



City of New Orleans

Mayor LaToya Cantrell

Request for Information

**NETWORK SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT CBRS FRAMEWORK OR
SIMILAR PRIVATE WIRELESS SOLUTION USING CITY
ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE ENTITIES**

RFI No. 3799

Timeline

Released: January **11, 2024**

RFI Questions Deadline: February **9, 2024**

RFI Submittal Deadline: February **21, 2024**

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A. Introduction

This Request for Information is used to gain working knowledge to be used in a subsequent solicitation, market research or industry support.

The Request for Information is open to all prospective suppliers and is publicly posted on the City of New Orleans' purchasing portal so that any supplier may submit a response.

A supplier is not required to respond to this Request for Information in order to submit a proposal if a sourcing event is subsequently issued.

This information is only to assist the City of New Orleans' Office of Information Technology and Innovation in determining how best to fulfill the requirements described herein.

Should the City of New Orleans determine to proceed with a solicitation based on the responses to this Request for Information, the City of New Orleans may then issue one of the following sourcing events: a request for proposal, a request for qualifications, or an invitation to bid.

The sourcing event selected will be in accordance with the City of New Orleans' purchasing policies and procedures.

B. Definitions

“**City**” means City of New Orleans.

“**ITI**” means City of New Orleans, Office of Information Technology and Innovation

“**NORDC**” means New Orleans Recreation Development Commission

“**RFI**” means this Request for Information.

“**Sourcing Event**” means a Request for Proposal, a Request for Qualifications, an Invitation to Bid, or any similar solicitation.

C. Purpose

The purpose of this RFI is to provide ITI with information regarding supplier interest and solicit detailed information for the implementation of “Network services to implement CBRS (Citizens Broadband Radio Service) framework, or similar private wireless solution, using city assets/infrastructure entities.”

D. Background

The city of New Orleans is located between the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River, with access to the Port of New Orleans, major railways, and the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. With an established and widening industrial base-including stalwarts such as energy, trade, and advanced manufacturing, as well as emerging strengths like film and digital media, the city has significant resources and participation invested by both public and private organizations.

New Orleans is one of the most unique cities in the United States. She is a complex, cosmopolitan city with modern skyscrapers, centuries-old mansions, five-star restaurants, world-class shopping, abundant live music, breathtaking natural beauty, and a world-famous spirit. These make New Orleans well-positioned to be a driver for the region's economic prosperity.

Broadband Access

US Census data and local agency reporting shows 25% of New Orleans families do not have home-based internet. This means over 120,000 of our residents lack connectivity for learning, work, social engagement, and innovation from the comfort of their homes. At the same time, new technologies allow cities to provide inclusive and equitable access to the underserved, and it is imperative that our city embrace this opportunity now.

The State of Louisiana's Digital Equity (DE) Plan focuses on a state-wide implementation of reliable, affordable, broadband for 100% of the state's population. Like many of the rural and urban governments within the state, the City of New Orleans understands that additional challenges remain and will require citizens in the greatest need to have free access to the Internet, and the knowledge and skills to utilize those Internet resources.

The City's DE Plan is focused on addressing these areas, particularly by building targeted wireless networks that can be accessed at no cost to the public. It is envisioned that this access will be provided in public workspaces at City facilities as well as in-home access in targeted areas. The City will build upon its current and ongoing Digital Equity Programs, including Digital Literacy, Device Donations, Personal Device Repair and Professional Development, to provide knowledge and skills to those in greatest need.

Existing City Network

The City's existing corporate network is a secure, modern, provider-based wide-area network (WAN) that supports the business and operational needs of city government. The network includes local, virtual, and metro-E connections supporting over 4000 City workers at over 120 locations throughout the city/parish. The hybrid network hosts enterprise systems from multiple remote datacenters, with connections to state and federal agencies, and several third-party cloud providers. The network is funded from the city's general operating budget and relies on services provided by local ISPs, telecom, and cloud providers.

While the city's corporate network supports public access through extranet applications for citizens and businesses, this network is not an appropriate platform for supporting general public internet access. Therefore, new, or separate network(s) are planned.

E. Statement of Needs

The City contemplates the development of its assets and infrastructure to provide Internet services to the public via an implementation of a CBRS framework, or similar private wireless solution. This network, together with existing city broadband connections, will provide the public with high-speed, reliable, Internet access. This access may be provided through the following:

- City-owned devices within public workspaces or at city facilities
- Kiosks and Information portals
- Citizen-owned devices
- Third-party service providers

To reach its Digital Equity goals, the City will launch various wireless pilot programs using city facilities as a testbed. One proposed solution would use NORDC Community Centers, potentially along with other city facilities such as libraries or public safety locations, to provide broadband connectivity within a 5-kilometer radius around the NORDC facility.

