

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SATELLITE INTERNET EQUIPMENT REBATE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS WITHOUT ACCESS TO BROADBAND SPEEDS GREATER THAN 100 MBPS DOWNLOAD / 25 MBPS UPLOAD, AND PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM REBATE OF THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$349.00) PER HOUSEHOLD.**

**WHEREAS**, “expanding and accelerating access to high-speed broadband communications services throughout the entire state of Missouri is necessary, desirable, in the best interests of the citizens of this state, and that is a public purpose of great importance.” Section 394.085.1, RSMo.; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2021, the City Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri, authorized Phase 1 of the Internet Access Project, pursuant to Ordinance #2661, which would successfully extend high-speed internet access to 1,977 previously unserved or underserved households within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2024, Phase 1 of the Internet Access Project was successfully completed, providing access to high-speed internet to 1,977 previously unserved or underserved households within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, during the implementation of Phase 1 of the Internet Access Project, the City identified additional households that continued to lack access to reliable broadband internet service and could be classified as unserved or underserved under federal and state standards; and

**WHEREAS**, in response, the City conducted a comprehensive review of all addresses within Wildwood, utilizing self-reported resident data, data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), information from the Missouri Office of Broadband Development, permitting records, and internal data from a third party internet service provider, and determined that at least 395 households lacked access to reliable high speed broadband internet service and were therefore unserved or underserved; and

**WHEREAS**, the City intended to implement a second phase of its Internet Access Project to extend wired broadband infrastructure to these 395 identified households, but such intentions are cost prohibitive; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing both the cost limitations and the immediate need for improved connectivity, the City explored alternative strategies to improve broadband internet access for these remaining households; and

**WHEREAS**, satellite internet service emerged as a feasible short-term solution capable of delivering significantly improved internet speeds to unserved or underserved areas, particularly where physical infrastructure is not yet available; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration recently broadened the use of federal funds for alternative technologies, including satellites to provide internet service to unserved and underserved areas; and

**WHEREAS**, while not a permanent substitute for wired broadband service, satellite internet service has proven to be a viable interim solution that can assist unserved and underserved Wildwood households; and

**WHEREAS**, at its meeting on April 14, 2025, the City Council authorized the preparation of legislation to establish a Satellite Internet Equipment Rebate Program to help offset equipment costs for eligible households until permanent broadband solutions become available; and

**WHEREAS**, the City identified that the average cost of equipment necessary to establish satellite internet service is approximately Three Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$349.00); and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to establish a program in which residents residing at unserved and underserved addresses are eligible for a rebate on the purchase of the necessary equipment to provide satellite internet service in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$349.00); and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council determined that financial support for the purchase of satellite internet equipment is in the public interest and within the City's authority.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILDWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Establishment of Rebate Program.** The City hereby establishes a Satellite Internet Equipment Rebate Program (the "Program") to provide a one-time rebate to eligible property owners for the purchase of satellite internet user terminal equipment.

**SECTION 2. Purpose.** The Program is intended to serve as a meaningful interim solution for those unserved and underserved households to purchase equipment to deliver internet access service by satellite.

**SECTION 3. Definitions.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the terms set forth herein shall have the following meanings:

**APPLICANT**

An individual or individuals that are residents of the City requesting funding pursuant to the Program.

**APPLICATION**

A request for reimbursement pursuant to this Program consistent with the requirement of this Ordinance.

#### BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE

The provision of high-speed internet access service with a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds.

#### CITY

The City of Wildwood, Missouri.

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The City Administrator or his/her designee.

#### HOUSEHOLD

Real property used as a primary residence by the applicant consistent with the requirements of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Wildwood, Missouri.

#### INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE

A service that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail, or other services offered over the Internet, and may also include access to proprietary content, information, and other services as part of a package of services offered to consumers.

#### PROGRAM

The Satellite Internet Equipment Rebate Program approved pursuant to this Ordinance.

#### SATELLITE

Satellite that provides wireless internet access service to ground-based users possessing receivers.

#### SATELLITE EQUIPMENT

The materials, equipment, supplies, and facilities designed and intended to be installed at a household for purposes of receiving internet access service via satellite.

