REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Request for Proposals to Assess Broadband Feasibility for Bay Mills Indian Community

The Bay Mills Indian Community is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and firms to assess broadband needs and opportunities within the community.

Background:
Bay Mills Indian Community ("BMIC") has been awarded funding from the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs ("BIA") through the Office of Indian Economic Development ("OIED") for the National Tribal Broadband Grant ("NTBG"). A feasibility study funded through NTBG will assist BMIC in making informed decisions regarding the deployment or expansion of broadband in the community.

The BMIC is a federally recognized Native American Tribe located in the rural Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan on the shores of Lake Superior. The people of Bay Mills are Ojibwa (or Chippewa), and they have resided in this area for hundreds of years. BMIC was granted a federal Corporate Charter pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act on June 18, 1934. BMIC is one of the four (4) original reservations established in Michigan. BMIC consists of around 3,870 acres with two (2) separate inhabited reservation areas, approximately 25 miles apart, with a service district that includes Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties.

This Project Is Defined As Follows:
This project aims to conduct a feasibility study to assess broadband needs for the Bay Mills Indian Community, including identification of existing infrastructure and potential risks/challenges to determine the best course of action regarding future deployment.

It is crucial that BMIC have improved broadband access for, but not limited to, education, work, and healthcare. This also extends to our government and enterprise departments, as broadband can help improve connectivity and promote economic growth. The goal of this project is to assess current broadband infrastructure, identify gaps, and provide a roadmap for broadband development that will set the community up for success in terms of potential job opportunities and economic stability. This project could also lead the way in delving into additional economic diversification opportunities and fostering meaningful partnerships to ensure the community's needs are met.

Due to the remote area, options for services are limited. BMIC experiences frequent service disruptions, and some departments cannot access or connect to current services. A feasibility study will help lay the groundwork for what is needed to move forward and allow BMIC to thrive. This study will encompass an assessment of broadband services and will create a framework that will include, but not be limited to, identifying gaps, areas of improvement, needs, identifying challenges, and seeing how the Tribe can use this information to build up broadband
services. It is important to analyze the type and capabilities of existing services, and if there are other services that are not being used that could be beneficial to the community to consider for service (Starlink, etc.). Other areas for consideration:

- What government programs are community members taking part in, such as the Affordable Connective Program that helps supplement internet and service costs, and what is the impact of these programs on users?
- Analyzing services BMIC currently uses, such as DSL, cable, fiber, fixed-wireless, 4G, 5G, and satellite.
- Identification of areas that use satellite internet that have high latency and low data caps.
- Addressing the data caps on current networks.
- How does latency affect current networks?
- The current Chairwoman of the FCC has proposed increasing the minimum speeds of broadband to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Identify areas of BMIC that do not currently meet this upcoming legislative change.

Scope Of Work:
The project will be multi-phased and team-based. The successful Proposer shall perform the tasks listed below for the project and shall work closely with designated Tribal personnel to accomplish these goals:

Phase I  -  Timeline - Estimated to be around 90 days or less.

Research and assessment. Research as determined by the consultant. This may include but is not limited to: collecting broadband performance data, demographic and spatial analysis, existing competitive landscape assessment, stakeholder feedback, etc.

Phase II  -  Timeline - Estimated to be around 100 days or less.

Specific analyses will be tailored by the consultant but should include, at a minimum:

- Market Analysis and Feasibility
  - Gap analysis, evaluation of fiber optic network capabilities, legal and regulatory considerations, determine bandwidth needs, etc.
- Economic Analysis and Feasibility
  - Cost-benefit analysis, sources of capital, etc.
- Organization Structure Analysis and Feasibility
  - Operational tasks and role assignments, potential partnerships, etc.
- Recommendations and Next Steps

Final Report and Presentation  -  Timeline - Estimated to be around 75 days or less.

Final report creation to outline findings. The report will be presented to the BMIC Executive Council and other stakeholders. The Final Deliverable will be the overview of the actionable steps to move forward to make an overall determination of the project.

Quotes to assist with these services must be submitted to Bay Mills Tribal Administration by Friday, February 3, 2023, 4:00 pm EST.
Please email proposals in PDF format to Tara Parrish at tparrish@baymills.org. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Please get in touch with Tara Parrish via email or at 906-248-8122 with any questions regarding this Request for Proposals or any of the requirements outlined in the scope of work to be completed.

**Proposal Requirements:**

1. Cover letter
2. Resumes and/or Biographies: Please include resumes and/or bios of key principals and individuals overseeing or involved with this project.
3. Description of Experience related to broadband and feasibility studies:
   a. Please describe the firm’s general experience, including the number of years the firm has been in operation.
   b. Please describe the firm’s specific experience in providing research consulting and feasibility studies services.
   c. Description of experience in Indian Country: Please describe any relevant experience of the firm, involved principals, and any assigned staff in projects located on Native American land.
4. Associations: Please describe any associations with other firms or any form of subcontracting planned for the project. Please include pertinent information as to subcontracted firms.
5. Certifications and Licenses: Please include a copy of any pertinent licenses or certifications.
6. References: Please include a minimum of three (3) references that the BMIC can contact. Provide three (3) references of significant subcontractors as well.
7. Disclosure of Claims: Please disclose any claims, lawsuits, or formal disputes for work or services previously or currently being performed.
8. Methodology: Please provide an explanation of the methodology for all services.
9. Cost proposal: Please detail all costs required to assist with these services and the required timelines for payments.
10. Indian Preference (Optional): Please provide any evidence to demonstrate that the firm is a qualified, Indian-owned enterprise, with at least 51% active ownership by a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.
**Project Award**

The rating factors and values to be used in the award of this contract are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Received: 1-5</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Weighted Scores</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrated experience with broadband feasibility studies</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approach to successfully complete each deliverable</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifications- Identification of key personnel and experience/capability</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule- Timeliness and value for money</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost- Reasonableness of rate schedule and within grant budget</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Preference</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
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**Ratings**

| Clearly Outstanding-Above and Beyond Expectations | 5 |
| Well qualified | 4 |
| Average | 3 |
| Weak | 2 |
| Unsatisfactory | 1 |
| Insufficient Response | 0 |

The Tribe, at its sole discretion, may elect to interview the selected firm(s). If a firm is requested to take part in an interview (via Tribal arranged remote means), the key proposed project staff will be expected to take part. The interview will be an opportunity for the Tribe’s selection team to review the firm’s proposal and other matters deemed relevant to the evaluation.

**Compensation**

The proposal should provide a cost for all work associated with the provision of these services. The final cost of services may be negotiated before the award contract. In order to be considered for funding, bids should be under $115,000.