



**CITY OF
OAKLAND**



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Edward D. Reiskin, City Administrator
AND THE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
(RFI)
FOR
Broadband & Digital Literacy Program
Partners

✓ **Due Date:** Friday, November 18, 2022 – 2:00 p.m. (Pacific) via iSupplier

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I. INTRODUCTION

Approximately 94,000 (or one in five) Oakland residents are currently without devices or internet access at home. Competition and high-speed Internet services are less widely available in low-income areas and communities of color, with the most severe deficits observed in census block groups that combine poverty and a large percentage of Black residents. At a time when digital technology is crucial to every aspect of our daily lives, this divide threatens our residents' ability to fully access education, employment, government services, health care, and community engagement. These disparities were exacerbated and made more visible by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Oakland is committed to addressing these digital inequities and has developed groundbreaking solutions to expand technology access to families and students. The Mayor's Office -- in partnership with Oakland Unified School District and nonprofits Tech Exchange, Oakland Fund for Public Education, and Oakland Promise -- created [#OaklandUndivided, a campaign](#) to ensure 100% of Oakland public school students have a computer, internet access, and tech support. In 2020 as the pandemic peaked, the City Council additionally allocated \$7.7 million in federal CARES Act Funds to build one of the world's largest public WiFi networks, known as the [OakWiFi initiative](#).

But more needs to be done to address the needs of Oakland residents who are still currently without devices or affordable internet access at home.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The City of Oakland's Information Technology Department (ITD) seeks to sustain and expand this work **through the creation of a new city-run program called OakWiFi@Home.**

The goal of **OakWiFi@Home** is to construct 21st Century, future-proof municipal infrastructure to connect City facilities and improve City services, while making this infrastructure available to service providers through innovative public-private partnerships. The City is seeking partners that can bring high-speed, affordable Internet service directly into under and unconnected residential homes and local businesses, as well as partners that can accelerate the adoption of digital skills in communities and neighborhoods that have historically lacked reliable and accessible broadband services.

ITD is currently developing a Broadband Master Plan comprised of an updated Fiber Master Plan with the inclusion of a wireless broadband component, as well as an overarching Digital Equity plan to identify Internet access and skills-based needs throughout the community.

BEAD & Last-Mile Funding Opportunities

The City anticipates using information from the responses to help shape the Broadband Master Plan and Master License Agreements, and identify partners for potential forthcoming Requests

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for Proposals (RFPs) and other project opportunities. Participation in this RFI is non-binding and in no way required for participation in any forthcoming RFP. Respondents may elect to respond to any or all questions included in this RFI. The City intends to apply for future grant opportunities to secure funding through the California Last-Mile funding, as well as BEAD grants and seeks to identify potential partners for these grant opportunities.

The City of Oakland (City) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to solicit responses from potential partners for the OakWiFi@Home program. Responses are requested from providers operating in two key areas:

- A. Internet Service Providers (ISPs), including wireless and wireline providers, that are interested working with the City to deliver high speed, reliable, and affordable broadband service in un/underserved areas of Oakland; and
- B. Nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide wraparound services such as Affordable Connectivity Program adoption, skill building, digital literacy training, and education and economic development services built around digital Internet and device access.

For ISPs the City intends to make several public assets available to ISP partners through Master License Agreements (MLAs), including but not limited to City facilities and rooftops, fiber optics cabling, and vertical attachment assets such street and traffic poles. The City is also working to develop permitting and approval processes for deployment of broadband infrastructure.

For nonprofits and CBOs, the City plans to bring to bear funding and resources to help drive awareness and adoption of available broadband services, skill building and training programs.

C. RFI Key Dates:

Wednesday, October 12, 2022	RFI made available to the responders
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 1pm	Optional Information Session for Prospective Respondents
Friday, November 13, 2022	Deadline for receiving response (all material)
Friday, December 2, 2022	Responders notified for potential future discussions

This RFI is an opportunity for the broadband industry and Digital Equity leaders to inform the City of innovative ways to enable delivery of reliable, high-speed internet service to all

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Oaklanders at affordable prices in the near future, without widening disparities among neighborhoods or compromising individual privacy.

The City is open to partnerships that will maximize public benefit and private investment, and meet community needs. Responses to this RFI should describe the respondent's technological and partnership approaches, and how they would contribute to furthering the City's Digital Equity goals. Responses should describe how recommendations can easily and inexpensively scale to provide citywide coverage and scope.

