

Invitation to Bid (“ITB”)

Health Care Provider:	Central Peninsula Hospital 250 Hospital Place Soldotna, AK 99669
ITB Number:	CPH20230815154811
Posting Start Date:	Date Posted by USAC, set via E-mail - note web posting
Posting End Date:	Posted by USAC on 43239540 (extensions shall not be provided unless the filing window is extended by the FCC)
ITB Contact Name:	Dan Kettwich
Upload Bid Submission to:	http://adsads.com/itb_year_27.asp
Requested File Format	Please upload offer in Portable Document Format (PDF) Note: MS Excel files or other formats may be requested

Central Peninsula Hospital (“CPH” or “Applicant”) seeks proposals in accordance with the terms and conditions posted within. The awarded contract(s) may cover both Rural Health Care eligible and non-eligible items. If eligible and non-eligible items or services are bid, service providers should break out the non-eligible items and list them as such. Contract award(s) shall be made in accordance with Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) Program Rules as administered by the Universal Service Administration Company (“USAC”).

All Service Providers must comply with applicable Federal, State and Local Rules and Regulations.

PREQUALIFICATION: None Required
MANDATORY JOB WALK: None Required
BID MARKING: RHC CPH20230815154811 (Solicitation ID)
METHOD OF BID RECEIPT: Bid offers shall be uploaded to http://adsads.com/itb_year_27.asp or the offer may be disqualified. Late offers shall not be considered.

In order to provide the products and/or services requested within, all service providers must file FCC Form 498 to obtain a valid [Service Provider Identification Number \(SPIN or 498 ID\)](#) and acknowledge participation accordingly.

It is the intent to award all of the services sought within the ITB to either one or multiple Service Providers. By issuing the ITB, the Applicant is not required to award all services for which pricing is sought. An award may or may not be given for services requested. CPH retains the right to award contracts based on their evaluation of the offers received in accordance with the ITB. A notice of intent to award shall not constitute acceptance of a Bid Offer and shall not create a binding contract. **Prior to execution of a written contract between the parties (or commencement of services if there is no written contract), Applicant reserves the right to withdraw any award.**

PRESENTATION of PROPOSALS:

The applicant prefers that proposal be uploaded to the appropriate opportunity located at: http://adsads.com/itb_year_27.asp. **On-site presentations are not necessary.**

Offers to the ITB shall not require demonstrations. Responses requiring demonstrations for evaluation may result in disqualification of your proposal.

NEUTRAL LANGAGE:

The mention of any manufacturer, make, or equipment model or service specifications provided are meant to provide an example or sense of configuration. In addition, equipment references, equipment lists

and/or service designations are simply proposed to give service providers a better understanding of project requirements. Equivalent options to the mention of terms such as a manufacturer or service provider's name, brand, product, or service shall be considered.

SUSPENSION or DEBARMENT:

If, within the past five (5) years, any firm, business, person, or service provider submitting a bid has been debarred, suspended or otherwise lawfully precluded from participating in any public procurement activity with any federal, state or local government, including USAC, the Service provider must include a letter with its response or bid setting forth the name and address of the public procurement unit, the effective date of the suspension or debarment, the duration of the suspension or debarment, and the relevant circumstances relating to the suspension or debarment. Failure to supply such a letter or failure to disclose in the letter all the pertinent information shall result in the cancellation of any contract. By signing the bid section, the Service provider certifies that no current suspension or debarment exists.

RED LIGHT RULE:

Any service provider, or the sub-contractor of any service provider, who is currently under, or has reason to believe that they may have a red-light status under, the FCC's "Red Light Rule" (47 C.F.R. § 1.1910) must disclose that information in this proposal. If any service provider, or the sub-contractor of any service provider, is found to have a red-light status under the FCC "Red Light Rule" during the term of this contract, this contract may be immediately terminated.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM RURAL RATE:

For funding under the Telecommunications Program, Service provider warrants they have reviewed all FCC, USAC and Rural Health Care ("RHC") information on rural rates (47 C.F.R. § 54.605 including any related FCC orders or guidance).

