



DEDICATED INTERNET SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Applicant: Madison County NC Consortium
BEN: 17030234
Form 470 #: 270000674
Form 470 Contacts: Jaime Lunsford - jlunsford@madisoncountync.gov
Melissa Zaruba - mzaruba@e-ratecentral.com

Procurement Timeline

Task	Due Date
Issue Date	October 6, 2026
Deadline to Submit Questions	October 20, 2026, 10:00 AM ET
Posting of Questions/Clarifications	October 23, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	November 20, 2026, 10:00 AM ET

Communications and Questions

All communication with the Applicant regarding this solicitation **must** be emailed and received by the "Deadline to Submit Questions" noted in the "Procurement Timeline." Questions should be directed to all "Form 470 Contacts" listed above, with the Form 470 Number included in the subject line. Failure to include all "Form 470 Contacts" could result in questions going unanswered. Verbal inquiries are not allowed. Clarifications, when applicable, will be posted as an attachment/addendum to the Form 470. Each Offeror is responsible for downloading the current version of the Form 470 and attachments, including any addenda. Applicant reserves the right to ask vendors clarifying questions during the proposal review process.

Contact initiated by an Offeror concerning this solicitation with any other Applicant representative other than those listed as Form 470 contacts is prohibited. Unauthorized contact may result in the offeror's disqualification from this solicitation.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals **must** be submitted by the Proposal Submission Deadline in the Procurement Timeline.

Proposals should be emailed to ALL Form 470 Contacts listed above and include the following:

- Applicant name
- Form 470 number

- SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number)
- Service provider's terms and conditions
- Completed Attachments
 - A – Iran Divestment Act Certification
 - B – E-Verify Compliance Certification
 - C – Non-Collusion Affidavit
 - D – Pricing Schedule (in separate Excel attachment)

Proposals **must** include **all** costs associated with providing service, including but not limited to:

- Monthly recurring charges (MRC) include any recurring charge related to delivering the services, such as monthly charges for Internet access, IP addresses, basic terminating equipment, etc.
- Non-Recurring Charges (NRC) include any one-time fee other than special construction charges. This includes but is not limited to installation charges, connection charges, and/or basic terminating equipment charges.
- Special Construction Charges (SPC) include one-time costs for deploying new fiber or upgrading network facilities for eligible entities. These charges are non-recurring and include the following components: construction of network facilities, design and engineering, and project management. Offerors should provide special construction details sufficient to support E-Rate review, including route feet, cost per foot, and plant mix where applicable.
- Failure to identify the monthly recurring, non-recurring, and special construction charges will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Respondents are encouraged to provide the estimated taxes and surcharges associated with the service. Submissions indicating that there may be additional MRC, NRC, or SPC related to delivering the services **WILL** be disqualified.

Proposal pricing should be included in "MadisonNC Attachment D Pricing Schedule" and be submitted in Excel format. Any E-Rate ineligible costs should be clearly identified.

Proposals **must** be in response to the specific requirements of this solicitation. Offers including a generic listing of services beyond the scope of this solicitation and/or encyclopedic price lists will be disqualified. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Service Requirements

Applicant **requires** a minimum of 2 Gbps download x 2 Gbps upload fully managed Dedicated Internet Access with transport service to 5707 US-25, Marshall, NC 28753. Service providers are requested to submit offers for incremental bandwidths from 2 Gbps up to 10 Gbps. The service will be shared with multiple county departments, one of which being the county library system. The libraries are estimated to require a minimum of 500 Mbps of the shared connection.

Offerors must also provide 13 consecutive static IP addresses for the applicant.

Offerors must provide router lease options and pricing (if required).

To be considered, services **must** be within the specified bandwidth range. In addition to the specified minimum

and maximum bandwidths, Service Providers are encouraged to offer a variety of bandwidth options within this range. Refer to Attachment D – Pricing Schedule for the requested service levels. If the exact bandwidths listed are not available, vendors should include their closest comparable service level for consideration.

Submissions meeting any of the three (3) numbered criteria **WILL** be disqualified.

