

**SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ADDENDUM NO. 1**

**to**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

**BROADBAND SERVICE EXPANSION**

**RFP ISSUE DATE: APRIL 19, 2024**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (“SETRPC”) is seeking qualified broadband infrastructure and internet service providers (“ISP”s) to participate in a Public-Private Partnership (the “Partnership”) to address the unserved and underserved broadband locations within the SETRPC region using available federal and/or state funding.

This Addendum No. 1 clarifies the original Request for Proposals (“RFP”) by responding to written questions received by SETRPC since the RFP Issue Date as set forth in the “Clarifications” section below. All other terms and conditions of the RFP, the terms and conditions of which are incorporated herein by reference, shall remain in full force and effect.

There is no expressed or implied obligation of the SETRPC to reimburse responding offerors for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this RFP and the SETRPC will not reimburse responding offerors for such expenses.

**SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:** One (1) original and six (6) copies of all documents shall be sealed and submitted as offeror’s response to:

South East Texas Regional Planning Commission  
Attention: Bob Dickinson  
2210 Eastex Freeway  
Beaumont, Texas 77703

**MARK ENVELOPE: “Attention: Bob Dickinson, Director of Transportation and Environmental Resources Division**

**Request for Proposals for Broadband Service Expansion Due May 24, 2024”**

**ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICES OF THE SOUTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. CENTRAL TIME, FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024.** The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission is not responsible for lateness or non-delivery of mail, carrier, etc., and the date/time stamp in the offices of the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission shall be the official time receipt.

**Offeror's response must include a statement that offeror has received, acknowledges and understands the requirements of this Addendum No. 1 to RFP.**

### **CLARIFICATIONS**

**A. QUESTION:** Is SETRPC using a website to upload documents related to the RFP?

**SETRPC RESPONSE:** No, proposals, with all submitted documents, must be sealed and submitted all together in paper form. One (1) original and six (6) copies of all documents shall be sealed and submitted as offeror's response either by mail or in person to: South East Texas Regional Planning Commission, Attention: Bob Dickinson, 2210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77703.

**B. QUESTION:** Is this RFP in place to develop a relationship with a provider who would then submit a proposal for BEAD funding, or will this RFP be funded by local ARPA funding prior to the BEAD window being opened?

**SETRPC RESPONSE:** There will be no local ARPA funding contributed to this project on behalf of SETRPC or the municipalities. The goal of the RFP is to establish a relationship between the provider(s) and SETRPC with the expectation that the provider(s) will apply for funding sources with support from SETRPC as described in the RFP.

**C. QUESTION:** [Related to the Certification Required by Texas Family Code Section 231.006] We are trying to determine if this applies to [company name omitted]. The way we are reading it is: If the person submitting the response or signing the contract owns at least 25% of the company, they must provide their name and SSN. If they do not own at least 25% of the company, the name and SSN is not needed. [Company] is a publicly traded company and no one on the team responding to this RFP or signing the contract would have that ownership stake. We want to make sure we are not misinterpreting this so as to best respond.

**SETRPC RESPONSE:**

- a) If the offeror is an individual or sole proprietorship, the Certification must include the name and social security number of the individual or sole proprietor.
- b) If the offeror is a business entity, the Certification must include the name and social security number of each partner, shareholder, or owner with an ownership interest of 25 percent (25%) or more of the business entity. The requirement to include the name and social security number on the Certification is not limited to the ownership of those 'person(s) or team(s)' submitting the RFP or signing the contract on behalf of the business entity. Rather, any person owning at least 25% of the business entity (offeror) must be included.

**D. QUESTION:** [Company] wants to be certain that as a BEAD funding opportunity, is a combined wireless and fiber design acceptable?

**SETRPC RESPONSE:** A hybrid network design comprised of both fiber and wireless technologies is acceptable. The funding opportunity will include other programs if BEAD is not achievable.

**E. QUESTION:** Clarification is needed on the speed for 100 mbps symmetrical services. Is this for each customer?

**SETRPC RESPONSE:** The speed is requested for each end-user in the design. The speed is outlined in the RFP as follows: “The high-speed broadband internet services shall specifically provide a service designed to reliably meet or exceed a speed of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload; or in case where the symmetrical 100/100 Mbps service is not practicable, provide a service designed to reliably meet or exceed 100 Mbps download and at least 20 Mbps upload speeds, and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. Any service incapable of providing these speeds will produce zero points, with full points being given to a service with a guaranteed minimum 1 Gbps dedicated symmetrical transmission speed over each connection provided to a premise.”

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