



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Benton County Mission: Providing excellent customer service in a fiscally responsible manner

Benton County Broadband RFI Responses to Provider Questions As of March 31, 2022 (Final)

1. The RFI says that a respondent must have ETC status. Is ETC status really required?

County Response

ETC status is a designation given by the State of Minnesota that allows an ISP to participate in some federal programs like the FCC's Lifeline. The County will not require a respondent to have or obtain ETC status as long as they are an ISP in good standing and can meet the other requirements of the RFI.

2. Are shapefiles of the eligible areas and subscriber locations available?

County Response

Yes, shapefiles of the eligible areas and subscribers can be requested from Finley Engineering or the County.

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3. If awarded, what is the timeframe of build-out throughout the county?

County Response

Please reference section 4.4.4 of the RFI. All construction, closeouts, and reimbursement must be complete by 12-31-2026. The respondent should indicate a realistic timeline for completion in their response including major milestones. The County would prefer projects that are completed sooner than the stated deadline.

4. During the mandatory Pre-Conference Meeting it was noted that there were some areas of the County under construction by Benton Telecommunications. These are reflected in the [attached map](#) and the shapefiles available upon request.

5. Is a Gig speed required or only capable?

County Response

The technology must be capable of symmetrical gigabit speeds. ISPs can offer products slower than that, but we expect that a product mix will include a gigabit option.

6. Is there going to be an RFP process or are the areas going to be awarded from the RFI

County Response

The County is expecting to choose winners as the result of this RFI plus negotiation with ISPs identified through the RFI.

7. How much money is available to assist with this project?

County Response

We expect ISPs to suggest how much grant funding they want to see from the County.