

PAMLICO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
GRANT OPPORTUNITY TO MATCH
NORTH CAROLINA
GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY (GREAT)
GRANT APPLICATIONS

ISSUE DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2020
RESPONSES DUE: JANUARY 5, 2021, AT 12 P.M.

Pamlico County is issuing this RFP for grant funding to support broadband connectivity for Pamlico County residents that do not currently have widely available residential access to broadband internet service. Pamlico County is seeking responses from qualified companies that are interested in designing, building, owning, operating, managing and maintaining a communications network in Pamlico County that will provide residents, businesses, government offices and community institutions with broadband internet access that meets or exceeds the current Federal Communications broadband benchmark of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds (the "Network").

Pamlico County has allocated \$165,000 aggregate to be used as a grant match for North Carolina Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant applications. Pamlico County will match up to 10% of an applicant's GREAT Grant match, not to exceed \$55,000 for each grant application.

Respondents can submit a request for a grant that should include the following elements:

1. Describe high level description of the proposed network including: 1) technology to be deployed and 2) maximum bandwidth.
2. Describe the proposed coverage area including the road names
3. Identify the number of premises that will be served
4. Identify the project schedule

Evaluation Process and Criteria

A team from Pamlico County will evaluate each request for grant funding based on the following criteria:

1. Extent to which respondent's financial resources, strength, stability and outlook provide assurance of ability to execute grant obligations and long-term operation of broadband networks
2. Extents to which respondents experience demonstrates successful construction, operation, and maintenance of broadband networks of similar size, scale and characteristics.
3. Quality of technical proposal including but not limited to the capacity of the proposed networks to deliver higher broadband speeds initial and over time to meet evolving subscriber needs.
4. Outcome of reference checks.
5. Level of proposed broadband coverage.
6. Amount of grant funding requested
7. Timing of proposed project schedule and roll-out of services

The order of criteria listed above does not necessarily reflect the relative order of importance.

Pamlico County reserves the right, in its sole discretion to accept or reject any or all grant application received.

Requests for grant funding may delivered by any of the following methods:

- 1) Email to tim.buck@pamlicocounty.org
- 2) Letter mailed to Pamlico County, P.O. Box 776, Bayboro, NC 28515
- 3) Physical delivery to Pamlico County, 302 Main Street, Bayboro, NC 28515

Deadline for submission of a request for grant funding is 12:00 p.m. (noon), January 5, 2021 at which time proposals will be opened and made available to the public.

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to County Manager Tim Buck by emailing tim.buck@pamlicocounty.org or by phone at (252) 745-3133.