

Questions and Answers for Shelby County Broadband RFP

September 24, 2024

- Does the County agree that all constructed plant, equipment and appliances associated with the RFP will be the sole property of the awardee?
 - While the County is open to complete Awardee ownership of the infrastructure, the ultimate determination of ownership of the assets for any Awardee will be subject to the proposals received and negotiations of the parties during the project agreement stage of this procurement.
- In Section II. Project Specifications, Subsection B. Desired Broadband Solution, the final paragraph states, "Respondents may propose to serve some or all of these areas of need. Shelby County shall retain the right to reevaluate the Project and selected Awardee at any time during the network deployment." Is the County stating that it has the right, after signing a contract with an awardee, to unilaterally revise the project scope or withhold funding during the construction phase after an awardee has expended funds to construct portions of the network and has not defaulted?
 - No; the County does not intend to withhold payment to an Awardee for funds already expended. That being said, due to the fluidity of the existing federal and state grant process, the County wants to ensure that both parties have the ability to reassess their joint commitment in light of the remaining uncertainty concerning the details of federal and state grant authorization. Additionally, as the County is doing, we expect the Respondents to conduct their own due diligence in relation to ensuring that addresses submitted in each proposal are unserved or underserved and unfunded.
- Will the County provide a single point of contact for coordination of permitting and expediting construction?
 - Yes; it is the County's intention to coordinate permitting and expedite construction.
- Does the County have available conduit in-place that may be used by an awardee to place fiber? Is there a cost to occupy such conduit?
 - There is some existing County-owned conduit infrastructure. The County will provide the details on this infrastructure upon request. The County will review proposals that include the potential use of existing County-owned conduit infrastructure.
- Can the County define what it expects the "Primary Service Area" to be with any given proposed project?
 - The "Primary Service Area" is dependent upon each respective Respondent's proposal and what area(s) a Respondent is proposing to serve.
- If an ISP intends to apply for a BEAD grant in Shelby County, will the County take this into account when selecting an awardee?
 - See the RFP. The County will consider all relevant elements when selecting an Awardee(s).

- Is the County willing to utilize the pledge of up to \$3,000,000 in ARPA funds for a local match as part of a BEAD application with the state? Or, is the County seeking a dedicated project utilizing the ARPA funds separately from BEAD?
 - **No; yes.**
- The Indiana Broadband Office has yet to release a list of unserved and underserved addresses for the BEAD grant program. Does the County have a prospective list of addresses it believes are eligible for ARPA funding in the County that it can provide to prospective RFP respondents?
 - **We understand that the Indiana Broadband Office has not yet released its maps. The County believes the eligible addresses for this project will be unserved or underserved and unfunded areas within the County. If there are addresses that a Respondent believes are missing, please include those addresses in its response.**