BILLING:

With respect to service, the Applicant prefers to pay their share and it is requested that the service provider "carry the reimbursed share" until the FRN is funded, or an appeal is resolved. The Applicant agrees to promptly pay its share and to do its part in working to assure funding, to include responding to all USAC inquiries.

If allowable by program rules, please indicate if your company is willing to waive any or all prorated fees that may be assessed due to Rural Health Care Funding Cap limitations.

QUESTIONS and SUBMITTING OFFERS:

All questions shall be posted to http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_27.asp to assure everyone has access to all information. In addition, Offers shall be uploaded to the same location.

To ask questions or submit an offer, please visit http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_27.asp and click the **REGISTER FOR ITB** link. You will need to enter your name, E-mail address, password, phone number, and your company's name/SPIN. After submitting your response, a verification code will be sent to the E-mail address supplied during registration and the code provided must be confirmed to complete your registration. Please validate your registration by following the instructions contained in the E-mail requesting the verification. If you do not see a verification E-mail, please check your SPAM, or register again. If problems persist, please E-mail CPH2024@adsadsi.com.

After your account has been verified, you may sign up to access specific Invitation to Bid(s) by clicking on **Rural Health Care (RHC)** and selecting the tick box next to the entity or entities that you wish to ask questions about, follow the answers posted, and/or upload offers.

Note: You may always look at the question(s) and answer(s) online. The service provider assumes complete responsibility for receiving and reviewing information, including E-mail notifications. All e-mail notifications are sent as a courtesy and neither CPH or ADS Advanced Data Services, Inc. may be held accountable for issues concerning the delivery and receipt of E-mail.

To ask a question, click on the Q/A link associated with the Applicant's ITB. In addition, you may click on the Q/A link associated with this application to review all questions asked and answered.

Reminder: If you do not have an immediate question but would like to stay current with questions asked and answered, simply the tick box next the entity or entities that you wish to follow and you will be automatically added to the distribution list for updates. It is considered a best practice to review questions prior to submitting an offer.

No other method of asking questions is acceptable. Questions asked in any other method than the acceptable method as described above will not be answered. To reiterate, questions submitted via text, E-mail, or asked via a telephone, or left on a voicemail will not be answered.

Bid Offers shall be submitted in an equivalent manner. Simply login to http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_27.asp, click on the **Upload** link associated with the corresponding Invitation to Bid, enter your comments, and **Click to Upload File(s)** link. The following type of files may be uploaded: .PDF, .XLS, .XLSX, .DOC, DOCX, and .ZIP. When you have finished uploading files, please make sure to click the "Finished" Button.

REFERENCES:

The service provider shall provide references that demonstrate successfully Funded Projects from recent Funding Years. In addition, please indicate the number of positive Funding Commitment Decision Letters that Applicants have received for your company's services. Applicant Name, Entity Number, and Individual Contact Information are requested for all references provided.

THE ADS ADVANCED DATA SERVICES, INC. ROLE

ADS works to help manage and memorialize an open and fair application process for support under the Rural Health Care Program. The ADS work effort is designed to provide a fully documented audit ready work product. ADS helps to assure all potential service providers have access to the same information concerning service needs.

Project Coordinator: Dan Kettwich, ADS Advanced Data Services, Inc.
Mailing address: Post Office Box 117, Saltillo, TX 75478
Email address: CPH2024@adsadsi.com

The project's management structure or leadership for this proposal shall be managed by the project coordinator and the work plan as determined by the service provider should be completed by the first day of July in the funding year for which services are sought. Sufficient budget is available to fund the applicant's share of any service funded by the Telecommunications Program.

ADS Advanced Data Services, Inc. does not evaluate Service Provider Service Offerings – The Applicant is responsible for selecting all Service Providers (see evaluation criteria). ADS does not and shall not recommend Service Providers.

If you have a proposal, or optional packages, please provide details and the eligible Applicant shall evaluate all options to select a winner. Pricing specific to the Applicant's requirements must be included for an evaluation to be completed. Please make sure any and all required Contracts or Statements of Work are authorized AND included in your offer. If the Applicant has a question on your service offering, terms, and/or pricing, clarification may be sought.

If you intend to respond to the ITB and have not done so, please register to ask and receive the answers to questions at http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_27.asp.

