

SOLICITATION ADDENDUM

Solicitation Number: RFP 41-500280
 Solicitation Description: Broadband Expansion and Access RFP
Questions & Answers
 Solicitation Opening Date and Time: July 31, 2023 at 2:00 pm ET
 Addendum Number: 1
 Addendum Date: July 14, 2023
 Contract Specialist Audrey Alford, IT Procurement Specialist
Audrey.Alford@nc.gov
 919-754-6230

1. Include one (1) properly executed copy of this Addendum with your bid response. See the signature box on the last page.
2. Following are the questions received regarding this RFP and the State’s responses to the questions.

RFP REFERENCE	VENDOR QUESTION	STATE’S RESPONSE
1	Verizon is already on Convenience Contract 915A for services we would provide. For example, Fixed Wireless Access (5G Home) for \$25 is on 915A. Is it important for us to apply on this newly issued contract?	This is a separate prequalification opportunity with defined requirements in this RFP.
2	We have a question regarding the prequalification for service providers for the BEAD project. It appears there are two forms, and we are unsure which to complete, or are both required. Both documents refer to the RFP (links below) www.ncbroadband.gov/documents/broadband-expansion-access-rfp/open and www.ncbroadband.gov/documents/rfp-response-form-broadband-expansion-and-access/open . Are both required to be submitted by July 31st?	This RFP is a prequalification for the current ARPA funded CAB, Stop Gap, Pole Replacement, and certain other programs at the discretion of the Office. BEAD funding may also flow through these programs at a later date.
3	Can you assist in the Ariba Sourcing Tool login? Do I select the Vendor option and create a login and proceed from there?	This has been forwarded to the EP Help Desk on July 5, 2023. Any questions regarding offers submitted via the Ariba Sourcing Tool should be directed to Page 25, Section 6.3.3.1.

4		I actually have questions about getting access to the Ariba portal. I can't get in with my creds. Is there a technical assistance person I can talk to?	Please see Page 25, Section 6.3.3.1 of the Pre Qualification RFP.
5		Is it possible to speak with me tomorrow or Friday regarding the Ariba portal? On page 13 of the RFP, it requests a CAGE code and Equifax ID number from the respondent. Federal agencies no longer use CAGE codes for federal financial assistance applications so I do not have one. Similarly, I also do not have an Equifax ID. Are these required?	Respondent should only provide those identification numbers which it currently utilizes, or which are applicable to its operations. If a number is not applicable, there is not a requirement to provide a response.
6		The RFP requests applicants to submit Form 477 reports. However, the FCC sunsetted the Form 477 filing requirement in December 2022. See FCC-22-93A1.pdf Therefore, the data being requested by this RFP pursuant to Form 477 will be outdated by at least a year. Please advise on this requirement in relation to the fact that this reporting requirement has been eliminated by the FCC.	The RFP does NOT request the reports. The RFP requests information relating to reports being filed in prior periods (if Respondent had requirements to file such reports).
7		(1) Is it possible for the online response document to be accessed by multiple concurrent editors? We would like for more than one employee to have access to edit at the same time. (2) Is it possible to obtain an extension for the bid due date?	1) The Vendor should consolidate their own editors' comments and then upload the final document into Ariba. 2) NCDIT is not currently planning to extend the due date.
8		Are there any registration procedures to respond to the RFP? For example, Ariba – is it necessary for submission of proposal and questions?	There are registration procedures for the RFP and the RFP Response Form. All responses MUST be received via Ariba. The directions and helpful tips/helpdesk number are on Page 25, Section 6.3.3.1. We recommend you register ASAP and then start submitting your offer well before 7/31/23.
9		We would like to respond as a part of a two-company consortium, is there any issue with responding in this way? Will it in any way be viewed negatively?	This convenience contract is for eligible broadband service providers seeking to build and operate infrastructure in North Carolina. The applicant must be able to build and operate a broadband network and have the financial capacity to do so at the time of this response.
10		As a consortium we will supply a single set of Financial Assessment Documentation from our lead organization, please confirm that is acceptable.	Financial Assessment Documentation is required for all operating entities which will be obligated via a contract that results from this prequalification RFP.

