

## **ARPA Yavapai County Broadband Project Question and Answers as of 5.11.22**

### **Q.1 5.11.22 What does ARPA stand for?**

It is an acronym for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, also called the COVID-19 Stimulus Package or American Rescue Plan, Pub.L. 117–2, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117th United States. You can read more about it at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/american> rescue plan.

### **Q.2 5.11.22 How much money is Yavapai County spending on Broadband from the ARPA allocation?**

Yavapai County has received funds from ARPA of which the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors unanimously authorized the use of \$20 million, on August 18, 2021 to promote the expansion of broadband within the unincorporated areas of Yavapai County. The Yavapai County Education Service Agency (YCESA) will be the lead agency.

### **Q.3 5.11.22 Who is managing the Project on behalf of Yavapai County?**

Yavapai County School Superintendent Tim Carter, 2970 Centerpointe East, Prescott, Az. 86301, 928-925-6560, [Tim.carter@yavapaiaz.gov](mailto:Tim.carter@yavapaiaz.gov).

### **Q.4 5.11.22 How are the vendor/contractor selected?** Yavapai County used a competitive procurement process using a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Committee that reviewed proposals included:

- Phil Bourdon, Yavapai County Administrator, Chair
- Dan Cherry, Yavapai County Public Works Director
- Jared Phelan, Yavapai County Assistant Director of IT Services
- Connie DeKemper, Yavapai County Finance Director
- Mike Westcott, Mingus Union High School Superintendent and member of the Yavapai County Educational Technology Consortium, Inc. (YCETC), an Arizona non-profit corporation.

The committee's work was facilitated (non-voting) by Frank Vander Horst, Independent Contractor and YCESA Erate Director and Tim Carter, Yavapai County School Superintendent.

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the issuance of the Yavapai County Broadband Initiative Request for Proposals (RFP) which was finalized on October 13, 2021.

### **Q.5 5.11.22 Who was the initial vendor/contractor on the project?**

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a partial award to CSC Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (the holding company) for Altice USA, Inc. on March 16, 2022.

### **Q.6 5.11.22 What was the amount of the (CSC Holdings), Altice award?** \$12,614,582.

**Q.7 5.11.22 May subsequent awards to other vendors also be made?**

Yes.

**Q.8 5.11.22 What areas/communities of the county does the Altice contract cover and how many homes or businesses will be served?**

The partial award and contract issued to CSC Holdings, LLC, includes the communities and the number of “passings” for unserved and underserved households and businesses as follows:

Rimrock (Beaver Creek, Lake Montezuma)	(2357)
Mayer (Cordes Junction, Cordes Lakes, Spring Valley)	(3125)
Cornville	(295)
Paulden	(1897)
Total Passings	(7674)

**Q.9 5.11.22 What is a “passing”?**

A common term used in the broadband industry which indicates, “fiber run (laid, buried) in front or past a site”, which would normally be a home or a business location.

“Passings” is defined further in the Yavapai County Broadband Initiative Request for Proposal (RFP) Solicitation No. YCBI-001.

**Q.10 5.11.22 Who is the project contact person for Altice?**

The contact person for CSC Holdings, LLC is as follows:

Jeff Kelly, Vice President of Operations of Altice USA, Inc.

1601 S. Plaza Way

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Q.11 5.11.22 Is the RFP a public document?**

Yes. The Yavapai County Broadband Initiative Request for Proposal (RFP) Solicitation No. YCBI-001 is available in the reference section.

**Q.12 5.11.22 Will permitting fees charged by the county be waived for the vendor(s)?**

No. Permitting fees are a cost that the vendors will have to pay. The vendors will pay those fees in the normal course of business.

**Q.13 5.11.22 Are cites and town still able to work with the vendor if they wish to use their ARPA funds, or other funds, on broadband?**

That may be possible. It will likely need, to be accomplished by a separate agreement between a vendor and the city or town. They are free to work together if they choose and it makes sense to leverage efficiencies that can be achieved if a county project is being worked on, adjacent to a city or town project. The Yavapai County Education Service Agency (YCESA) has been promoting this concept all along. School districts

previously completed the middle mile projects in Yavapai County by working together in this fashion.

**Q14 5.11.22 Is the area between Highway 69 in Prescott and Walker included in the Altice contract?**

No, it was not part of the partial award to CSC Holdings. The vendor selected the areas that were most cost effective, based on the number of passings, at this point. As future projects move forward, there is hope it will be cost effective to serve that area and about a dozen others which have been identified in Yavapai County.

**Q15 5.11.22 What is the difference between the “middle mile” and the “final or last mile”?**

Middle mile and last mile are defined in The Yavapai County Broadband Initiative Request for Proposal (RFP) Solicitation No. YCBI-001. “Middle mile” means a connection from the local communication provider point of presence (a POP) to the provider backhaul. The “last mile” means a connection from the POP to the customer’s premises.

In a supply chain structure, the middle mile delivery takes products from a factory, port or geographic hub to a regional area location. The “last mile” delivery is the delivery of products from that location (a retail store) directly to a customer.

In this case, the fiber optic cable is the product. All of our public schools and libraries serve as the regional location (the POP) since they are designed as the “anchor tenant” and the delivery of the product is directly into homes and businesses.

**Q16 5.11.22 Was there a second contract issued under RFP**

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a partial award to Cox Communications, a Delaware limited liability company on April 20, 2022.

**Q17 5.11.22 What was the amount of the Cox Communication Contract?**

\$3,757,763.00

**Q 18 5.11.22 What areas/communities of the county does the Cox contract cover and how many homes or businesses will be served?**

The partial award and contract issued to Cox, includes the communities and the number of “passings” for unserved and underserved households and businesses as follows:

Black Canyon City	(1661)
Congress	(1262)

**Q 19 5.11.22 Will there be public meetings in the various communities to discuss the projects and answer questions?**

Yes, the first of those meeting was held in Paulden on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm in conjunction with the Paulden Community Organization. It was well attended with excellent questions. Others will be scheduled in the near future.