

Addendum No. 1

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
Hawaii Broadband Initiative

**NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program - 21**

Solicitation No. RFI-21-01-HBI

July 12, 2021

This Addendum No. 1 includes changes, omissions, and clarifications to Solicitation No. RFI-21-01-HBI, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Solicitation"). All other terms, provisions, and conditions of the solicitation published on June 22, 2021, shall remain in full force and effect.

The following questions have been received; answers are provided below for clarification purposes.

1. *Will the owner of the assets resulting from the grant be the State or the service provider(s)?*

Per NOFO, Page 37, #5: **Property Trust Relationship and Public Notice Filings for Grant-Acquired Property.** In accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.316, real property, equipment, and intangible property, that are acquired or improved with a Federal award must be held in trust by the recipient or subrecipient as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved. In this connection, NTIA may require the non-Federal entity to record liens or other appropriate notices of record to indicate that personal or real property has been acquired or improved with a Federal award and that use and disposition conditions apply to the property. Awards issued pursuant to this NOFO may contain specific award conditions pertaining to the use and disposition of grant-acquired property and to a requirement that the recipient or subrecipient file certain public notices (e.g., UCC-1, Covenant of Purpose, Use and Ownership, etc.) with respect to grant-acquired property.

2. *What is the State's position and what will the State submit with data to demonstrate as to whether satellite (Hughes) service meets the 25/3 and < 100ms requirement?*

The NTIA considers last mile fiber to be the gold standard. For the purpose of this grant program, the State will defer to the NTIA to determine the cost effectiveness of terrestrial infrastructure deployment per households served per technology modality. NTIA states they will consider "competitively and technologically" neutral projects and consider funding different fixed broadband service providers and technology modalities of fixed broadband service, e.g., fixed wireless, fiber, cable, satellite. With that said, the NTIA further defines qualifying broadband service to be <100ms, which the Hughesnet Internet service exceeds.

3. *To ensure all service providers are going after areas which are primarily unserved, requesting the NBAM data in a kml/kmz file of all the census blocks which do not have any service of 25/3 with*

*the census block identified as an attribute. Also, the kml/kmz file needs to incorporate the State's position to question 2 above.*

The NBAM data is proprietary and only available to states with a joint project agreement with the NTIA. Understanding this, the NTIA did make publicly available the Broadband Indicators of Need mapping [resource](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/data-and-mapping) (https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/data-and-mapping).

4. *Up to \$50,000 of funds may be used to fill out and submit the application. How much of these funds will the State be using in order to successfully submit the application?*

It is anticipated that the State will use the entire amount of \$50,000.

5. *Upon selection of the service provider(s), please list the exact sections and subsections of the grant application the State is expecting the service provider(s) to fill out and list whether it will need to be in its entirety or partial. Indicate any templates will be provided by the State for the service provider to fill out.*
- a. *Example of partial: 6.b.i -Table of Funded Project Participant and Unfunded Informal Collaborators*
  - b. *Example of entirety: 6.h. - project plan*
  - c. *Example of template needed: 7. Budget Narrative in the form of a spreadsheet.*

The sections needed will depend on the information received on 7/16 in response to the RFI. We will work with the information received at that time and explain what further information is necessary to complete the application to ensure its competitiveness. We will need submitters' information for the first table of project participant/collaborators; we will also need the proposed plan with specifics; the budget in the categories for the SF-424C and the budget narrative detail for each budget item.

6. *The NTIA grant suggested ranges are \$5M - \$30M. Please articulate the reasons why the State is limiting the RFI response by service provider to \$10M and the aggregate state grant application to no more than \$20M.*

We anticipate multiple fixed broadband providers to participate in this covered partnership and the \$10M figure is a guideline to accommodate multiple providers. Our overall objective is to be able to submit a grant application to the NTIA for under \$20M given the limited amount of funds available (\$288M) to be competitively awarded to the entire pool of applications across the country. It is also important to consider any matching contribution by the proposers. Per the NTIA, this match will strengthen the overall grant application.

7. *What are thoughts around using this application to cover broadband deployment which doesn't go directly to homes or businesses but instead are used to connect broadband between communities, such as over land or between islands?*

Per NOFO, Page 38, #6: **Open Network Requirements:** NTIA will require a recipient receiving funds to deploy broadband infrastructure under this grant program to make the network open

for interconnection with other broadband service providers. The requirement to interconnect will apply to applicants that deploy middle mile networks and not last mile networks. Awards issued pursuant to this NOFO may contain a specific award condition imposing a requirement to comply with NTIA's open network requirements, which allows all other carriers to interconnect with these networks on fair and non-discriminatory terms and conditions.

8. *When will we receive the answers to our questions?*

Answers to these questions will be provided no later than Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

9. *Specifically, what forms or additional information needs to be included in the July 16<sup>th</sup> submission other than what is listed in the submission format?*

See answer to question #5. Once proposals are submitted on July 16th we will work with the information received at that time and explain what further information is necessary to complete the application to ensure its competitiveness.

10. *Given the nature of this covered partnership, how will confidentiality concerns be handled? Who will have access (within DBEDT, outside consultants, etc) to the confidential materials submitted as part of this application?*

We intend to respect confidential materials submitted by proposers to this RFI. The only people with access to the submitted proposals are the selection committee and grant contractor. As we develop the joint proposal to the NTIA, we will jointly determine what information is shareable amongst the participants and which will be held in confidence.

11. *Will there be an opportunity for additional revisions or details to be added after the July 16 deadline?*

Yes, there will be an opportunity to provide revisions after the July 16th submission date.

12. *NTIA asks to identify the number of community anchor institutions the proposed project will connect. Is the State able to identify these organizations?*

The definition of anchor institutions is broad and evolving. It's grown from education and medical institutions to include museums, libraries, military installations, co-working hubs, and others that play a catalytic role in community economic development. We will leave it to the applicants to identify the anchor institutions in their proposed community deployment.

13. *Will DBEDT evaluate a proposal from Sun Global Broadband (SGB)?*

The RFI is open to all the participants that responded with an *Intent to Participate* on June 25, 2021, as requested in the RFI.