

## Telehealth / ARC RFQ

How were the coverage areas on the map identified and has there been any type of feasibility study or technical mapping done? If so, would this data be provided prior to the bid deadline?

The coverage areas were determined by need (FCC 477 data) and the locations of existing SOLSD facilities with access to broadband. There has not been a “a technical mapping” performed. It is expected that the selected firm will work with District staff and develop “best fit” options for each of the targeted areas.

Please remember, this is a “Qualifications Based Selection” process. As a public agency, the District is required to select design firms based upon their qualifications, not price. That is why there is no bid or price at this stage.

At this stage in the process, the Consultant submits their qualifications/experience/examples in:

Working with the owner in the type of projects described or similar;

Collaboratively/Creatively developing solutions in the type of projects described or similar’

Provides team members names, titles and their experience;

Whether they will have any project subs, and if they do, have you worked together in the past;

Project References

Firms are not supposed to submit equipment, pricing, etc at this point on the selection process.

Once the firm is selected as the best qualified, the District and the firm sit down and develop the Scope of Work and fees for mapping, design and construction specifications and inspection services.

What is the estimated population within the coverage areas?

There are a total of 577 households within 2 miles in the target areas.

What is the total number of residents expected to be covered by this project?

TBD by the selected Consultant, based upon their investigation and solution recommendations to the Owner.

What percentage of the coverage area is expected to meet the 100mbps threshold?

TBD by the selected Consultant, based upon their investigation and solution recommendations to the Owner.

Does the district have a rate/fee structure in mind for residential or business subscribers?

TBD by the selected Consultant, based upon their investigation and solution recommendations to the Owner.

Are participants required to be part of the EDGE program?

It is not required.

Does the company responding have to be bidding this under an architect? Can this clause be removed?

This is not a bid...

Please remember, this is a "Qualifications Based Selection" process. As a public agency, the District is required to select design firms based upon their qualifications, not price. That is why there is no bid or price at this stage.

At this stage in the process, the Consultant submits their qualifications/experience/examples in:

Working with the owner in the type of projects described or similar;

Collaboratively/Creatively developing solutions in the type of projects described or similar'

Provides team members names, titles and their experience;

Whether they will have any project subs, and if they do, have you worked together in the past;

Project References

Firms are not supposed to submit equipment, pricing, etc at this point on the selection process.

Once the firm is selected as the best qualified, the District and the firm sit down and develop the Scope of Work and fees for mapping, design and construction specifications and inspection services.

Regarding speeds, there is no guarantee of the speeds requested in this RFP, as there are many factors involved in terms of terrain and building construction types across this region. Subsequently, there is no commercial provider currently that would contractually guarantee to the metrics you have outlined in this document. Comments?

The first part of this work is about the provider doing an analysis. The provider will help with gathering needed information to help design the best solution to reach as many users as possible.

We understand that there may be limitations and feel that this can be addressed when in the design phase of the project.

This RFP is titled Tele-Health for Switzerland County Schools, however, you have requested that the service be available inside businesses also. Is that a true statement?

Yes

If so, some funding avenues for schools wouldn't be able to be used for businesses. Your comments?

We understand that this can have boundaries on ERATE funding from the federal government. The district will make adjustments if needed.

It is very important to meet minimal bandwidth requirements for targeted users. What would those requirements be and who and where in the County would receive priorities with the limited budgets you have outlined?

Yes, the district understands meeting those minimums are important. The investment area priority and the bandwidth requirements will be determined through the initial work of the selected consultant and district employees.

As a reminder the initial part of the work will be developing the investment areas and the best way to get access to as many users as possible.

We would strongly suggest a Feasibility study as the funding and budgets you have listed would not nearly be adequate to cover the entire breadth of the request in this document. One of the basic components of a Feasibility Study would include a Requirements and Recommendations component which is oftentimes omitted from these efforts. Many times, assumptions are incorrectly made surrounding "ballpark costs" early on in the process and what level of functionality is needed around individual business needs in a rural county. Comments?

We agree... The scope outlined within the RFQ has work directed towards uncovering the directions you suggest... However, there has been significant work completed by other providers that have preliminary information available so the work that is outlined above should not be as extensive as suggested.

Other parts of a solid Feasibility Study would include: terrain, population, building Infrastructure and density, # of towers needed to cover this area, and other locations of school assets. Comments?

We have that information in hand. As a reminder, this RFQ is solely submitting your firm's qualifications and experiences working with government and education institutions in proposing solutions.

As City and County assets could be used as leverage for antenna placement, etc. in a potential deal, what assets are currently available to be leveraged?

These items are important. The selected consultant will have access to those available in the design phase of this project.

Is there a listing of all addresses that this effort would need to support?

Yes, however, the specific prioritization of those investment areas will be set at a later date and once a consultant is selected based on qualifications.

There are also specialized funding consultants who could help you discover all the funding avenues available to Switzerland County Schools. Is this something you have explored or would desire to explore?

Yes, we will look forward to discussing this at a later date.

At this stage in the process, the district is looking for interested Consultants who submit their qualifications/experience/examples for this project.

Examples:

Working with the owner in the type of projects described or similar;

Collaboratively/Creatively developing solutions in the type of projects described or similar'

Provides team members names, titles and their experience;

Whether they will have any project subs, and if they do, have you worked together in the past;

Project References