

Follow up Questions from the Pre-Bidders Conference on 7.12.23

Q 32, 7.14.23 **Is the Registration of Intent to Respond, on p. 62 of the RFP, required to be submitted prior to the deadline in order to bid on the Broadband project.** NO, it is however, highly recommended, since that allows the County to communicate directly with those vendors, to a certain degree, who have indicated they are moving forward to bid on the project.

Q 33, 7.14.23 **Please clarify the use of funds provided under this grant. It is our understanding that the funding provided is to provide services in unserved and underserved areas of Yavapai County. It is unclear if this is being interpreted as prohibiting the use of grant funds to transit served areas as defined by FCC and / or Treasury Capital Fund under ARPA. Other federal programs in our experience have allowed such transit in order to insure the most cost effective deployment of the necessary facilities.** To further clarify, the areas to be served are in “unincorporated areas” of Yavapai County that are unserved or underserved. In general, this will typically be a joint decision between the vendor and the County. The preference is to use the current middle mile points to our anchor tenants, the public schools and libraries, already existing within the county. Transit through specific areas will be viewed on a case by case basis to determine if, in fact, it does “provide for the most cost effective deployment”.

Q 34, 7.14.23 **Regarding Davis Bacon application to this funding. Please confirm that the trigger for full coverage under Davis Bacon is \$10 million in Total Project Cost, per the awardee.** RFP YCBI-002 should be interpreted to define a “project” as the totality of all awards made within it. Davis Bacon DOES apply to the project.

Q 35, 7.14.23 **We hold RDOF awards in various locations in Yavapai County the overlap areas, covered by the above captioned RFP. None of these areas are under deployment at this time so those areas are eligible both for buildout under the RFP and for a State BEAD Grant as well. Please provide your understanding to best leverage this opportunity.** Yavapai County does not provide private entities with advice about private leveraging opportunities. It does seem logical that one service area could be completed under the RFP and an adjoining area served under BEAD.

Q 36, 7.14.23 **May an ISP cross over property within a municipal or other ineligible boundary, going from one eligible county location to another?** As required under federal law, an analysis would need to be made on a case by case basis. The final rule seems to provide leeway in serving unserved and underserved population with these funds. Please see the FAQ within the Final Rules. Our preference would be that the vendor provide their own funding for the bridge from eligible county locations to other eligible county locations. That would be the cleanest to avoid a possible audit for all parties.

Q 37, 7.14.23 **Can you further define “speed requirements”.** Page 31 and 32 discuss Anticipated Broadband Improvements, which includes speed expectations as a matter of “scoring”. 100/20 may be acceptable, but 100/100 is preferred and will score higher. The scalability is also very important, as is the top bullet point on p. 32. Highest scores are awarded for the largest broadband speed improvements.

Q 38, 7.14.23 **How long should advantaged pricing be in place to consumers.** P. 31 . Advantaged pricing to consumers should be for at least 5 years from the completion of the project, or as stated in requirements / law, whichever is longer.

Q 39, 7.14.23 Page 8, Section 3.3 Exceptions: “All exceptions or modifications requested by Offeror, regardless of whether County previously accepted the requested exceptions or modifications requested by Offeror, must be clearly set forth in the Acknowledgement and Acceptance.” Question: If there are previously accepted exceptions, please advise how they are to be set forth in the Acknowledgement and Acceptance form (In a document after the form, labeled as an appendix, etc.) There are no previously accepted exceptions.

Q 40, 7.14.23 Page 29, Offer Format, 9.1.5 (Contractor Background, Experience, and Qualifications) Question: Please advise if resumes should be included for the employees. If so, are the resumes to be included in this section or labeled as an appendix. Resumes are acceptable, but the requirements of the RFP may be completed in other forms as well. Use of an appendix is acceptable.

Q 41, 7.14.23 Page 29, Offer Format, 9.1.7 (Scope of Work and Technical Proposal) Question: Please confirm that Items 9.1.7.2 (Maps and geospatial locations of the project), 9.1.7.3 (Narrative Description), 9.1.7.4 (Drawings/Engineering Documents), and 9.1.7.6 (Project Timeline) are referring to items within Section 9.1.7.1 (Completed Questionnaire) and are not separate items. If the former, please advise where 9.1.7.5 (Subcontractors) should be addressed, as it is not listed in the questionnaire. The answers could be provided within the questionnaire or by separate items. It simply needs to be easily accessible for the Review Team.

Q 42, 7.14.23 Page 29, Offer Format, 9.1.8 (Cost/Pricing Proposal) “Must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope marked, “Cost Proposal”. Question 1: Please specifically list which items (section numbers and questions) that need to be included in the separate cost proposal envelope and should not be in the main response. Question 2: The Questionnaire Cover Sheet Instructions (Page 40); Part III – Readiness Instructions (Pages 49-40); and Project Financials Section 3.19 (Page 53) include pricing items. Please advise which sections should be in the main response and which should be in the separate cost proposal. Any item that provides a “numeric value” should be in the separate envelope. These items may be found on P.40 and are bulleted items 7,8,9, and 12 (cost per passing).

Q 43, 7.12.23 Page 36, Questionnaire: The instructions state to “Submit the proposal and Information Questionnaire with one electronic copy in Microsoft Word and or Excel format on a USB drive”. Question: In order to have one file consisting of the Offer Format specified on Page 29 (including all of the signed forms, maps, etc.), it would be necessary to provide a PDF instead of a Word document. Please advise that a PDF is acceptable. A searchable PDF is acceptable.

Q 44, 7.14.23 Page 37, Matching Funds: Documentation to validate the availability of matching funds is required as part of the Offer. Question: Please advise what section of the RFP this information is to be included, or if it is to be labeled as an appendix. Either the questionnaire or the appendix is acceptable, as long as it is easily accessible and is in full compliance with the response fields.

Q 45, 7.14.23 Page 39: Questionnaire: Question: Do responses need to be entered directly into the response fields in the RFP document or can respondents copy/paste the questions into their company’s letterhead template. Either the

questionnaire or the appendix is acceptable, as long as it is easily accessible and is in full compliance with the response fields.

Q 46, 7.14.23 **Page 51, Project Implementation 3.13: “Provide documentation that Offeror will offer the broadband service for a minimum of five years.”**
Question: Please advise what documentation you are looking for. A signed written certificate of compliance from a corporate officer is required.

Q 47, 7.14.23 **Page 51, Project Implementation 3.14 and 3.15: “Demonstrate that speeds meet or exceed the RFP requirements.”** **Question: Please advise what you mean by “demonstrate” if the provider is not currently servicing the area.** Upon the completion of the project, speed verifications from several areas of the build will be required (cabinet and/or street area).

Q 48, 7.14.23 **Page 63, References: Question: Please define “Size of Project”.** This includes the number of passings, the miles of fiber, and the total cost of the build.

Q 49, 7.14.23 **Pages 82-28, Exhibits D-F: Question: Please confirm the above exhibits are for reference only and do not need to be included in the response.** The exhibits D-F are to be included with completed supporting documents attached as applicable.