

To: Connect Kendall County Commission
Fr: Jessica Fowler, Lit Communities Chief Market Deployment Officer
Dt: May 8, 2023
Subject: Broadband RFP Questions
Email Address: CKCC@kendallcountyil.gov

Kendall County's Request for Proposal for a Public-Private Partnership in Providing Fiber to the Home and Internet Services

1. The Kendall County RFP contains a summary statement on the first page of the RFP stating : “ Kendall County, Illinois seeks a public or private partner to build, finance, operate and manage (BFOM) an affordable, reliable, and scalable all fiber optic middle mile network to support next-generation, high speed broadband internet to businesses, residences and other entities”. The title of the RFP suggests the County is seeking a partner for a public private partnership for fiber to the home internet services.
 - a. Could you please provide clarification on what the County is requesting from a public partner for both a middle mile network and a fiber to the home network?

Kendall County Response: We are looking for a financial partner to support the middle mile build out and then develop the last mile themselves or open it to other companies to complete the last mile build out.

2. There is a request made in the RFP for a partner to comply with grant terms and conditions but there are no details on any specific grant- could you please specify the grant and/or provide details?

Kendall County Response: We do not have specific grants in mind. We wanted to alert potential respondents that we want/need grants to finance this project and there may be related terms and conditions.

3. Does Kendall County have any existing funds to contribute to the build of the middle mile network and, if so, what is the amount?

Kendall County Response: Funding for this project will primarily be subjective to the amount received from grants and the Respondent. Any additional funding outside of this will be at the discretion of the Kendall County Board.

4. Is the County seeking or requiring financial support from a partner for the middle mile network?

Kendall County Response: Yes, we are seeking financial support from a partner for the middle mile network.

5. The RFP reads, “County seeks to own the middle mile network, but is willing to negotiate other proposed options, and partner with the Awardee for the design, construction, financing, operation, and maintenance of the middle mile network, as well as last-mile expansion. Should this be interpreted that Kendall County would consider any or all of the below options?
 - a. Joint or fractional ownership of the middle mile by Kendall County and a private operator?

b. Private ownership

Kendall County Response: Correct, we are open to any and all options that are equally beneficial to the County, its citizens, and the Respondent. Respondent is invited to submit multiple options within the same proposal.

6. Kendall County requested a partner to manage and operate the middle mile network on its behalf. Please describe the scope of that request.

Kendall County Response: We are open to any option proposed by the Respondent. The County is not interested in becoming an ISP or having the middle mile network be a revenue stream. We hope there is enough revenue to be self-sustaining.

7. Does Kendall County maintain any pre-established design, architecture criteria and/or material specification for the middle mile or would it be up to the responder to propose some or all of those requirements?

Kendall County Response: The County does not have any pre-established criteria for any part of the scope.

Additional Kendall County Response: The title of the RFP is updated to "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP Kendall County Connect Fiber Middle Mile Project"