Request for DIA Fiber Internet Access E-rate Funding Year 2027-2028

BEN 16038513 Request # YR2027-01 Form 470 # 270004815

Urban Pathways Charter School (UPCS) is seeking vendor proposals for DIA Fiber Internet service connectivity to be delivered to the school. Estimated services startup is July 1, 2027.

All Vendor questions must be submitted via e-mail to eratesupport2027@advanedgesolutions.com no later than January 1, 2027 at 12:00pm EST.

Proposals must be submitted via e-mail to both erate2027bidresponse@advanedgesolutions.com, jlachendro@upcs.net and kgarland@upcs.net no later than January 8, 2027 at 12:00pm EST.
Vendors are responsible for checking the website www.advanedgesolutions.com and/or EPC for any potential addendums, and/or change of dates, and/or conditions.

A. Mandatory Response Remarks:

1. The Vendor is responsible for ensuring that the response is received prior to 12:00 P.M. on the date stated above. **UPCS** is not responsible for the failure of any email delivery service to receive the response prior to the time and date for the deadline of this Bid.
2. Bid responses submitted must be signed by a duly authorized agent or officer of the Company providing the bid response. Absence of a signature of person authorized to sign for the Company submitting the response may leave their response null and void. (E-signature accepted).
3. Prices quoted must include all costs for delivery of requested services including any and all permits, installation, support and engineering charges. **Pricing quoted by the respondent shall be valid for the complete term requested in this bid**. The school will not be responsible for payment of additional sums not included in the submitted bid price. No additional compensation will be allowed for extra work incurred on the part of the Bidder due to the Bidder's failure to notice any existing condition, which may cause any additional labor or expense.
4. **UPCS** reserves the right to require Vendors to submit additional information, drawings, data, etc., for the purpose of clarifying their RFP proposals or to request an oral presentation.
5. **UPCS** is not liable for any expenses incurred by the Vendor in the preparation, delivery, or presentation of their proposals, or in connection with costs of developing and delivering proposals and demonstrations pursuant to this request are solely at the expense of the Vendor.
6. **UPCS** reserves the right to reject any or all bid responses submitted and award items separately or as a bundle.
7. Upon identification of the selected response the successful Vendor will be notified in writing. **UPCS** will determine the activation date of services to begin on or after July 1, 2027. The Vendor shall be responsible for any damages to **UPCS** property caused by the supplier/contractor or his agents.
8. The school reserves the right to increase/decrease the quantities and/or levels of service items and/or additional sites under its jurisdiction during the term of the agreement without additional bidding.
9. **UPCS** at their discretion may reject responses from "resellers" of data network access or internet access that do not own and/or operate and manage the physical connections for each site (current and future) with the ability for real-time monitoring and 24x7x365 maintenance of the bidder's network and corresponding services to the entity.
10. **UPCS** reserves the right to determine all service levels and term. There is no guarantee of any service award.
11. It should be understood that the vendor is responsible to notify **ICA** directly via e-mail *and* phone of any anticipated and/or identified extended service outages. Vendor could be held responsible for any costs inherited by the school due to extended service outage.
12. Upon agreement expiration, auto-renewal of the service term length of this agreement is prohibited.