#### SATELLITE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

Any person capable of providing Internet Access Service via satellite with a minimum of at least 100 megabits-per-second ("Mbps") download speed and 20 Mbps upload speed.

#### UNDERSERVED HOUSEHOLD

A singular household without access to a wireline connection or fixed wireless broadband internet service that reliably delivers at least 100 megabits-per-second ("Mbps") download speed and 20 Mbps upload speed.

#### UNSERVED HOUSEHOLD

A singular household without access to a wireline connection or fixed wireless broadband internet service that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed.

**SECTION 4. Eligibility Criteria.** To be eligible for the Program, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. The applicant must be resident of the City of Wildwood, Missouri; and
2. The applicant must be the owner of the real property located in the City of Wildwood, Missouri, at which they reside; and
3. The applicant must demonstrate:
  - a. They are an owner and resident of real property with an address identified by the City as an unserved or underserved household; or
  - b. They are an owner and resident of real property with an address identified as an unserved or underserved household by the Missouri Office of Broadband Development; or
  - c. They are an owner and resident of real property with an address proven to be unserved or underserved; and
4. The applicant purchased and installed satellite internet equipment on or after the effective date of this ordinance and before December 31, 2025; and
5. The applicant must not have submitted another application or otherwise received funding pursuant to this Program; and
6. The applicant is not an owner or resident of real property for the address of which is the primary residence of another applicant that has received funding pursuant to this Program; and
7. The applicant is not in arrears of any taxes, assessments or fees due and owing to the City, St. Louis County, Missouri or the State of Missouri; and
8. The applicant is not in violation of any ordinances of this City.

**SECTION 5. Application.** The City Administrator is authorized and empowered to prepare application forms consistent with this Ordinance. Applications to participate in the Program shall be made in writing on forms provided by the City and submitted to the City Administrator. Each application shall state:

1. The name(s) of the applicant(s);
2. The address of the applicant's household;
3. The applicant's phone number and email address;
4. Copies of a deed or other recorded document evidencing that the applicant is the owner of the household;
5. Two other records evidencing residency at the household, including, but not limited to, a utility bill, property tax bill, or mortgage statement;
6. A valid, unexpired government photo ID;
7. An itemized, paid invoice from the Satellite Internet Service Provider evidencing that the satellite equipment was purchased with showing the cost of the purchase and the date of the purchase;
8. Evidence of the installation of the satellite equipment;
9. Proof of not less than one (1) month of continuous, paid internet access service from a satellite internet service provider;
10. A fully executed program liability waiver; and
11. Such additional information as may requested by the City Administrator to evidence eligibility for the Program.

The completed application shall be submitted to the City Administrator. It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly supply false or fraudulent information on the application filed with the City. The City Administrator is authorized to perform inspections of any household to confirm the accuracy of any statement made in an application. Failure of any applicant to provide the City Administrator access to property to perform such an inspection shall be a basis for denial of an application pursuant to this program.

**SECTION 6. Program Administration.** Upon receipt of a completed application, the City Administrator shall review the application and conduct such necessary investigations to determine that the applicant is eligible for the program. Upon a determination by the City Administrator that the applicant is eligible for the program, rebate payments shall be issued by check and made payable only to the applicant. The Program shall remain in effect until funds are exhausted, or until modified or terminated by subsequent action of the City Council, or until December 31, 2025, whichever occurs first. The City Administrator shall provide monthly participation reports to the City Council. The City reserves the sole and absolute discretion to deny any application for any reason.

**SECTION 7. Rebate Details.**

1. Rebates shall be made in an amount equal to the actual and reasonable cost to the applicant for the purchase and installation of the satellite equipment or Three Hundred Forty-nine Dollars (\$349.00), whichever is less.
2. Installation, shipping, monthly service, and other ancillary costs shall not be eligible for reimbursement.

**SECTION 8.** The total aggregate expense and liability of the City under the establishment of this program pursuant to Section One of this Ordinance shall not exceed One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars (\$137,855.00) unless amended by ordinance.

**SECTION 9. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and take effect from and after its final passage and approval.