CONTRACTS:

If a contract/agreement is requested, the service provider shall have seven (7) days to provide the requested terms. Failure to provide a contract or agreement within this period may disqualify the Bid Offer. If the service provider requires additional time, please specify the exact amount of time required within your Offer and make a note of the request in the offer submission comments when uploading Offer. Filing Universal Service Fund Forms is time-sensitive, and the filing window must be used effectively. Timely return of requested contracts/agreements is mandatory.

Should the Applicant request a change to a contract/agreement, Applicant will provide a reasonable amount of time to make changes. If Applicant becomes concerned that the service provider is not acting in a timely manner, or Applicant in its sole discretion concludes the service provider may be unable to provide the desired contract/agreement modifications, then the Bid Offer may be disqualified. It is possible the Applicant may ask multiple service providers to provide contracts in case the initially selected service provider is unable or unwilling to submit an acceptable contract/agreement.

Final contracts/agreements should be provided to the applicant one month prior to the close of the filing window to assure the applicant has sufficient time for review, internal approval, and the filing of paperwork with the Universal Services Administrative Company. If final contracts are not received within two weeks of the close of the filing window, then the Bid Offer may be disqualified.

NO GIFTS OR GRATUITIES.

Applicants or their representatives are prohibited from directly or indirectly soliciting or accepting gifts or anything of value (including meals, tickets to sporting events or trips) from service providers.

NON-COLLUSION, EMPLOYMENT, AND SERVICES.

By signing the Service Provider Authorized Response, the Service Provider certifies that: it did not offer any gifts or anything of value to Applicant or its representatives, or engage in collusion or other anti-competitive practices in connection with the preparation or submission of its offer; and that it does not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or person to whom it provides services because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or disability, and that it complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and executive orders regarding employment.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The applicant shall choose the most cost-effective service provider, which is defined by the FCC as, “the method that costs the least after consideration of the features, quality of transmission, reliability, and other factors that the [Applicant] deems relevant to choosing a method of providing the required health care services.”

Criteria	Explanation / Description of Criteria	Weight
Cost	Percent of low-cost service / service cost	40.00%
Leverage Existing Resources	Reduce Administrative Burden & Soft Costs	20.00%
Bandwidth	Network Design, to include Hardening and Resiliency	20.00%
Contract Provisions	Service Delivery and Extensions	20.00%

Please include specific information in your offer addressing each of the criteria listed. The rubric above describes how the most cost-effective solution is selected. Meeting the minimum requirement may not assure all points are awarded in a specific area. To remove subjectivity, Yes/No questions and questions

with specific answers are used to determine the most cost-effective solution. Exceeding expectations is encouraged.

The cost should be the total cost of eligible services.

Interpretation of your offer shall be utilized in completing the evaluation rubric. Please consider these criteria as a request for sufficient information to grade your offer. The information above is intended to provide an understanding of evaluation, if you need clarification, please ask. Applicant reserves the right to select bid proposals which, in the sole judgment of the Applicant most nearly conforms to the specifications set forth herein.

The selection will be based on all factors indicated above and may not go to the lowest bidder if cost is outweighed by a combination of other features in the winning vendor's bid. The weight scale listed above will determine the most cost-effective solution for the Applicant.

The applicant is not responsible for any costs incurred by a vendor related to the preparation or delivery of the bid proposal, or any other activities conducted by the vendor as it relates to this ITB.

The selection decisions made by Applicant and reported to USAC under this ITB are final and appeals or re-submissions will not be considered.

DISQUALIFICATION

In addition to any reasons specified above for disqualification, the following reasons may also result in disqualification of a Bid Offer:

- Debarred, suspended, or otherwise lawfully prohibited from public procurement activity;
- SPAM style Offer submitted (see further below);
- Failure to submit Signed Service Provider Authorized Response ("SPAR");
- Failure to include Taxes;
- Failure to properly Mark Offer;
- Service Provider does not have a valid Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN); or
- Failure to cost allocate ineligible components.