We welcome responses from all interested entities, including Wireline and Wireless ISPs as well as those entities that are not traditional internet service providers but are interested in offering service under innovative business models.

D. Response Format

Respondents to this RFI should use the template below as a guideline for their response:

A. RESPONDENT PROFILE [See Below]

- a. Name:
- b. Title:
- c. Organization name:
- d. Street Address:
- e. City:
- f. State:
- g. Zip Code:
- h. Country:
- i. Phone Number:
- j. Email Address:
- k. Please provide a short statement describing your organization:

B. RESPONDENT TYPE

- a. Specify ISP or Nonprofit/CBO digital service provider

C. SERVICES PROVIDED

- a. For ISPs: Please describe your technology & network architecture and information that you can provide regarding how you would be able to provide free or low cost service within un/under connected neighborhoods
- b. For Nonprofits/CBOs: Please describe the types of digital literacy and wraparound services you currently provide and/or could provide

D. PROPOSED USE OF CITY ASSETS

- a. For ISPs: Please describe how your company would utilize City Assets such as City facilities and rooftops, fiber optics cabling, and vertical assets such street and traffic poles to provide free or low cost service to un/under connected neighborhoods and the types of City services your company would benefit from.

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- b. For Nonprofits/CBOs: Please describe City Assets such as City facilities, communications channels, and resources that the City could provide access to that would support you in your work.
- E. PERFORMANCE DATA
- a. Please describe how your performance would be measured.
- F. SUPPORTING DATA
- a. Provide any supporting material, including brochures, recommendations, past engagements, etc.

III. THE PROPOSAL

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The successful proposer selected for this service shall obtain or provide proof of having a current City of Oakland Business tax Certificate and **must comply with all applicable City policies and programs**. Applicable programs include Equal Benefits, Revised 50% Local/Small Local Business Enterprise (L/SLBE), Living Wage, The City of Oakland's Campaign Reform Act, Post-project Consultant Evaluation, Prompt Payment, Arizona Boycott, Dispute Disclosure, Minimum Wage, Border Wall Prohibition, and Sanctuary City Contracting and Investment Ordinance.

Further information will be provided in the forthcoming RFP document and is available online at

https://cooisupplier.oaklandnet.com/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=PON_ABSTRACT_PAGE

2. The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
3. The following City staff are available to answer questions:

RFI and Project related issues:

Project Managers:

Tony Batalla, Chief Information Officer, (510) 238-7048 or

tbatalla@oaklandca.gov;

Nicole Neditch, Assistant to the City Administrator,

nneditch@oaklandca.gov;

Contract Analyst: Paula Peav, (510) 238-3190

Compliance Officer: Vivian Inman at (510) 238-6261

4. All responses to the RFI become the property of the City.
5. The RFI does not commit the City to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal.

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6. The City reserves the sole right to evaluate each proposal and to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of the RFI process.

7. The City reserves the unqualified right to modify, suspend, or terminate at its sole discretion any and all aspects of the RFI and/or RFI process, to obtain further information from any and all Contractor teams and to waive any defects as to form or content of the RFI or any responses by any contractor teams

B. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Submit Proposals electronically to iSupplier: Please log on to iSupplier to submit your proposal before the 2:00 P.M. deadline. Questions regarding online submittal through iSupplier must be directed to isupplier@oaklandca.gov to the attention of Paula Peav or refer to the iSupplier userguide at https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Bid_Quote_Withdrawal_UserGuide.pdf.

All proposals must include the project name, submittal date, and time the proposals are due on the documents.

C. REQUIRED PROPOSAL ELEMENTS AND FORMAT

1. Transmittal Letter

- a. Addressed to Tony Batalla, c/o, CIO, Information Technology Department, 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, California, 94612.
- b. Signed by an officer of the consultant. In case of joint venture or other joint-prime relationship, an officer of each venture partner shall sign.

2. Addenda - Proposal and Acknowledgment of all Addenda – if issued, please provide signed addenda and submit with proposal.

3. Proprietary Information: All responses to the RFI become the property of the City. To withhold financial and proprietary information, please label each page as "confidential" or "proprietary".

4. Public Records Act or Sunshine Ordinance: Although a document may be labeled "confidential" or "proprietary", information is still subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act or Sunshine Ordinance, and is, at the City's discretion, based on the potential impact of the public's interests whether or not to disclose "confidential" or "proprietary" information.