



Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC)

Request for Proposal for Development of Plan, Organization, and Strategy to Facilitate a Public/Private Partnership to Bring Broadband Internet Service to the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and Pribilof Islands to Support Economic and Community Development – Phase 2

Issuance Date: May 3, 2018

Closing Date: June 15, 2018

Introduction

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) is working on behalf of six organizations with interest in developing the economy and providing essential broadband services in a remote part of Alaska. This RFP is Phase 2 of a project funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Phase 1 scoping work performed by Meridian. The Meridian report is found here on the SWAMC webpage: <https://swamc.org/economic-profile/aleutian-broadband-scoping-study/>

Timeline: July 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

Areas of Study and Tasks:

- Review reliable middle-mile broadband service options and recommend, based on objective analysis, the best alternative
- Review options for funding various alternatives to provide broadband service to as many communities as possible in the study area and recommend a funding plan
- Review options for management and organizational structures to operate middle mile broadband and recommend the best alternative
- Review options for management of last mile broadband and recommend the best alternative
- Investigate public-private partnerships (3P) in construction of broadband infrastructure and recommend the best approach
- Based on review of Federal and State of Alaska funding sources (grants, loans, loan guarantees, tax credits, etc.) for construction of broadband, recommend a strategy and approach to securing funding
- Upon identification of various Federal and State funding sources, prepare statistics and narrative that may be used in the application of grants, loans, loan guarantees, and tax credits
- Prepare documents that may be used to secure grants, loans, loan guarantees, and tax credits

- Preliminary technical requirements and cost estimate for preferred service upgrades depending on technology and route

Qualifications:

- Familiarity and experience in private-public partnerships for construction of infrastructure from the public entity perspective
- Familiarity and experience in funding broadband infrastructure in remote areas
- Knowledge of fiber optic cable and other terrestrial based broadband conveyance
- Experience or knowledge of telecommunications in Alaska
- Experience in planning for complex arrangements to raise capital for construction projects that are translatable to broadband
- Experience in identifying and securing public funding support for large construction projects

Proposal Scoring Criteria:

- Demonstrated experience and knowledge of P3 approach to construction, in general, with additional credit for 3P projects for broadband and P3 projects from the public perspective— 25%
- Demonstrated experience with Federal and State grants, loans, loan guarantees, and tax credits that may be sources of funding for a P3 construction project – 25%
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge in developing strategy and approach to putting together complex funding packages using public sources of funding in conjunction with private funding or incentives for private investment. Discuss benefits and risks of recommended approach. – 20%
- Demonstrated experience or knowledge of broadband platforms (Fiber optic, satellite, etc.) being deployed to serve rural areas— 10%
- Knowledge of rural Alaska – 10%
- Cost of the study – 10%

Proposals are due by midnight June 15, 2018 and must be in the SWAMC office by the deadline. The SWAMC office will be closed at 5 p.m. on June 15.

Proposals may be submitted by email to: dgriffin@swamc.org .

The contact for this RFP is:

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