SPAM based offers include one or more of the following:

- 1) The offer is general in nature, meaning specific data concerning the request is arbitrary or not well defined within the offer. The applicant is not seeking a laundry list or price list of services. Quantities should be listed and calculated, along with taxes, fees, and surcharges.
- 2) Multiple options are presented, or provided (but are not requested), and the applicant is left trying to discern between the assorted options. If you have questions, please ask them as outlined within the ITB.
- 3) The proposal is not binding and does not include signatures for acceptance by all parties.
- 4) Proposals that include endless loop terminology. In other words, proposals offering to beat the lowest current or final proposed presented shall not be accepted. Firm fixed pricing must be presented.

Eligible Locations to which Service May be Required

See Attachment 1: Eligible Locations

GENERAL REQUIREMENT

All proposals must identify the cost for all recurring and non-recurring expenses that may include but are not limited to assessment, engineering, project management, documentation, contingency, installation, and configuration fees. All surcharges and taxes shall be included as well. The services proposed should indicate the eligible costs for reimbursement under program rules. The costs for services not eligible should be clearly itemized.

INTENT to RESPOND and QUESTIONS

If you intend to respond to the ITB and have not done so, please register to ask and receive the answers to questions at http://adsadsi.com/itb_year_27.asp. Simply visit the website and click on the Q/A link associated with the Applicant's Form to submit a question and indicate you intend to respond to this ITB. In addition, you may click on the Q/A link associated with this application to review all posts, questions, and their answers.

SCOPE OF WORK

The ITB's objective is to solicit bids and negotiate a contract for telecommunications, broadband, and Internet access services in support of the Applicant's integrated data, voice, and video network. CPH intends to obtain Universal Services Fund support via the RHC Telecommunications Program and the RHC Healthcare Connect Fund Program.

Please include all fees, including Monthly Recurring Costs, Non-Recurring Costs, including Installation, and applicable taxes. FCC rules require that an Applicant sign a contract with the service provider before filing forms to seek support. Contracts, Statements of Work, and/or Service Orders should be submitted with a handwritten signature and date. Failure to provide signed documents may disqualify your response for services sought.

Offers should include the Service Provider Authorized Response ("SPAR"). The SPAR may serve as a contract and provides proof of timely response. Additional contracts and service orders may be included and executed for service delivery.

Service providers should propose an implementation plan with a seamless transition for the delivery of service. The service delivery plan should be designed to mitigate the risk of downtime and assure continued uptime. Work that requires the interruption of the current service shall be performed after hours and/or at a time that is agreeable to CPH. All proposed solutions shall be fully assessed to assure the service expectations defined within this document. If a new service provider is selected and their services deployed, it is expected to run alongside the current solution and in conjunction with CPH expectations prior to replacing the existing service. Service Level Agreements are expected.

Contract Requirements:

Program Criteria for Evergreen Contracts (47 C.F.R. § 54.622(i)(3))
Signed by the individual HCP or consortium lead entity
Specifies the service type, bandwidth, and quantity
Specifies the term of the contract
Specifies the cost of services to be provided
Includes the physical addresses or other identifying info of the HCPs purchasing from the contract

Please confirm the contracts associated with your offer complies with the following statement (note the SPAR):

- Both parties must be clearly identified (please include physical addresses of the locations that services may be delivered),
- Both parties must sign and date the contract (if possible, please submit a signed and dated MSA with proposal as this will expedite the review process and allow the applicant to focus on service orders),
- Contract must specify type and term of service (duration),
- Contract must have specific pricing of the services to be provided (if possible, please include growth options).

Note: Applicants with evergreen contracts are permitted to add new locations, exercise voluntary contract extensions, and upgrade services without additional competitive bidding, as long as those options were contemplated in the original competitive bidding process, and the contract explicitly provided for them. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.626.

Applicant may add more sites to accommodate growth and requests pricing for additional sites located in Applicant's service area. Contracts shall include language allowing the substitution of sites and services over the life of the contract (this includes potential growth). This provision allows the applicant to add sites and/or upgrade or change services throughout the length of the contact term without having to re-bid.

Please provide options to include terms that deliver service on July 1, 2024.

