



**HIGHLANDS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS (HCBCC)  
PURCHASING DIVISION  
600 S. Commerce Ave  
Sebring, FL 33870  
(863) 402-6500**

DATE: December 22, 2022

BID NO. 22-023-LLK

ADDENDUM No. 2

Project.: County-wide Broadband

The following represents clarification, additions, deletions, and/or modifications to the above referenced solicitation. This addendum shall hereafter be regarded as part of the solicitation. Items not referenced herein remain unchanged. Words, phrases or sentences with a strikethrough represent deletions to the original solicitation. Underlined words and bolded, phrases or sentences represent additions to the original solicitation, as applicable.

This addendum is being issued to revise important deadlines and evaluation dates, and to answer questions received on this solicitation.

- 1. The deadline for bid submittal is Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 3:30 PM, 600 S. Commerce Ave, Purchasing Dept., Sebring, FL 33870**
- 2. The deadline for RFI is Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 5:00 PM**
- 3. Evaluation meeting dates have been revised. Please see attached A2-1 public meeting notice for dates, times, and locations.**

Questions and Answers

<b>Q1</b>	Will questions submitted before the RFI deadline be answered as they are received or after the question deadline closes?
<b>A1</b>	<b>We work to answer questions prior to deadline. We encourage questions to be submitted asap to allow time to respond and proposers time to take responses into consideration in their proposals.</b>
<b>Q2</b>	Given the short timeframe and the scope of work that is being requested, would there be a potential for an extension to ensure that all the county's needs are met and we are able to put together everything in the detail requested?
<b>A2</b>	<b>The initial phase of this project is funded by the federal ARPA grant and as such is subject to strict timelines that we do not anticipate extensions for. Work must progress so that all funds are encumbered by Dec 31st, 2024 and expended by December 31st 2026. Additionally, please see attached public meeting notice for revised bid submittal deadline.</b>

<b>Q3</b>	Per section 2.5 on page 20, I just wanted clarification on whether the County is requesting the winning bidder to explicitly locate additional funding to complete the project, or just assisting the County as it seeks out additional funding.
<b>A3</b>	<b>Page 20, 2.5. The County is seeking assistance in applying for and obtaining sources of additional funding along with capital investment from the successful vendor. During evaluation of submissions the committee will take into consideration the proposers' overall plan of funding support as well as experience and ability to identify and obtain additional funding.</b>
<b>Q4</b>	How much of a split is the County expecting the winning bidder to contribute for this project (basically putting a numerical estimate or percent on the statement of "contribute significant capital investment")
<b>A4</b>	<b>A broadband feasibility study completed in 2021, stated a middle mile network would cost approximately \$30 million to complete. The ARPA Funding could cover \$4.5 million of the estimated costs as detailed in the study coverage area. A broadband program by Glades Electric will cover a significant portion of the County as shown on Electric Territory Map 2. Future grant application cycles may be able to cover additional amounts that could have considerable impact to the vendors contribution. This information should be taken into consideration by the proposer. Page 29, Tab 4 requests the amount of funding the proposer has available for this project to allow the evaluation committee to select the proposal that would be in the best interest of the County.</b>
<b>Q5</b>	We would like to respectfully request an extension of two weeks given that the last two weeks of the year and the first week of the new year conflict with the pre-planned vacations of a few employees and consultants that we would need to submit a response.
<b>A5</b>	<b>Please see attached A2-1 public meeting notice for revised bid submittal deadline.</b>
<b>Q6</b>	Would the County allow the Respondent to provide the GC License of a wholly owned subsidiary to meet the licensing requirement?
<b>A6</b>	<b>Yes, however, the primary awarded proposer is ultimately responsible to obtain any permits, and this may be accomplished by the use of a subcontractor. A subsidiary of the Respondent would be treated as a subcontractor for the project and must be included in the submission as detailed on page 41 of the RFP.</b>
<b>Q7</b>	Is the winning vendor going to be solely responsible for procuring additional funding, or will it be a collaboration between the County and Vendor?
<b>A7</b>	<b>See A3 for response</b>
<b>Q8</b>	What is the total expected capital input expected by the County for the vendor to put in?
<b>A8</b>	<b>See A4 for response</b>
<b>Q9</b>	What degree of detail is expected for the construction plan, and if there is heavy detail requested would the County be able to provide required information?
<b>A9</b>	<b>The construction plan should cover an outline of expected schedule based on proposed design laid out in the RFP. There is an understanding that the design will have to be finalized and permitted before construction can commence.</b>

Q10	Were the Vendor to do everything in their power to procure new funding (BEAD, Middle Mile, etc) and still not succeed, will the vendor be still held fully liable for the project out of their own pocket?
<b>A10</b>	<b>This will be negotiated contractually with the awarded proposer. The selected proposal structure would be used to make this determination. It is the County's need to select a proposal that will complete the entire project. Should the County not be able to establish a contract with the highest proposer, the County reserves the right to work with the next proposer until a contract is obtained.</b>
Q11	Will there be an extension to the submission date to accommodate for the lost time in the end of December.
<b>A11</b>	<b>Yes, please see revised dates at the top of this addendum.</b>
Q12	We would like to respectfully request an extension of two weeks given that the last two weeks of the year and the first week of the new year conflict with the pre-planned vacations of a few employees and consultants that we would need to submit a response.
<b>A12</b>	<b>Please see A11.</b>
Q13	[Regarding Electric Territory Map 2 on page 78 of the RFP indicating Area of Concentration for project] Would you be able to send us the areas of concentration shapefile that comprises the map below so we can use it for analysis? Any other shapefiles pertaining to this RFP would be appreciated.
<b>A13</b>	<b>There are 2 main sources for location data that we use. 1) Through the main page on County's website, HighlandsFL.Gov, select interactive map, then continue. This takes you to the interactive map. (<a href="https://hcbcc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=65edc000b0e54234a67ea8c54e543284">https://hcbcc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=65edc000b0e54234a67ea8c54e543284</a>) The left-hand menu sidebar has an option to select the Electric Service Providers. Individual addresses can be seen on this map with whatever layering is needed for detail. 2) Additionally, we recommend using the map from the Florida Office of Broadband that shows locations of where residents tested over the last year. This is our best representation on speed and location. <a href="https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/broadband/office-of-broadband">https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/broadband/office-of-broadband</a></b>
Q14	Regarding page 22 about fiber tower for the last mile portion. Is 4.5 million for the first phase of the project or for all phases, 1-4?
<b>A14</b>	<b>It is anticipated that it would go to the 1st phase but it will depend on the final design layout as to where it is best spent on the unserved/underserved locations.</b>
Q15	For the underserved, are we using 25/3 unserved and 100/20 underserved or are you utilizing URL providers unserved and 25/3 underserved?
<b>A15</b>	<b>25/3 unserved and 100/20 underserved. Our starting goal should be 100/100 that is scalable upward as technology changes.</b>
Attachments:	A2-1 Public Meeting Notice