**SECTION 10. Savings Clause.** Except as expressly set forth herein, nothing contained in this Ordinance shall in any manner be deemed or construed to alter, modify, supersede, supplant, or otherwise nullify any other Ordinance of the City or the requirements thereof whether or not relating to or in any manner connected with the subject matter hereof.

**SECTION 11. Severability Clause.** If any term, condition, or provision of this Ordinance shall, to any extent, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder hereof shall be valid in all other respects and continue to be effective and each and every remaining provision hereof shall be valid and shall be enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law, it being the intent of the City Council that it would have enacted this Ordinance without the invalid or unenforceable provisions. In the event of a subsequent change in applicable law so that the provision which had been held invalid is no longer invalid, said provision shall thereupon return to full force and effect without further action by the City and shall thereafter be binding.

This Bill was passed and approved this 9th day of June, 2025, by the Council of the City of Wildwood, Missouri, after having been read by title, or in full, two (2) times prior to its passage.

Joseph Garritano  
Presiding Officer

Joseph Garritano  
Joseph A. Garritano, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

Callen Kohbeck  
City Clerk

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City Clerk

**Exhibit A**

City of Wildwood – Satellite Internet Equipment Rebate Program  
Program Application

**Applicant Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Ownership Verification**

Please attach copies of at least two (2) of the following documents:

- Recorded Deed
- County Assessor Property Record
- Recent Property Tax Receipt
- Title Insurance Documentation

Copies must show the applicant's name and match the property address above. Ownership must be verified through official public records, and the City reserves the right to request additional documentation if necessary.

**Occupancy Verification**

Please attach the following documents to verify occupancy at the property:

- Two (2) pieces of recent mail addressed to the property owner
- One (1) utility bill in the property owner's name

All documents must clearly show the property address and be dated within the last sixty (60) days from the date indicated on this application.

**Identification**

Please provide a photocopy of your government-issued photo ID.

**Satellite Internet Equipment Information**

Vendor Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Purchase: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Purchase (Receipt): Applicant must provide a copy of the invoice/receipt for the equipment matching all information given above.

**Affidavit & Waiver**

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I affirm that my household does not currently have access to broadband internet speeds exceeding 100 megabits-per-second (“Mbps”) download speed and 20 Mbps upload speed.

I have read and signed the **City of Wildwood’s Liability Waiver (Exhibit B)**.

**Acknowledgment of Waiver:**

Yes

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**FOR STAFF USE ONLY**

**Application Received By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Verified:**

Yes     No

**Approved for Rebate:**

Yes     No

**Rebate Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

**Exhibit B**

City of Wildwood – Satellite Internet Equipment Rebate Program  
Liability Waiver

I, the undersigned, understand and acknowledge that the City of Wildwood ("City") is not responsible for the functionality, reliability, quality, or performance of any satellite internet equipment or associated service. I further acknowledge that:

1. The rebate issued by the City is solely for reimbursement of equipment costs and does not constitute an endorsement of any provider or service.
2. The City is not liable for any damages, data loss, loss of service, injury, or other adverse consequences resulting from installation or use of satellite internet equipment.
3. I indemnify and hold harmless the City, its elected officials, employees, and contractors from any claims, liabilities, or damages related to my participation in the Program.

By signing below, I agree to these terms and affirm that all information provided in my application is truthful and complete.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exhibit C

### City of Wildwood – Satellite Internet Equipment Rebate Program Monthly Participation Report

The Department of Administration shall prepare and submit a report to the City Council each month summarizing the status of the rebate program. Each report shall include the total number of applications submitted during the reporting month, as well as the cumulative total submitted since the program's inception. It shall also include the total dollar amount in rebate requests received during the reporting month, along with the cumulative total requested under the program.

In addition, the report shall include application-level details for all applicants, including, but not limited to, a unique application ID (assigned sequentially beginning with W001), the name of the property owner, the property address, the date the application was submitted, the approval status of the application, and the total rebate amount requested, not to exceed the program's maximum of \$349.00 per household.

Each report shall identify new applications received since the last reporting period and provide updated totals for all applications and rebate requests submitted to date. In accordance with the authorized expenditure limit established by the City Council, the program may accommodate up to 395 full rebate awards.