All proposals/contracts may include language allowing for the termination of any resulting contract if funding from a previous application is approved. Similarly, contingencies may be proposed within new contracts to address existing contract(s) that may not be funded. Contracts may allow for the termination or disconnection of service without penalty. Short-term options are preferred, and voluntary extensions are okay. Month-to-Month Service terms are okay. Contracts may be proposed with voluntary extension(s) that do not exceed five years in the aggregate, (example, a one-year contract could have no more than five voluntary extensions of one year). It would be beneficial if contracts ended on 6/30/20XX.

Competitive Bidding Period

The bid period shall be the period USAC identifies after posting the associated 465(s). Offers shall be due by 11:59:59PM local standard time on the date identified by USAC - meaning there may be different due dates for the assorted services sought. It is acceptable to submit all offers and responses by the first due date - this would assure all due dates are met. The Applicant does not intend to extend due dates. If unsure of due dates, check the appropriate Form(s).

Requested Contract Period:

As listed on the 465, the preferred contract period is: up to 3 years, with five, 1-year voluntary extensions. It is understood that multi-year contracts may be required if the selected service provider commits to building infrastructure.

If appropriate, please include a Cover Letter to explain all contracts and proposals.

If appropriate, propose options to extend services as outlined in existing evergreen contracts for a period of time (such as 1 year) consistent with contract language. If this option is presented, include reference to the governing contract number, and/or amendment. Include a reference to page to which the extension language is memorialized.

If appropriate, propose continued use of a contract for services currently governing the delivery of service(s). Include the original contract start date, contract end date, and confirm pricing and all terms remain as offered in the existing contract.

If appropriate, propose new contracts, to include services and pricing.

Telecommunications Program Requests: Please note Attachment 2 for the Products and Services Requested

The Telecommunications Program (“Telecom”) provides reduced rates to rural health care providers (“HCPs”) for telecommunications and voice services for the use of telemedicine and telehealth. Eligible services are discounted at the difference in cost between urban and rural areas in your state.

The FCC considers each health care site or location as an individual HCP for purposes of calculating support under the RHC Program. Therefore, each HCP must demonstrate that, by itself, it is an eligible entity.

Eligible telecommunications services and charges include, but are not limited to:

- ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode), MPLS, Frame Relay, ISDN,
- Satellite Service,
- Centrex / Telephone Service,
- DSL and or Cable,
- Ethernet,
- Fractional T1, T1 (or DS1), T3 (or DS3),
- OC-1, OC-3, and
- Network Reconfiguration Services (“NRS”) and Redundant Circuits are eligible for support.

Equivalent options shall be considered for all types of service, such as but not limited to the list above and: Fiber, Point-to-Point, and Copper.

Telecommunications equipment does not qualify for support.

The following examples are not eligible:

- Special construction and maintenance charges
- Franchises
- Zone charges
- Surcharges

The cost of construction or infrastructure build-out for the installation of telecommunications services is not supported. For example, if a wall must be removed, a street dug up, or a cable laid, these costs would not be eligible for support.

Internet Access

Internet access is no longer available through the Telecommunications Program. As of Funding Year 2014, support for Internet access charges is available through the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program.

Service Provider Instructions

Service Provider Authorized Response (“SPAR”) Cover Sheet:

Service Provider shall complete the SPAR on the following page and include it as the first page of the Service Provider’s Offer. Bids submitted without a SPAR Cover Sheet may not be evaluated.

In addition to the SPAR, please include all relevant documentation such as but not limited to: Scope(s) of Work, Master Service Agreements, Service Orders, Detail Line-Item Pricing, Taxes, and Surcharges, etc.

Proposed contracts or service orders **should** specifically identify the eligible products and services as well as ineligible products and services.

Service Provider Offer:

By submitting an offer, Service Provider Agrees to the Terms and Conditions contained within. If Service Provider’s offer is selected, Central Peninsula Hospital shall award CPH20230815154811 to Service Provider and authorize the SPAR - creating a contract. If required, an authorized and dated Master Service Agreement is encouraged to be submitted with the Service Provider’s offer.

In order to be considered for award, any and all terms, conditions and, or contracts required by the Service Provider should be signed, dated, and submitted with the ITB Offer. Failure to provide documents may disqualify your offer for services sought. If specific service orders cannot be signed due to required information, then please provide a sample of required contracts or service orders.