B. Mandatory Bid Participation:

1. Any respondent wishing to submit a proposal must participate and be thoroughly familiar with all current rules and regulations of the federal communications commission's (FCC) universal service order as detailed in the telecommunications act of 1996. **UPCS** will be submitting funding requests for all eligible services to the SLD and upon verification of funding will expect the awarded respondent to participate in the program.
2. Services providers must comply with the FCC rules for Lowest Corresponding Price. Should it not be the lowest corresponding price, the service provider must disclose the conditions leading to the applicant being charged in excess of lowest corresponding price.
3. The respondent must provide at least two (2) current metro Pittsburgh, PA, K-12 clients that are using the same type services as requested. Include contact information.
4. The respondent must attach a copy of their standard Service Level Agreement (SLA) outlining at minimum Network Availability, Network Latency, Packet Delivery and Credit Allowances, Exceptions and Deductions.
5. The respondent must have an active/valid USAC SPIN number and identify it in the response. Failure to provide SPIN number will void the respondent's bid response.
6. The respondent must provide SPI invoicing. The Vendor is responsible for invoicing the E-rate program directly for the funded portion.
7. The respondent must identify any E-Rate ineligible costs for their response if applicable.
8. The respondent must identify any bid exceptions in writing with their response if applicable.
9. The respondent must provide a copy of current SLD FCC "Red-Light" Status.
10. The service provider must provide guaranteed service level agreements of 99.9% or better, measured monthly, as part of this proposal.
11. The service provider must be thoroughly familiar with all current rules and regulations of the E- Rate program.
12. The respondent attests they will not remit to **ICA** any gifts in relation to this agreement.
13. The respondent attests it has not assisted **ICA** in kind toward the district's fair-share obligation.
14. Bidders shall be familiar and comply with all local, state, and federal directives, ordinances, rules, orders, and laws as applicable to, and affected by, this contract including but not limited to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Occupational Safety, Health Act (OSHA), and Title I and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. No Bidder shall be excluded from consideration for award in conjunction with this solicitation on the basis of race, color, creed, national origination, handicap or sex or be subjected to discrimination under any contractual award administered by the school.
15. Local jurisdiction prevailing wage rates apply to this project and are mandatory for respondent participation.
16. The respondent must ensure all workers on this project must observe all security and safety procedures and secure all record checks required for laws for criminal records, criminal history and child abuse clearance.
17. Vendor response must identify an alternative contact for any questions IF the duly authorized agent or officer of the Company is not that person.
18. **The undersigned, as an authorized representative of the identified company listed below, hereby propose and agree to provide the originators of this Bid process any/all of the items/services to which a cost has been submitted. This proposal is subject to all terms of the remarks, participation, and services outlined herein (on all pages as described), where we hereby agree to provide such item/s and/or services as awarded to us, including mutually accepted exceptions. This bid response is only valid when completed with a signature (e-sign permissible) of a properly authorized representative of the submitting company.**

Company Name:_____ Date: _____

Signature:_____ Title: _____

E-mail:_____ SPIN: _____

Please circle response. Bid Exceptions Included by Respondent: **Yes or No**

C. Response Disqualifications:

Omitting any/all of the following items and/or not meeting specific criteria may be subject to disqualification

1. Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN/498).
2. Service Provider does not offer program discount billing.
3. Service Provider solution does not meet/offer the requested service(s).
4. Service Provider solution is incompatible with school's current infrastructure.
5. Service Providers bid response is not received within the identified timelines or is incomplete.
6. Service Providers bid response is not signed by a duly authorized agent or officer of the Company.
7. Service Provider bid response includes language "additional charges may apply and/or budgetary".
8. Service Provider is on E-rate Program "Red-Light" Status or in "Select Review".
9. Service Providers previous workmanship/relationship with the school is deemed "unfavorable".
10. This Requirements document not completed with a signature on page 2.
11. In accordance with FCC rules, proposals that include equipment from Huawei or Zte, will be disqualified.

D. Scoring Criteria:

1. Cost will be heaviest weighted factor.
2. Positive/negative previous experience(s) with the service provider (invoicing challenges, quality of work, on schedule completion of project, etc.).
3. Seamless integration/compatibility with current infrastructure.

E. Requested One Dedicated Fiber Internet Access Service Delivery:

Requesting pricing for unbundled, dedicated fiber access ("unbundled" defined as available individually and are not a part of a package of services) to the internet to be delivered at the identified location at the bandwidth connection speeds and length of time specified below.

a.) Urban Pathways Charter School, 914 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The service provider must identify monthly fiber bandwidth cost for the service level options and any installation/buildout costs as listed below with symmetrical download/upload speeds for both twenty-four (24) and thirty-six (36) month term and include a twelve (12) month voluntary extension to renew services at the quoted cost.

A.) 2GB B.) 5GB C.) 10GB

1. Handoff to customer will be RJ45 Ethernet/Fiber unless specified otherwise and at the designated termination/hand-off location identified by the school within the building.
2. The respondent must identify any/all one-time service installation/special construction costs if applicable. TBD costs are not acceptable.
3. The respondent proposal must include options for monthly global IP addresses costs.
4. The respondent must identify any optional related equipment costs. Include Manufacturer and Model.
5. The respondent must identify any optional costs for DDoS mitigation services if available.
6. Vendors must ensure that their cost proposals include estimates for all applicable taxes, fees and surcharges from which Customer is not exempt or that is imposed or assessed by Vendor. The school can provide an exempt certificate on request.

F. Response Documents Required

1. Vendor proposal signed by a duly authorized agent or officer of the Company.
2. This document signed (page 2).
3. Two (2) current metro Pittsburgh, PA, K-12 clients that are using the same type services as requested.
4. The respondent must attach a copy of their standard Service Level Agreement (SLA).
5. Bid exceptions in writing with their response if applicable.
6. Provide a copy of current SLD FCC “Red-Light” Status.
7. Vendor response must identify a contact with phone and email for any questions.