11		<p>We are specifically focused on providing Public-Private Partnership for the funding, design, build and implementation of broadband projects for unserved/underserved in municipalities and counties. As a private provider, we can partner with not just governments but also non-profit and other private broadband providers. While this RFP framework does not specifically reference PPP models, we assume that this would be the right vehicle to present our companies' capabilities. Are we correct in this assumption?</p>	<p>The required responses are for the operating entity which will be obligated via contract for a specific project / grant application. NCDIT contracts with, and funds, eligible broadband service providers through its programs, as required by state legislation. Future promises of investment are not sufficient to satisfy these requirements. This RFP also contains requirements for eligible organizations to provide responses related to operational and technical aspects of broadband networks.</p>
12	5.5	<p>Section 5.5, Our model is based on building a team for the design, build, operation, and maintenance for a broadband project. In our PPP model, we deliver an open access network optimized for the community we serve, and we collaborate with several Local and Regional ISPs identified for each specific project. Given this approach, we plan to reply to section 5.5 by explaining how our model works and by presenting representative architectures, processes, models, experiences, and policies. Please confirm that this approach would be acceptable and would not be viewed negatively against the requirements of the RFP?</p>	<p>By design, there is a limitation on the allowable amount of text for a response to each element contained within the intake form. NCDIT contracts with and funds eligible broadband providers directly.</p>
13		<p>I see that RFP No. 41-500280 is due on 7/31/23. Is this the only prequalification opportunity that providers will receive, or is this the first round?</p> <p>[Provider] does not want to miss out on participating in CAB but would like to better understand the timelines and requirements.</p>	<p>This is currently the only prequalification opportunity. NCDIT may or may not offer additional opportunities for vendors to become eligible at a future date as yet to be determined.</p>
14		<p>Is the above referenced RFP required for vendors to complete and submit by 7/31/23 in order to be prequalified for future grants? I was thinking it was just the 20 page RFP Response form.</p>	<p>See Page 24 and 25 of the RFP for a list of what must be submitted with your offer which includes the link to the 20 page RFP Response Form.</p>
15	6.3.2	<p>From section 6.3.2 of the RFP:</p> <p>"Offer Organization": The offer should be organized and indexed in the following format and should contain, at a minimum, all listed items below.</p> <p>a. Signed Execution page b. Table of Contents</p> <p>Is item 'b' Table of Contents a copy of the Table of Contents from this RFP, or is it a Table of Contents created based on what we are submitting in response (items a through k in section 6.3.2)?</p>	<p>It is the latter (question item "B"), which is the Table of Contents as outlined on Page 24 of the RFP.</p>

16	5.1 & 5.2	<p>What is the difference between Vendor response 5.1 and Vendor response 5.2?</p> <p>It appears that 5.1 is the RFP with signatures and content completed, where 5.2 is the same information, but also including the RFP Reponse Form and associated uploads (organized according to the 6.3.2 "Offer Organization".) Is that accurate?</p>	<p>Instructions for the Vendor's response are found in Section 6.3.2 of the RFP.</p>
17	6.3.2	<p>Do bank statements and financial documents as indicated in the Proposal Form need to be uploaded as separate documents, or included in the complete offer PDF as listed in section 6.3.2 "Offer Organization"?</p>	<p>These statements & documents should be uploaded as separate documents.</p>
18	6.1.6	<p>On page 20 in Section 6.1.6, the RFP states that, "The State has implemented links to the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS) that allow the public to retrieve offer award information electronically from our Internet website: https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/. Click on the IPS BIDS icon, click on Search for BID, enter the Agency prefix-offer number (XXXX), and then search. This information may not be available for several weeks depending upon the complexity of the acquisition and the length of time to complete the evaluation process."</p> <p>Are the highlighted Xs a typo where the number should have been provided in the RFP, or are they a placeholder for a number to be released later when the information is eventually available? If the number should have been included in the RFP, would you please provide it?</p>	<p>The IPS bid number for this solicitation is RFP 41-500280.</p>
19	3.2.1.A	<p>3.2.1.A we have combined financial statements with our parent company, will these financial statements be accepted? They are audited and include the broadband subsidiary.</p> <p>***Financial Statements: the document says that we need to submit 3 years of financial statements. Will the financial statements be for the subsidiary or for the parent? If they're for the subsidiary, we wouldn't have 3 years of statements since the entity is new, so will need to determine what we can provide.***</p>	<p>Parent company is acceptable.</p>
20	3.2.1.G	<p>3.2.1.G Financial Assessment Documents – Failure to Perform. Please explain what is required for the Failure to Perform requirement</p>	<p>Please refer to Page 12 of the RFP for further details regarding Failure to Perform 5.3.7.</p>
21	2.2	<p>2.2 Contract Term: What are the reasons the contract can be terminated early?</p>	<p>Please refer to Paragraph 21 of the NCDIT Terms and Conditions on Page 34 of the RFP.</p>
22	3.2.2.E	<p>Under 3.2.2.E filing status – what specific documents are required?</p>	<p>See Section 5.4.5 on Page 14 of the RFP. The filings themselves are not required.</p>