Pricing shall be included in the service provider’s offer by location and/or service. Eligible products and services shall be clearly separated from any and all ineligible products and services.

The successful service provider shall provide a complete inventory upon project completion. All Invoices shall cross reference the Inventory Documentation provided. In addition, the service provider should be familiar with all required invoicing certifications and must comply with the invoicing deadlines for both 463s and 467s (120-days following the service delivery deadline). See 47 C.F.R. § 54.627.

Include your Service Level Agreement (“SLA”) to help the applicant define quality and/or reliability metrics. These types of technical requirements may prove critical for the applicant in identifying an objective method to determine the most cost-effective offering. Please include the expected average latency, in milliseconds, for each site and if Quality of Service (QoS) is offered.

Please remain in compliance with the following:

- 47 C.F.R. § 54.642, for competitive bidding requirements
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.634, for eligible services
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.635, for eligible equipment
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.636, HCP owned network facilities (for consortium applicants)
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.637, off-site data centers and off-site administrative offices
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.638, upfront payments
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.639, ineligible expenses
- 47 C.F.R. § 54.646, site and service substitutions

You may reject the terms and conditions contained herein. If you do so, please make note of that exception in writing and return a copy of the signed SPAR.

Service Provider Authorized Response - Return this form with ITB Offer

Eligible Entity:	Central Peninsula Hospital, 250 Hospital Place, Soldotna, AK 99669
Project Description:	See CPH20230815154811 for Project Details
ITB Number:	CPH20230815154811
ITB Posting Date:	Date Posted by USAC via E-mail - note web posting
ITB Due Date:	Posted by USAC on 43239540 (extensions shall not be provided unless the filing window is extended by the FCC)

Service Provider Name:	
Service Provider Address:	
Service Provider City, State and Zip:	
Service Provider Contact Name:	
Service Provider Contact Phone Number:	
Service Provider Contact E-mail Address:	
Service Provider SPIN:	

- Please check the box to confirm contracts offered meet the requirements listed within the Scope of Work.
- Please check the box to confirm understanding of contracts section on page 4 of this ITB and their authorization.
- Please check the box if your offer includes an SLA for a Dedicated and Symmetric Services in Attachment 2.

Average Days for a response from the service provider legal department: _____

Number of days required to provide a boilerplate / standard contract: _____

Service providers may be held accountable for answers provided within their offers and on the SPAR.

Pricing shall be included in the service provider’s offer by location. Eligible products and services shall be clearly separated from any and all ineligible products and services.

The Undersigned hereby offers and agrees to furnish the material, service, or construction in compliance with all terms, conditions, specifications, and amendments in the Solicitation. Signature also certifies understanding and compliance with understanding and compliance with the terms and conditions outlined within the Invitation to Bid. By submitting an offer, I confirm that the proposal is genuine and not sham or collusive, nor made in the interest or behalf of any person not herein named, and that the service provider has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other service provider to put in a sham bid, or any other person, firm, or corporation to refrain from bidding, and that the service provider has not in any manner sought by collusion to secure for itself an advantage over any other service provider.

Service Provider Authorized Signature

Date of Service Provider Signature

CPH Authorized Signature

Date of CPH Signature

Attachment 1: Locations and Transport Bandwidth

Health Care Provider:	Central Peninsula Hospital 250 Hospital Place Soldotna, AK 99669
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Requested Bandwidth Pricing: 100MB up to 2GB

If multiple services are sought at the same location, please provide diverse physical paths when possible. Include options for growth and make sure ineligible costs are identified and cost allocated. In addition, certain services may be governed under existing contracts that may contain early termination liability.

If the Bandwidth Request exceeds availability, please provide options at the Bandwidth Minimum (current).

If the minimum speeds requested cannot be provided, please provide options starting at 1.5 Mbps with options up to the maximum speed that can be implemented - not to exceed 5Gbps. This request is designed to provide a solution if the request exceeds actual availability as well as growth - higher requested speeds are for potential growth.

Attachment 2: Telecommunication Program Requests

Please provide a Transport (see attachment 1) solution - all similar/equivalent transport options shall be considered. Preferred solutions are considered to be carrier class service, dedicated and symmetric, versus best effort and/or asymmetric. SLAs should be included.

