

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ("RFP") FOR CASS CO.
BROADBAND INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

I. SCOPE OF PROJECT

The Cass County Board of Commissioners ("Board") intends to contract for placement of facilities for fiber internet service to both unserved and underserved residents and businesses across Cass County.

Vendors should propose any and all suggested approaches and routes to providing fiber broadband services to connect the existing Cass County Fiber Ring and to get fiber to the unserved and underserved parts of Cass County.

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Vendors who wish to respond to this Request for Proposal ("RFP") **must submit on or before November 7, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.** four (4) copies of their written response and one electronic response to:

Christy Householder, Economic Development
Cass County Government Center
200 Court Park, Rm 205
Logansport, IN 46901
(574)732-2590
christy.householder@co.cass.in.us

All such responses shall be labeled on the outside of the envelope as follows:

RE: Response to Broadband Internet RFP FROM:
(Firm Name)
ADDRESS:
PHONE:
CONTACT PERSON:

All responses must contain the information and comply with the requirements set out in Paragraph III following. All responses become the property of Cass County and will not be returned to the responding vendors. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all responses; to waive informalities and minor irregularities in responses received; and to accept or reject responses if deemed in the best interests of Cass County to do so. All costs associated with the response preparation will be borne by the responding party. Any questions concerning your response should be directed to:

Christy Householder, Economic Development
Cass County Government Center
200 Court Park, Rm 205
Logansport, IN 46901
(574)732-2590
christy.householder@co.cass.in.us

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ("RFP") FOR CASS CO.
BROADBAND INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE**

III. INFORMATION REQUESTED IN RESPONSE

Your response must include your proposal to address the following Cass County goals and requirements:

Cass County is seeking to provide high speed fiber internet service to unserved and underserved areas of Cass County.

- Connect to and expand from the existing fiber ring
- Minimum speed requirements of 100MBPS Download, 25MBPS Upload, 100 MS Latency, with options of 1GBPS.
- Coverage of unincorporated areas in Cass County
- Pricing structure for all residents.
- Subsidies available for low-income families.
- **The facilities and infrastructure must be in place and functional by August 31, 2026.**

Your response should also include the following additional information:

1. Your proposed price to complete this project and manner of payment, with a minimum of a \$3M investment from your company to match Cass County's match of \$1M ARPA funds and \$1M IEDC READI Funds (Note: All payments are subject to Cass County's statutory claims procedure).
2. Your proposed schedule of completion which includes a specific timeline of tasks and how you will document progress
3. Background of your company, including your financial responsibility, insurance liability, and the qualifications and experience of the principals or employees who would be assigned to this project.
4. Your Company shall post a Performance Assurance Bond of at least \$2,000,000. The Performance Assurance Bond shall be made payable to Cass County and may be posted in the form of a surety bond issued by an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Indiana and approved by the Cass County Commissioners, which Performance Assurance Bond shall be in full force an effect during the construction project and extend for five (5) years after the completion of construction. The Performance Assurance Bond is intended to provide Cass County with assurance and guaranty that it will be paid by the company for its obligations under the Contract.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ("RFP") FOR CASS CO.
BROADBAND INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

5. Please describe in detail your company's Service Level Agreement policies and thresholds for fiber including:
 - a. Availability
 - b. Mean Time to Respond
 - c. Mean Time to Repair
 - d. Packet Loss

6. Explain if you are a recipient of any other state or federal grant programs, amount received and show proof that guidelines are currently met for these programs (Next Level Connections (NLC), Connect America Funds (CAF), Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), etc.)

7. The names and addresses of two references you would authorize us to contact concerning your past performance. Of particular interest would be any governmental entities for whom you have performed services.

IV. SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Based upon its review and evaluation of the written responses, the Board intends to select the response which is the most advantageous to Cass County, all in accordance with IC 5-22-9-7. Discussions may be conducted with those responding before a final decision is made, all in accordance with Indiana Code 5-22-9-2(4) and 5-22-9-9. The factors or criteria that will be used in evaluating the responses are:

- a) Responsiveness to information and requirements set forth at Paragraph III above;
- b) Total cost of the project, which will be a major consideration;
- c) Qualifications, experience and expertise;
- d) Any discussions with references provided;
- e) Response that is overall advantageous to Cass County; and
- f) The most favorable terms for Cass County, taking into consideration price and other evaluation factors.
- g) Cass County reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals
- h) Cass County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ("RFP") FOR CASS CO.
BROADBAND INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

V. TIMELINE

Cass County will:

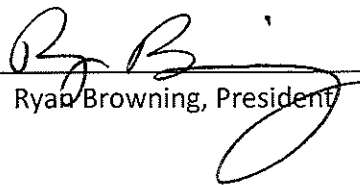
Receive Bids on November 7, 2022

Interviews on/or about November 9, 2022

Contract tentatively to be awarded November 21, 2022

Approved for distribution this 3rd day of October, 2022.

Cass County Board of Commissioners

By:  _____
Ryan Browning, President