23	5.3.2	5.3.2 Bank Statements – with our financials combined will bank statements for both RC and fybe need to be provided?	Bank statements should be provided by the entity or entities which will be responsible for the project and its success. Bank statements should indicate financial solvency as well as the management of day-to-day operations.
24	5.3.4	5.3.4 Bank and Investment References- our banking and investment organizations require a signed release, with NCDIT be providing a release form to be utilized only for this program?	NCDIT does not provide a release form.
25	6.2.9	6.2.9 Vendor Registration with the Secretary of State – what can be utilized as documentation for registration with the NC Secretary of State?	No documentation is required. Respondent should provide the number assigned by the Secretary of State.
26		Is it permissible for an entity to submit responses to the RFP as an individual and as part of a joint venture/consortium with other partners, with each response being eligible for a State Convenience Contract?	There should be a separate application from each entity seeking a contract pursuant to this RFP.
27		Is it permissible for an entity awarded a State Convenience Contract to assign the contract to a newly formed entity or related entity with which it is affiliated? Can an entity add member/partner post RFP submittal/award?	See paragraph 15 of the NCDIT Terms and Conditions on Page 31 of the RFP.
28		Can a company that is in the process of formation or registration (e.g., US FEIN, FCC ETC to be received) still serve as the Respondent and fulfill the contract requirements, including the ability to contract, receive, and implement grant awards with NCDIT? If an entity is not fully formed or registered, is it eligible to submit a response to this RFP?	The entity must be able to meet the eligibility criteria set forth in this RFP.
29		Can an entity that is awarded under the RFP process contract with a subrecipient to perform the awarded work?	See the NCDIT Terms and Conditions regarding subcontracting and assignability.
30		Does an entity's failure to receive a State Convenience Contract through this RFP preclude it from qualifying for future grants and/or grant programs funded through BEAD?	This RFP is a prequalification for current ARPA funded CAB, Stop Gap, Pole Replacement programs and further, certain other future programs at the discretion of the Office. BEAD funding may also flow through these programs at a later date. NCDIT may or may not offer additional opportunities for vendors to become eligible at a future date as yet to be determined.
31		The RFP is vague about technology within network design, is there a particular network design that NC is interested in seeing, for example, networks include pLTE, PTP and/or Wi-Fi based networks?	No. The RFP and RFP Response document provide the requirements for the response which meet the State's needs in the pre-qualification process. Individual technology requirements may be defined within specific programs.

32		Are there any reference areas that could be served by Grants referenced in this RFP?	The RFP represents a pre-qualification process and, as such, a project or location specific response is not requested.
33		Is there any guidance on coverage density in areas support by the referenced Grants in the RFP?	No. The RFP represents a pre-qualification process and, as such, location specific information or requirements are not included.
34		The RFP for this program states that the funding source for these programs is ARPA funds. Will CAB be funded through SLFRF or CPF?	CAB will be funded by both SLFRF and CPF.
35		Will a grant award (for each eligible program under the convenience contract) be treated as a Fixed Amount Subaward, and if so, will it be milestone based, per Treasury's recent additional guidance?	The relevant program guidance will address the nature of the contracts to be awarded in that program.
36		<p>This RFP indicates different contracts for different projects. Are these county specific and varied county to county, or is this to be another contract with the state?</p> <p>o "Broadband projects subsequently procured under this Convenience Contract may require competition and an additional, complementary contract with terms and conditions specific to the individual project"</p>	Subsequent scopes of work will vary by program.
37		Does the required list of all Current Grants include grant projects awarded means outside of NC? If so, does it include neighboring states, all states, and federal projects as well?	The list of current projects should include federal and state grant funded projects in North Carolina, and geographically adjacent states (SC, GA, TN, VA). Please refer to Page 12, Section 5.3.5 Current Broadband Deployment Grants
38		<p>How will private investor, network, and other information marked confidential on the RFP response be safeguarded? Are respondents permitted to redact confidential information on financial documents?</p> <p>o Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1.11 regarding economic development incentives "the agency or subdivision must fully and accurately describe the instances in which confidential information may be withheld from disclosure, the types of information that qualify as confidential information, and the methods for ensuring that confidential information is not disclosed."</p>	Please refer to Page 26, Section 8.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSES.
39	5.4.2	When looking at Baseline Company Profile (5.4.2) are you asking for an affiliate organizational chart or an organizational chart by person, specifically for the applicant company?	An organizational chart showing affiliates and subsidiaries.

40	<p>I have a question regarding the RFP submittal. I have copied the section below from page 24. My question is this....the signed execution page, table of contents (which I assume we create for our package), the attachment C, the RFP, Attachment E, attachment F, etc..... are these all supposed to be separate PDFs or can we combine it all into one PDF in the order below? Concerning the solicitation document, the attachments that are included in the solicitation document (A,E,F) are supposed to be taken out, signed, and put in the order below. Are we then supposed to include them again at the end as part of the entire solicitation document (55 pages)?</p>	<p>The Primary Request for Proposal should be returned as a single document.</p> <p>The RFP Response Form and all uploads associated with the RFP Response Form, should each be uploaded as separate documents as specified in the instructions in the Response Form.</p>
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Failure to acknowledge receipt of this Addendum may result in rejection of the Vendor's offer.

Execute Addendum:

Offeror: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Name and Titled (Typed): _____

Date: _____