1. Solution does **NOT** offer at least the minimum bandwidth.
2. Solution does **NOT** offer bandwidth dedicated to the applicant but instead, the bandwidth is dependent on the number of other customers on the network or some other factor that does not, generally, guarantee the minimum bandwidth as a committed information rate (CIR).
3. Solution includes caps on data usage or slows speeds based on data usage or other factors.

All solutions must terminate service or infrastructure at the demarcation point within the building, generally, the MDF. Solutions that only bring service to the property line but not to the demarcation point will be disqualified. The agreement must terminate service at an MDF designated by the Applicant. The Offeror should specify the exact demarcation setup included in the base fees, such as wall-mounted CPE and CAT6a handoff, rack mount patch panel, etc.

Offerors must accept responsibility for site delivery, construction, permitting, pathway, and right-of-way costs required to deliver service.

Contract Term and Modifications

The county's current service agreement will expire June 30, 2027. Services are needed effective July 1, 2027. If the service cannot be guaranteed by this date, this should be indicated in the proposal, along with an estimated timeline for when the service will be available.

Service providers submitting proposals for contracted service are requested to provide unit fixed pricing for an initial 36-month term and two (2) optional twelve (12) month renewal terms. Offers requiring an initial term of more than 36 months will not be considered.

All contracts should permit bandwidth increases during the term. Any such increases, including those during optional renewal periods, will be treated as modifications to the existing agreement rather than new agreements and, therefore, will **NOT** extend the contract's term.

All contracts should include a provision allowing for early termination of circuits without penalty if a location is closed by the Applicant.

All contracts should include a clause allowing additional sites to be added at the existing MRC for the duration of the agreement, with the Applicant covering any one-time charges related to adding the new site to the network. Any additional sites added will have the same end date as the main agreement.

No price increases will be permitted during the term of the agreement.

Service providers proposing equipment whose prices may increase depending upon new U.S. government tariffs

imposed on imports are encouraged to (a) identify such products in their offers, and (b) propose an acceptable methodology for limiting price adjustments over the life of the contract.

Subject to contract restrictions, services may be reevaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement including renewal periods.

E-Rate Specific Considerations/Information

500 Mbps is listed as the minimum bandwidth required on the associated Form 470 as that is the minimum E-Rate eligible bandwidth required for the library system. The actual lowest bandwidth requested for comparison is 2 Gbps.

Per USAC E-Rate rules, "cost of eligible services" will be the highest valued criterion in the evaluation process; however, other criteria with a lesser value may also be considered.

Service providers proposing a temporary equipment loan for product demonstration and/or evaluation purposes are **required** to clearly state that such loans are of limited duration. Product demos extending beyond thirty (30) days must be explicitly authorized by both parties and provided at a fair market rate.

By submitting a proposal on the requested services herein, the vendor certifies its proposed services and/or products comply with Parts 47 Section 54.9 and 54.10 of the FCC rules which prohibits the sale, provision, maintenance, modification, or other support of equipment or services provided or manufactured by Huawei, ZTE, or any other covered company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. See <https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/> for more details.

As required by Section 54.500(f) of Part 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations all bids in response to this RFP **must** offer the lowest corresponding price (LCP) which is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-Rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See <https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/> for more details.

Additional Considerations/Information

The language in this solicitation has been standardized: "must," "shall," "mandatory," and "required" indicate mandatory specifications that the Applicant expects in the proposed solution. Proposals failing to meet these will be disqualified. "Should" and "may" indicate desirable specifications. A mandatory requirement may be waived if all respondents fail to meet a mandatory requirement.

Applicant reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received.

Offerors must accept that Applicant obligations are contingent on appropriation and availability of funds and may be reduced or terminated without penalty if funds are unavailable.

Applicant reserves the right to award all, part or none of the services set forth in this procurement. This

procurement does not obligate Applicant until a valid agreement and/or valid Purchase Order is executed.

Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend the due date for the submission of proposals and any extensions shall be done via an addendum posted in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC.)

The vendor submission is subject to open records requests and, as such, the records will be released in accordance with those policies. Vendors are encouraged to mark pages as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” as appropriate, but the entire submission may not be marked as such. Identifying information as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” does not guarantee that the information will not be released but will be considered in determining whether the information is required to be released in accordance with the open records policies. Generally, pricing is not exempt from being publicly released.

