



**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR COMMUNITY NETWORK
SPECIFICATIONS
RFP NO. EP21/22-08
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BID OPENING THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 AT 11:00AM**

SCOPE OF WORK

The City of East Providence believes in our active participation in the elimination of the digital divide. With anticipation and preparation for received and potential federal funding for expansion of broadband access provided by municipal governments, we seek a comprehensive study to build out a broadband municipal network for the City of East Providence.

A robust municipal broadband network is crucial to the livelihood, education and immersion in our society. Creating a path to develop a municipal network, providing East Providence residents and business access to broadband service in conjunction with federal goals of increasing internet access to all. The City will explore options for a community network. The RFP solicits bids for Feasibility Study, which will make recommendations to the City relating to the viability of a City-owned and operated broadband network and all other considerations that include:

- Community Support and Estimated Costs (Short and Long Term)
- Construction and Operational funding options (ARPA and others)
- Long term financial plan that ensures viability, continuity of operations and growth
- Physical network proposal and technical options
- Estimated costs of design plan and options
- Competition from other providers and technologies

The City requests the feasibility study to begin as soon as possible and to be completed no later than September 1, 2022.

The City is soliciting responses from qualified network consulting firms that have extensive experience working together with towns and cities on strategic network planning, financial analysis, and community relations. The selected firm will be expected to interact with City officials and interested residents while preparing the report and to provide a detailed plan specific to East Providence.

1. Assessment of community needs and interest:
 - a. Assess residential needs with regards to services, cost expectations and estimated subscription rate. This should include an evaluation of the entire town's interest in broadband services for residential and business use.
 - b. Assess business need with regards to services required and desired, cost expectations and estimated subscription rate.
 - c. Identify rate of internet access available and residents with reliable internet access
2. Provide recommendation for a distribution network topology and technology components
 - a. Propose a design that provides broadband access that can evolve to increase capacity and incorporate future Internet services and network technologies.

QUALIFICATIONS

The proposal shall include, at a minimum, the following information with regards to qualifications and references:

- A list of at least three (3) client references including two (2) government clients where you have provided similar goods and services. The reference information shall include the name, address, contact name, email address, phone number, number of cameras in use, number of years each has been using your system and corresponding interfacing systems.
- Identification of any and all parent or subsidiary relationships.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The City reserves the right to reject any/or all companies, to waive any informality in the proposal statement and to accept the proposal of any company based on what the City deems to be in its best interest.
2. The City reserves the right to accept all or part of any proposal and to negotiate a contract for services and cost with the selected Contractor.
3. The Vendor shall provide all necessary personnel, sub-contractors, materials and equipment to perform and complete all work under this proposal.
4. All original documents and drawings shall become the property of the City after completion of the consultant's work.
5. The Vendor shall be prepared to commence work immediately upon execution of a contract with the City.
6. The Vendor will be required to provide the minimum categories and amounts of insurance required for this project including: Commercial General Liability, Products/Completed Operations, Bodily Injury & Property Damage Liability including explosion, collapse and underground coverage, and personal & advertising injury - \$1,000,000 General Aggregate. Auto Liability -\$1,000,000

Bodily Injury & Property Damage and Workers Compensation – Statutory amounts. The City of East Providence shall be named as an additional insured.

7. The Vendor shall forward any questions regarding this request for bids in a formal request for information (RFI) addressed to:

Kelly Ahrens, Chief Information Officer
145 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914
kahrens@eastprovidenceri.gov
No later than **MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 at 4:00PM.**