2024-MBI-05
Broadband Infrastructure Residential Retrofit Program- Questions and Answers
4/8/2024

#	Question	MBI Response
1.	In subsequent years, after the 100% grant funding ends when, I believe, the landlord assumes responsibility for the service, how do you ensure that the rates charged to those residents are equitable for their income levels?	In response to question 3 of the RFI respondents should indicate how they will maintain affordability for low-income residents absent a federal subsidy. This can be articulated as a building level subscription option, individual pricing at broadband speeds, or other options proposed by the respondent.
2.	There are several addresses I expected to find in the property excel sheet, are we to consider the list provided comprehensive or is there an avenue for alternate properties to be proposed, i.e. one that is currently under construction?	Housing operators may submit locations not currently captured in MBI's database for consideration through the online expression of interest form.
3.	If the building only has telephone and coax to the units, would it be eligible for the program?	Yes, as long as the building meets the other eligibility requirements of the program, as outlined on the program website.
4.	Are the locations in attachment C the same that have been submitted by housing organizations through the online expression of interest form?	No, Attachment C is the larger universe of potentially eligible locations as determined by MBI via a combination of 3rd party data. Specific locations that have been submitted by housing operators as of the release of the RFI are included in this list. The RFP will include only locations that have been submitted by housing operators and approved by MBI.
5.	Construction materials inside and outside. Example: brick exterior, horsehair plastic walls for multistory buildings: Are there risers or chases with space? Are there telco closets on each floor? Where is the current wiring (inside walls, along baseboards, in hallways) How do the current communication wires come into the building? (aerial or underground) If underground, is it direct burial and in conduit? If in conduit, who owns the conduit?	Information about the infrastructure of each eligible location will be available to bidders through the Retrofit RFP process. In response to question 1 of the RFI, respondents should indicate what additional information they would require to make an informed bid.

6.	Can we include additional locations that are not on this list that we know have sent in Expression of Interest forms?	Potential applicants should encourage housing operators in their networks or service areas to submit properties that are not currently listed in Attachment C. Only authorized organizational representatives may submit properties through the expression of interest form. If you are not a housing representative, please do not submit properties through the expression of interest form – rather review properties released through the RFP when it is released.
7.	This question should include conduit in to building and easements from other buildings (either aerial or through basements of connected buildings), as the goal is to service all locations with fiber, not wireless backhauls.	In response to question 4 of the RFI, respondents should add additional kinds of infrastructure or assets that could be used to offset service costs.
8.	There needs to be a clear understanding of the legalities of this question. MBI may be granted deed to strands but that doesn't clarify what they can do with the strands.	The RFI is intended to solicit input from potential applicants on this subject. In response to question 6 of the RFI, respondents should include any outstanding legal or technical questions associated with deeding three strands of fiber to MBI. Respondents may also propose alternative contractual mechanisms that would provide MBI with long-term rights to the three strands of fiber.

9.	If fiber needs to be expended to the building. Are those costs included?	Yes, fiber construction, as stated, is an eligible expense.
10.	Can MBI lease these to a second ISP if the first one does not fulfil their obligations?	MBI has not made any determinations about the use of the three strands of fiber.
11.	This fiber would be in a specific ISPs comm space, who is responsible for repairing it or any transfers/make ready if needed in the future?	The ISP is responsible for all repairs and make-ready work. MBI retains the rights to three strands of fiber.
12.	Can MBI use them (three strands of fiber) as they see fit and allow an open access network at any time?	See answer to question #8 above.
13.	Where will MBI need to pick up the three strands of fiber?	As outlined in the RFI, MBI will require providers to make available service coils at to be determined ingress/egress points. In response to question 6 of the RFI, potential applicants should outline how they will comply with this requirement and should feel free to elaborate on potential considerations or limitations that MBI should be aware of in advance of release of the RFP.

14.	Has MBI considered the potential risks related to cybersecurity or AI as part of its right to three strands of fiber?	As stated above, MBI has not made determinations about the use of the three strands of fiber. MBI does not believe holding the rights to dark fiber will pose a cybersecurity risk, but applicants should provide additional detail on potential risks or considerations they believe MBI should be aware of in response to question 8 of the RFI.
15.	MBI must clearly define the "public interest requirements".	The public interest requirement is that MBI has the rights to three strands of fiber. The public interest is to support and advance MBI's goal of expanding access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet service.
16.	Does "fiber extension" mean "drop fiber"?	Yes.
17.	Has MBI/MassTech confirmed that properties listed in Exhibit C are unserved or underserved (<25/3Mbps per the FCC's definition)?	The listed locations in Exhibit C are not exclusively designated as un/underserved on the FCC's Broadband Map. CPF funds are eligible for use at locations that are deemed to have a critical need. MBI has determined these properties to be potentially eligible subject to further evaluation to confirm that the properties satisfy the criteria as outlined on the program website. MBI will conduct a compliance review of each submitted property to ensure it both meets the eligibility requirements, including income affordability requirements and that the properties do not currently have fiber or CAT 6 service to
18.	Is any proposed future program limited to only last-mile connections (i.e., service drops) for MDUs, or will eligible costs include network expansion to reach MDUs?	Eligible expenses are listed on the program website and include network expansion to reach MDUs subject to limitations that will be described in the RFP. Any input on this issues should be provided as a response to question 8 of the RFI.
19.	The public housing in Bourne was missing from the original list distributed and presented on the last call about this. Can you confirm that you received the addresses from the Bourne Housing Director and the master list has been updated.	MBI will publish a list of eligible locations that are available for bids each round of the forthcoming RFP. MBI can confirm that the Bourne Housing Authority has submitted locations through the Expression of Interest.

20.	Does an ISP need to respond to the RFI in order to participate in the RFP?	No
21.	If for this RFI I express interest in a location, is it ok when responding to the RFP to exclude that location or will you be designing your RFP's based on the RFI Interest and a valid RFP response would have to include all locations from the RFP?	The RFI is purely informational and non-binding – there is no obligation to provide service to any property by submitting a response to the RFI.
22.	Can we get architectural drawings for all of the locations in the RFI or at least the ones we express interest in?	If architectural drawings would be helpful please indicate so in response to question 1 of the RFI.