms that all statements and information provided on their application are true and accurate to the best of their knowledge. In addition, they affirm that these funds will not be used to recover or offset expenses for which they have already or are expected to receive other assistance (i.e., no “double dipping”).

To be eligible for this program, [REDACTED], at the address for which they are applying, must be able to receive a cell phone signal from one or more entities that provide high speed internet via cell phone signal (e.g., US Cellular or T-Mobile do; Verizon and AT&T do not). In addition, this address must be underserved (i.e., unable to achieve speeds of 25mbps download and 3mbps upload) by existing coverage areas, as well as those under development by other CRF-funded projects expected to be completed before December 30, 2020.

The fund recipient acknowledges their responsibility to research and select necessary equipment and cell based-internet providers, to enter into agreements with suppliers or providers of their choice, and to meet all requirements of such an agreement. Service must be in place before December 15, 2020.

Once provided supporting documentation, Wabaunsee County agrees to reimburse [REDACTED] one half (50%), up to \$500.00, towards the purchase of a signal booster or other equipment necessary to establish or improve their internet connectivity (i.e., access, reliability, and/or speed) via cellular phone signal. Fund recipients who are eligible for the Kansas Department of Commerce Lifeline Program may request advance payment.

Wabaunsee County will assist fund recipients by sharing information it has

collected on service options, but doing so does not reflect endorsement of a particular product, service, or business. Furthermore, while the objective of this program is to improve internet connectivity (i.e., access, reliability, and/or speed), the circumstances and conditions at each address, which may change over time, prevent Wabaunsee County from guaranteeing the same results for all fund recipients.

To ensure effective and timely oversight of local spending, \_\_\_\_\_ will comply with reporting requirements established by Wabaunsee County. The fund recipient understands that the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor's Office of Recovery may issue guidance regarding the transfer, expenditure, reimbursement, or other use of CRF funds and the IRS may have special reporting requirements. Documentation related to this grant must be maintained by the County and the fund recipient for a period of five years (i.e., until December 30, 2025).

Documents related to this program, including supporting documentation submitted by the fund recipient to Wabaunsee County, may be made publicly available through Freedom of Information or Open Records requests.

This agreement was executed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Fund Recipient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wabaunsee County Official Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Wabaunsee County Official