

Docket Number: TC21-044  
Subject Matter: First Data Request  
Request to: Santel Communications Cooperative Inc. (Santel or Company)  
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff  
Date of Request: June 29, 2021  
Responses Due: July 13, 2021

- 1-1. Explain in detail how Santel plans to use the grant funding it received from the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

***This docket is regarding finances used by Santel as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to build and operate a network as a designated high-cost study area with Universal Service Funds (USF). This portion of our network, operations and accounting is maintained separate from any non-regulated, non-study area network investments made under the recent GOED Connect SD broadband grant awards. No Universal Service Funds are to be used with the GOED funded projects. Santel does keep GOED informed as required under the GOED grant agreement.***

- 1-2. Did receiving the state grant for broadband in 2020 and 2021 change Santel's previously submitted plans for capital additions and/or improvements for 2020 and 2021? Please explain.

***Scheduled study area capital additions or improvements did not change as a result of Connect SD grant awards. The scheduled completion date for ETC designated area network improvements remain unchanged and are not contingent upon GOED funded, non-regulated projects.***

- 1-3. Refer to the Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Annual Report. Provide an updated letter and brochure with updated poverty guidelines.

***See attached Lifeline letter and information for 2021.***