

City of Chicago Neighborhood Broadband RFP | Pre-submittal Conference Responses to Submitted Questions

What if your network design is a hybrid?

- If you are proposing a hybrid network design, please respond to all RFP questions related to both wireline and wireless proposals (questions 7-18). Please also complete both wireless and wireline tabs in the Bill of Materials.

When will the list of community organizations interested in partnering with service providers be made available?

- Responses from interested community organizations will be made available on the iSupplier portal along with other application materials.

If the service area is a low-income area, how is it that there would be market rate customers?

- Each target area is home to residents of varying income levels. The City would like to understand the percentage of low-income households you plan to serve as well as the percentage of market rate households you plan to serve.

For those who are community partners, is there a required percentage/amount of funds the applicant will have to include that will be for our CBO staff time and efforts? Or, a funding range?

- There are no requirements on the budgets of a potential community partner's outreach, engagement, and digital skill building opportunities and efforts. However, community partners will need to submit a budget to their service provider partner who will need to approve the budget and include it as part of their application.

As community organizations, if we receive multiple requests to partner with ISPs for this RFP, can we accept multiple requests for partnerships for the purpose of RFP applications?

- There is no limit on the number of partnerships available to community partners.

How, as a last mile equipment manufacturer, is the best way to get in touch with interested ISP's with whom to partner? Is there/will there be a list? How do we know who is applying?

- It is recommended you share this opportunity widely with your networks and find service providers to partner with on an application. A list of respondent proposals will not be made public while the application process is still open. If potential respondents in their applications say they are open to partnering with last mile equipment manufacturers, the City may make that known.

Can applicants apply for multiple projects, e.g. non-contiguous service areas? If so, should projects be scoped, priced, and/or submitted separately?

- Please submit only one application that encompasses all your proposed work. Servicing non-contiguous service areas is allowable.

How much funding from each source - ARPA and general obligation bonds - is available for this RFP?

- 18M in tax-exempt bonds and 4M in ARPA funding for community-based organizations.

What type of bond will be used for capital expenses? Can the City provide the bond indenture or other legal documents that sets forth the obligations under the bond?

- The City will use tax-exempt Chicago Recovery Plan (CRP) bonds. The ordinance authorizing the CRP expenditure will be made available on the iSupplier portal.

Is there a speed requirement for the \$30 low-cost service offering?

- 100 Mbps/100 Mbps.

How do interested parties view the Bill of Materials and Financial Workbook attachments?

- Please visit and sign into the iSupplier portal to review all documents and attachments relevant for this RFP.

Can Managed Service Providers (MSPs) respond to the RFP addressing only CHA MDUs in the designated neighborhoods?

- Yes, any entity that can align their proposal with the program goals and requirements may apply to this opportunity. Please see the RFP for more information (Section 1 of the RFP).

If so, would they need to have approval from CHA in advance?

- No, our evaluation process will route proposals intending to leverage City or sister-agency assets to the appropriate entity to work out legal, leasing, or contracting issues.

Will the network infrastructure constructed using the City's bond funding be required to be used as collateral for the bond funds?

- The City of Chicago may require a residual right to use materials, concepts, and/or infrastructure that is funded in this effort, dependent on the proposal set forth and type of City asset leveraged.

It was mentioned all contracts/invoicing for expenses must be completed by December 31, 2026: Does this apply to project components funded just by ARPA or both ARPA and the bond?

- The anticipated term of the contract is up to 25 months. Contracts are expected to start as early as November 2024 and end as late as December 31, 2026. No extensions to the contract term will be allowed.

Can you please confirm the US Treasury Supplemental Guidance will apply to any ARPA funds awarded & used?

- Yes.