

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

ISSUE DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2022
RESPONSES DUE: MARCH 31, 2022, AT NOON

Pamlico County is issuing this Request for Proposals (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 allocated American Rescue Plan Act and/or local funding to be used as a grant match for the 2022 North Carolina Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant round. Pamlico County will consider requests from qualified companies to form a partnership on proposed GREAT Grant applications and will provide matching funds for accepted proposals. Matching funds are limited and will be issued until all funds have been allocated or March 31, 2022 whichever comes first. Funding is allocated on a first come first served basis. Only one grant can be issued per eligible provider. Again, as proposals will be opened, reviewed and considered for approval at the time received, on a first come first served basis, it is critical that interested providers submit proposals as soon as possible before the limited funding is allocated. Applicants receiving an award will be required to enter into a grant agreement with Pamlico County requiring the applicant to comply with all applicable state and federal regulations, including 2 C.F.R., part 200.

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
5. State the requested County match

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 Noon, March 31, 2022 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.