



ChoiceLight and nCloud K-12 Fiber to Schools Grant Program

ChoiceLight, in partnership with nCloud, is offering grants to assist schools that wish to utilize or increase digital learning by providing a fiber connection that upgrades their communications infrastructure to take advantage of ChoiceLight's high-speed communications network. Access to the ChoiceLight network will enhance capabilities for students and teachers as well as provide a platform to improve the overall quality of education administered to the student population.

ChoiceLight (formerly known as St. Joe Valley Metronet) incorporated in 2004 with the mission "to encourage technology-based economic development by providing readily available, high-speed telecom infrastructure at cost-effective prices." The primary goal was to eliminate connectivity barriers for all business, governmental agencies and educational institutions in St. Joseph County. Access to a carrier-neutral, dark fiber network ensures these organizations can utilize the latest technologies and data communications without being bandwidth constrained and will allow organizations to grow by implementing tools not previously considered. As the network expanded, the mission has extended into Marshall County.

nCloud, which stands for *nonprofit Cloud* computing, provides information technology shared services for nonprofits. Originally established in coordination with, and via sponsorship from the Community Foundation of St Joseph County, nCloud manages a shared information technology services platform for nonprofits in the region.

nCloud provides consulting, planning, implementation and hosting services, along with being responsible for coordination of a consortium of participating nonprofit entities. Each nonprofit selects from a menu of services to better serve their various client populations.

A community's K-12 school system is fundamental to its economic vitality. When schools provide high-quality education, they help make communities more economically competitive by 1) providing businesses with a better prepared talent pool from which to hire and 2) attracting new business to the community to not only grow the business but also their families. Additionally, high-quality education increases the earnings potential of individuals which in turn increases the economic strength of a community.



ChoiceLight, Inc.

130 S. Main St. Suite 275

In order to qualify for a grant, a school must submit the Grant Application Form (see attached) and show that it has the necessary resources to complete their responsibilities as outlined herein. Each grant submission will be judged by the creativity of the project and its potential to engage students.

Among those responsibilities, the school shall demonstrate that it has the following:

- A detailed plan of the new project/system/educational tool to be implemented;
- The objectives of the new project/system/educational tool;
- A plan to provide funding for the equipment necessary to implement the project in addition to the fiber connection and Internet;
- A training plan – if necessary – for teachers, administrators, IT staff, etc.
- Evidence that support exists among the teachers, faculty, administrators, etc. to implement the project or program;
- Evidence that the necessary resources exist for ongoing support of the program;
- Criteria for measuring success and assessment tools for monitoring and measuring success of the program.

ChoiceLight in partnership with nCloud shall provide the following:

- Fiber access to the school which includes the lateral construction to extend fiber from the nearest point of the ChoiceLight network to the school, which, without the grant, could cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000.
- Equipment necessary to light the school's circuit and provide required amount of Internet (provided by nCloud);
- E-rate support necessary to allow the school to take advantage of federal discounts/subsidies (provided by nCloud);
- Vendor support required during implementation of the program;
- Ongoing vendor support as needed throughout the life of the program

Grant applications should be submitted to ChoiceLight, 130 S. Main Street, Suite 275, South Bend, IN 46601. Questions related to the grant or the grant process should be directed to Jamie Brazeau, business development manager at ChoiceLight, at 574-968-5381 or e-mail jbrazeau@choicelight.org.

CHOICELIGHT INC. AND nCLOUD GRANT APPLICATION
FIBER FOR SCHOOLS IN ST. JOSEPH AND MARSHALL COUNTIES

Applicant School Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

On an attached page(s), please provide specific information on each of the following questions. The completed application should be no more than five pages.

- 1) Describe in detail the project using ChoiceLight's high speed fiber network.
- 2) List 3 to 5 specific goals and objectives for the project.
- 3) Describe the metrics used to assess the project.
- 4) Provide a detailed budget for the project including how it will be funded and sustained.
- 5) Describe the training plan for implementation of the project.
- 6) Describe the timeline for funding and implementation of the project.

_____	_____	_____
Authorized Signatory	Title	Date

_____	_____	_____
Superintendent or Designee	Title	Date

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