The NORDC Community Centers considered are listed below and responses to the RFI may address any or all of the following locations:

1. Desire / Florida Multi-Service Center, 3250 Industry Street, New Orleans, LA 70112
2. Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr. Park (Behrman), 2529 General Meyer Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70114
3. Lyons Recreation Center, 624 Louisiana Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70115
4. Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center, 4025 S. Saratoga Street, New Orleans, LA 70115
5. Tremé Recreation Community Center, 900 N. Villere Street, New Orleans, LA 70116
6. Stallings St. Claude Center, 4300 St. Claude Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117
7. St. Roch Park, 1800 St. Roch Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117
8. Sanchez Multi-Service Center, 1616 Fats Domino Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117
9. Milne Rec Center, 5420 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122
10. St. Bernard Recreation Center, 1500 LaFreniere Street, New Orleans, LA 70122
11. Gernon Brown Rec Center, 1001 Harrison Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70124
12. Rosenwald Recreation Center, 1120 S. Broad Street, New Orleans, LA 70125
13. Norwood Thompson Park, 7200 Forshey Street, New Orleans, LA 70125
14. Taylor Park, 2600 S. Roman Street, New Orleans, LA 70125
15. Gert Town Natatorium, 3411 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70125
16. Joe W. Brown Park, 5601 Read Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70127
17. Annunciation Recreation Center, 800 Race Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
18. Cut-Off Recreation Center, 6600 Belgrade Street, New Orleans, LA 70131
19. Lafitte Greenway, N. Claiborne to N. Carrolton, New Orleans, LA 70119

F. Contents of Vendor Submissions

The City requests the following information with any submission by an interested vendor:

- List your company's complete name, place of business address, telephone number, email address and the contact person assigned to this RFI.
- Provide your company's background (years in operation, ownership information, and staff size).
- Provide a brief narrative description of your company's capabilities and experience in providing local and/or state agencies with wireless network implementation services.

- Describe three (3) or more projects relevant to this RFI that your company has been hired for by local and/or state agencies; and
- Provide three (3) client references with the contact information of individuals (full name, position, telephone number, and e-mail address) who can be contacted by the City.
- Provide a reference architecture that would support the City’s new wireless (CBRS) network environment. Include details on any key technologies, industry standards, and best practices to be leveraged. Pros and cons for the integration of this new network environment into the city’s existing corporate enterprise network can be included.
- Describe the sustainability model(s) envisioned for the City’s new publicly owned wireless (CBRS) or other wireless infrastructure. This should include build-out and operational support considerations, public/private funding, sustainability, etc.

G. Schedule of Events

RFI advertised and posted to purchasing portal	January 11, 2024 at 9:00am
Deadline for receipt of questions	February 9, 2024 by 5:00pm
Deadline to respond to questions	February 16, 2024 by 5:00pm
Deadline for receipt of submissions	February 21, 2024 by 5:00pm

H. Submittal Process

Questions

Suppliers must submit their questions by the above deadline to the following email address: deniece.andrews@nola.gov

The subject line of the email submission must read: “Question - RFI - Network Services To Implement CBRS Framework – [insert name of supplier]”.

Responses

Responses are due by the above deadline and must be delivered via email only to the following email address: deniece.andrews@nola.gov

The subject line of the email submission must read: “Answers - RFI - Network Services To Implement CBRS Framework – [insert name of supplier]”.

Responses should be limited to no more than 20 single-sided 8 ½” x 11” pages.

Registration

The City strongly encourages registration into the City’s purchasing portal prior to responding to this RFI.

The City’s purchasing portal allows potential suppliers the ability to view current sourcing events along with their requirements.

Please use the link below to access supplier registration instructions:

<https://nola.gov/purchasing/brass/>.

If you have any questions relating to registration, send them to the following email address: procurement.brass@nola.gov. The subject line of the email submission must read: “Purchasing Portal – Registration – [*insert name of supplier*]”.

I. Additional Information

Rights and Options Reserved.

This RFI does not commit the City to contract for any supplies or services.

Further, the City is not seeking proposals through this RFI and will not accept unsolicited proposals.

In addition to the rights reserved elsewhere in this RFI, the City reserves and may, in its sole discretion, exercise the right to cancel or modify this RFI at any time at will, with or without notice.

Please note that this RFI and any related discussions or evaluations by anyone create no rights or obligations whatsoever.

The City may revise the RFI before the submission deadline, which will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFI.

Responses are non-binding on the City or respondent to the RFI.

The City shall not be liable for any cost incurred by respondents associated with developing a submission, preparing for discussions (if any) or any other costs incurred by the respondent associated with this RFI.

The materials submitted in response to this request shall become the property of the City.

Public Records Law/Confidentiality

All financial, statistical, personal, technical, and other data and information submitted in response to this RFI shall not be considered confidential.

The City shall not be required to keep confidential any data or information submitted in response to this RFI.

All material will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, R.S. 44: 144 and applicable rules and regulations.

The City may accept requests from any interested party to keep the information in its submission confidential and may agree to confidentiality if appropriate in accordance with state and federal law.

The proposer may also seek a protective order from a court of proper jurisdiction preventing the release of such information.

[END OF RFI]

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