

Schedule A

Terms of Reference

Rural Broadband Project – Beaver County

1.0 Background

- 1.1** The Governments of Canada and Alberta have announced the Universal Broadband Fund to increase and improve Broadband connectivity in Rural Canada.
- 1.2** Beaver County intends to make application for funding under this program, with the assistance and partnership of an internet service provider (ISP). Conditional to successful funding, Beaver County and the ISP will proceed to improve the rural broadband program and internet connectivity and speeds for its residents and businesses. Beaver County is in search of an ISP to undertake this project in partnership.
- 1.3** The Universal Broadband Fund permits applications directly by ISP's and other entities, in addition to municipalities. The County has limited knowledge of the extent of the applications being made to the Fund by outside entities and wishes to ensure the maximum benefit is gained for our residents and businesses; therefore, we intend to make direct application to the Fund, to ensure maximum benefit is derived.
- 1.4** Through this Request for Proposal (RFP) process Beaver County is inviting interested ISP's to submit their proposals of interest to Beaver County for consideration. Beaver County intends to select a provider (or providers) based on the proposals received and proceed with the application(s) and project(s) if the grant application is successful. The choice to select more than one provider to make application will be based on the Beaver County goal to provide as great an improvement to coverage and speeds as possible to our County.
- 1.5** Should our grant application be successful, an agreement would be entered into with the successful proponent, to include but not be limited to: grant application, design, approvals and execution of the project all the responsibility of the proponent, no County financial investment in the project other than approved grant funding, and terms of transfer of assets to the proponent upon successful completion to the satisfaction of the grant provider.

2.0 Information Required in your Proposals:

- 2.1** Please provide information about your company's qualifications and experience as an ISP.
- 2.2** Please provide current investment and interest respecting rural broadband service in Beaver County. Please include the number of customers, towers, etc. that you currently have within Beaver County.
- 2.3** Proposals should demonstrate a commitment from the ISP to partner with Beaver County in completing the application process and providing the necessary engineering information for both the application process and the actual project stage if funding is successful.
- 2.4** Please provide a commitment that your company will provide the following regarding the application process:
 - 2.4.1** Information identifying the areas/locations that the project intends to provide access to high-speed internet.
 - 2.4.2** Number of households benefiting from the proposed new or improved service.
 - 2.4.3** Number of households that would achieve the minimum 50/10 Megabits per second (Mbps) service in accordance with the Government of Canada Connectivity Strategy.
 - 2.4.4** An estimated cost of the proposed project and the ISP commitment to meet any cost sharing requirement of a successful grant application.
- 2.5** Please provide a time schedule for the project if funding is successful in 2021, to meet the terms of the Universal Broadband Fund program.
- 2.6** Please indicate that your company will assist Beaver County in completing the funding application considering the deadline of January 15, 2021 for a Rapid Response application ([Universal Broadband Fund: Rapid Response Stream \(RRS\) - Get connected \(ic.gc.ca\)](#)), or February 15, 2021 in the case of standard Universal Broadband Fund application ([Universal Broadband Fund: For applicants - Get connected](#)). Beaver County intends to select a proponent at its Regular Council Meeting on January 6, 2021.
- 2.7** Proposals should demonstrate a commitment from the ISP to provide all project management and engineering required to complete a successful project.

2.8 Any other information you believe would be necessary to assist Beaver County in selecting your company as the successful ISP.

3.0 Valuation Criteria:

Beaver County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals based on the criteria immediately below. Beaver County further reserves the right to accept any proposal without stating reasons based on the following criteria. Beaver County may consider any other factor besides the criteria that it deems in its sole discretion to be relevant to its decision.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Number of New Households Project Will Serve	20.0%
Number of Households Currently Serving in the County	20.0%
Qualifications and Experience	20.0%
Financial Commitment	20.0%
Implementation Schedule	20.0%