Dowagiac Union Schools

Request for Proposal

Allowable Contract Date: December 2, 2026

Address:
243 S. Front St.,
Dowagiac, MI 49047
Contact Person: Nick Saltzman
Email: nsaltzman@dowagiacschools.org, jmorgan@elitefund.com

Important Notes:

- Please **email** all quotations to the above email addresses clearly marked "E-rate bid."
- All quotes must be submitted with the understanding that implementation may be dependent upon:
  - E-rate funding approval by the SLD
  - Enrollments
  - Existing budgetary requirements
- The following specifications are to be used as *guidelines* in quoting a solution. Although specification changes are permitted, *the quality of the product/service requested must be based upon industry standards* ***at time of delivery.***
- The items requested within this RFP may or may not be USF eligible. All non-eligible products and services must be itemized. Please use the 2027 USF Eligible Services List located on the USAC website (https://www.usac.org/e-rate/eligible-services-list/) for guidance. (Note: It is the vendor's responsibility to check for updates and corrections prior to submitting bids/quotations.)
- All bidders must adhere to the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) guidelines (as dictated by the SLD).
- All bidders will understand that if the entity closes, contract termination fees will not be incurred by the entity.
- Offerors submitting proposals for anything other than a firm fixed price for the goods and services listed, will not be accepted. Price adjustments after an award will not be accepted by applicant.
- All bidders will understand that the entity may choose more than one provider for one type of service.
- Multi-year contracts may be considered.
- All bidders must have an E-rate SPIN.
- All bidders must have the 2027 Service Provider Annual Certification Form 473 on file with USAC by September 1, 2027 **AND their SAM.gov must be active**.
- The district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations.
- All respondents of this RFP confirm they are not an Iran-linked business.
- Implementation and completion of the services are contingent upon the district receiving approved funding from the Universal Services Fund. The services may be revised or terminated if the funds from the USF discount program are not approved or do not meet the expectations of the entity. If requested, the vendor will complete the SPI (Form 474) application. It is the vendor's responsibility to understand and comply with all rules and procedures required by the Schools and Libraries Corporation and the Universal Services Fund.
- The Board reserves the right to:
  - Reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereto
  - Be the sole judge of equivalency
  - Waive any bid requirement in accepting or rejecting bids.

Bid Evaluation:

Although the cost of the product/service is of primary concern, the ability to accommodate growth and change and the total cost of operation (TCO) within the district are, in many ways, more important. **Do not assume the lowest bid will be awarded the project.**

To achieve this goal, bids will be evaluated on several factors.

- Prices/charges
- Prior experience
- Understanding of needs
- Personnel qualifications
- Completeness of response and adherence to bid specifications
- Capability of the bidder to successfully complete the installation/service within the required timeframe

Category 1 Services:

NOTE: Any additional services not covered by USF eligibility must be itemized and quoted separately.

Fiber Maintenance

The respondent will include only the portion of maintenance that is required to support the school district's fiber segments versus overall network maintenance. If the fiber serves multiple customers, the cost of maintenance should be shared among all the recipients.

Vendor will follow all BICSI, FOA, TIA & ISO/IEC specifications and standards when troubleshooting, documenting, testing, repairing, replacing and installing new fiber optic cabling.

There is approximately 20 miles of fiber. When pricing maintenance, the respondent should include an overview of fiber maintenance practices including, but not limited to:

- Routine maintenance and inspection, including annual tree trimming around any potential obstructions.
- Scheduled maintenance windows and scheduling practices for planned outages
- Marker and handhole inspection and repair
- Handling of unscheduled outages and customer problem reports
- What service level agreement is included, and what alternative service levels may be available at additional cost
- What agreements are in place with applicable utilities and utility contractors
- Read and respond appropriately to all MISS DIG and NJUNS tickets and requests.
- 24x7x365 emergency restoration
- Repair of fiber breaks or other damage
- Post repair testing
- Mean time to repair
- Replacement of damaged fiber
- Replacement of fiber which no longer meets specifications
- Repair/Replace loose/broken hangars

Internet Access/Transport

- **Internet Access - Minimum of 2.5Gb**
    - Please include any fees for installation/build costs
    - Provide 99.97% uptime guarantee (if possible)
    - Static IP addresses
        - Minimum of 13 (/28)
    - 4-hour maximum service response time (24/7)
    - Include itemization of ISP-owned equipment necessary for connectivity that will be placed within the district
    - Provide proof of worker's compensation insurance
    - Provide proof of $2 million liability insurance umbrella upon award of the bid
    - Bids must include line itemization of all components to allow for the use of E-rate funds on all approved items. Itemization should include, but not be limited to:
        - Statistical analyses access via web interface
        - End-to-end maintenance on equipment used to deliver services
- **Transport**
    - Minimum of 1Gb connection from 601 W. Prairie Ronde, Dowagiac, MI 49047 (technology building) to Sister Lakes Elementary (68079 M-152, Benton Harbor, MI 49022)
        - Leased Lit Transport – Minimum of 1 Gbps circuit
        - Dark Fiber – Minimum 2 strands single-mode fiber

Category 2 Services:

NOTE: Any additional services not covered by USF eligibility must be itemized and quoted separately.

- **Controller Licenses/Maintenance**
    - SmartZone 144 or equivalent
    - For switches and access points
    - Include firmware updates on the SmartZone
    - 1-year preferred