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that no relationship exists between the Offeror and Applicant that would interfere with a fair and open competition or is a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

These criteria are to be utilized in the evaluation of offers to be considered. Individual criteria have been assigned a weight to reflect relative importance. Vendors are encouraged to provide details in their proposals that address the following criteria.

Criteria		Weight
E-Rate Eligible Costs	E-Rate eligible recurring and non-recurring costs	35%
E-Rate Ineligible Costs	E-Rate ineligible recurring and non-recurring costs	5%
Technical Merit / Capability	Ability of the proposed solution to meet the scope, specifications, and requirements of this solicitation	30%
Prior Experience	Applicant's previous experience with the vendor, including performance history and quality of past service	15%
Local Presence	Proximity of vendor offices/staff, availability of local representation, and responsiveness to service calls	10%
Proposal Responsiveness	Completeness and clarity of the proposal submission, including all required forms and attachments	5%

APPENDIX

Required Vendor Certifications

Internet Access / Dedicated Internet Service Solicitation

Madison County, North Carolina

FCC Form 470#: 270000674

Instructions: Each certification below must be completed, signed by an authorized company representative, and returned as part of the vendor's bid/proposal package. Incomplete or unsigned certifications may render a submission non-responsive.

Madison County, North Carolina

ATTACHMENT A

Iran Divestment Act Certification

By submission of a bid or proposal in response to this solicitation, and by execution of this certification, the undersigned Bidder/Offeror ("Vendor") certifies, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. Neither the Vendor, nor any of its owners, is identified on the Final Divestment and Do-Not-Contract List — Iran maintained by the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-86.58; and
2. In the performance of any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation, the Vendor shall not utilize any subcontractor that is identified on the list described above.

The Vendor further acknowledges that the current Final Divestment and Do-Not-Contract List — Iran is published by the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer and is subject to periodic update, and that inclusion on the list after the date of this certification may affect the Vendor's eligibility to continue performance under any resulting contract, consistent with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-86.60.

Authorized Signature

Printed Name and Title

Company / Vendor Name

Date

Madison County, North Carolina

ATTACHMENT B

E-Verify Compliance Certification

By submission of a bid or proposal in response to this solicitation, and by execution of this certification, the undersigned Vendor certifies that:

1. The Vendor is in compliance with, and shall remain in compliance with, the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes (E-Verify) for the duration of any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation;
2. If the Vendor employs 25 or more employees in the United States, the Vendor verifies the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify program; and
3. The Vendor shall require any subcontractor performing work under a resulting contract to comply with the same E-Verify obligations, to the extent such subcontractor is independently subject to Article 2 of Chapter 64.

The Vendor understands that a material misrepresentation on this certification, or a failure to maintain E-Verify compliance during the contract term, may constitute grounds for contract termination and/or debarment from future County solicitations, at the County's discretion.

Authorized Signature

Printed Name and Title

Company / Vendor Name

Date

Madison County, North Carolina

ATTACHMENT C

Non-Collusion Affidavit

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Being first duly sworn, the undersigned, on behalf of the Vendor identified below, deposes and states as follows:

1. That the undersigned is a representative of the Vendor submitting the attached bid/proposal, duly authorized to make this affidavit on the Vendor's behalf;
2. That the price(s) and amount(s) set forth in the attached bid/proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder, offeror, or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition;
3. That the price(s) quoted in the attached bid/proposal have not knowingly been disclosed by the Vendor, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder, offeror, or competitor prior to the official opening or deadline for this solicitation, and will not be so disclosed prior to contract award;
4. That no attempt has been made, or will be made, by the Vendor to induce any other person, partnership, or corporation to submit or not submit a bid or proposal for the purpose of restricting competition; and
5. That the Vendor has not offered, given, or agreed to give any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, or other thing of value to any officer, employee, or agent of Madison County in connection with the submission of this bid/proposal, consistent with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 133-32.

The undersigned acknowledges that this affidavit is made under penalty of perjury and that any false statement herein may result in disqualification of the bid/proposal, termination of any resulting contract, and referral for legal action as permitted by law.

Authorized Signature

Printed Name and Title

Company / Vendor Name

Date