



**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(HCBCC)
PURCHASING DIVISION**

DATE: January 21, 2022

BID NO. **RFI 22-011** ADDENDUM No. 1

Project: County Broadband

This RFI addendum is being issued to answer questions received.

Questions and Answers:

1. Is there a milestone schedule or project timeline the County has in mind?
ANSWER: The \$4.5 million ARPA funding needs to be encumbered by December 2024 and expended by December 2026. The final goal of Countywide broadband (that will greatly exceed \$4.5 million) will continue after this initial phase, pending funding – with the goal of providing broadband countywide to all as quickly as is feasible. No specific timeline besides the ARPA encumbrance and expenditure requirements as dictated by the U.S. Department of Treasury.
2. Is the \$4.5 million in dedicated ARPA funds appropriated for 2022 or divided over 2022 and 2023?
ANSWER: The \$4.5 million ARPA funds need to be encumbered by December 2024 and expended by December 2026.
3. Understanding that the broadband mapping data will be central to identifying unserved and underserved areas of the County; has there any other community planning or discussions that has prioritized any specific rural residential communities that the County would like to see broadband improvements first?
ANSWER: No formal community planning or prisonizations of specific areas to date.
4. Have the stakeholders listed on page 25 of the Feasibility Study committed to connecting to the new network or conceptually sharing in the cost of the network?
ANSWER: No. Municipality leadership and key stakeholders on our Industrial Development Authority/Economic Development Commission have been made aware, at a high-level, that a countywide broadband initiative project is in the works – and that once a firm/partnership has been selected, more detailed discussions/meetings will be held as the project moves forward.