For the purposes of this Invitation to Bid, a dedicated service is a communications connection that uses hardware resource committed to a certain application or use. This is different than a shared connection such as a telephone network or the Internet. Dedicated services may not be offered by one, distinct end-to-end cable/wire or provider. Dedicated services offer guarantees of stable and consistent bandwidth availability and near constant latency, which are attributes not guaranteed on public, shared or best effort platforms. The attributes associated with dedicated services add significant value to the connection as service is not oversubscribed.

Please provide a terrestrial transport solution if possible; however, all similar/equivalent transport options shall be considered. Solutions should be symmetric, a carrier class service and dedicated (versus best effort).

Any Service Level Agreements ("SLAs") should be included. For the purposes of this Invitation to Bid, a product or service governed by an SLA is not automatically considered a dedicated Telecommunications service. SLAs do not guarantee bandwidth. A dedicated Telecommunications service is provided through a dedicated connection through which the customer has access to guaranteed bandwidth - spanning from the customer's physical location ("A" Location) to the carrier's network ("Z" location).

Please confirm the services offered are symmetric and dedicated. In addition, please describe how you provision and guarantee the delivery of dedicated services.

Please include proof of the rural and urban rates as well as all taxes, fees, and other surcharges.

The "A" location for all services is the HCP, the facility at which the circuit originates.

The "Z" location is a Medical Cloud or any other location that allows connectivity into "CPH"'s Network. The Medical Cloud may be designed to be resilient, highly available and hardened, with the purpose of providing transport and connectivity to various Healthcare Providers, Partners, and Information (Electronic Health Records and/or other content) required to provide services within the community to which the "CPH" serves.

Medical Clouds are designed to be resilient, highly available and hardened, with the purpose of providing transport and connectivity to various Healthcare Providers, Partners, and Information (Electronic Health Records and/or other content) required to provide services within the community to which the HCP serves.

New services may replace existing services or supplement existing services. Additional services, to include redundancy, may be offered and subsequently selected. All like, similar, and/or equivalent services shall be evaluated. All new or continuing service contract offers should, at minimum, provide pricing for the bandwidth listed with term and date installation could be completed if an order were issued by the close of the filing window.

Please identify any ineligible components required to provide service. If necessary, please include proof of the rural and urban rates in your response as well as all taxes, fees, and other surcharges.

The applicant shall comply with all applicable Rural Health Care Program rules, requirements, and procedures, including the requirement to pay their share, or urban rate, for Telecommunications Program services sought and funded.

Additional Information

All new or continuing service contract offers should, at minimum, provide pricing for the bandwidth requested and the date installation could be completed if an order were issued by the close of the filing window.

Please provide pricing in an MS Excel worksheet/book editable format.

Redundant options may be sought for the location(s) in Attachment 1. Redundancy should be physically diverse from the primary path (example, satellite connectivity may provide the most cost-effective option to a fiber connection). CPE routers configured in an active/active state with links to each would be ideal so that in the event of an outage the failover between the active router to the passive router would be more of an automatic process, versus a manual process. Hardened and Resilient network designs are preferred.

In order to be considered for award any and all terms, conditions and, or contracts required by the service provider should be signed, dated, and submitted with the ITB Offer. Failure to provide signed documents may disqualify your Offer for services sought. Exception – If a Service Order, or any contract/agreement requires a Bandwidth selection or any other piece of required information in unknown, a sample document is sufficient.

Reporting Requests:

Please provide monthly usage reports on all data circuits if requested.

Please provide monthly report of all logged trouble tickets, to include outages as requested.

At the Applicant's request, the service provider shall agree to the installation of third-party bandwidth monitoring systems. The applicant shall have real-time access to information reported by such products.

Please remember, contracts may exist for the requested services – options are sought to assure business continuity and mitigate risk. Please include options for growth and make sure ineligible costs are identified and cost allocated.

All applicable federal and state laws shall be observed.

All signed and counter-significant contracts are expected by the 22nd of March. If meeting this timeline is problematic, or a concern please state so in your response.