

CCCUD RFP for Consultant Services Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** Does the consultant (s)/project manager need to be onsite, or is remote work allowed?

Answer: Will be mostly remote work. However, some in-person meetings may be required.

2. **Question:** What is the estimated budget or hourly rate range?

Answer: The estimated budget for the RFP Consultant work is approximately \$40K. The hourly estimated rate range for the Project Manager \$65 to \$100/hour based upon other CUDs experience.

3. **Question:** Are there any budgetary constraints or funding limitations for this project that we should be aware of when developing the RFP and evaluating proposals from ISPs?

Answer: Yes, our funding is currently limited to a \$300,000 pre-construction grant from VCBB. We also have very preliminary estimates for construction cost needs and currently available funding for each municipality. This information will be shared with the chosen consultant.

4. **Question:** Does CCCUD have any incumbent contractors for this/similar scope of work?

Answer: Yes, but they may not submit a proposal due to a potential project that would cause a conflict of interest.

5. **Question:** The RFP states that "It is anticipated that the contract term for this scope of work will be until all approved contracts with internet service providers are finalized". Please could you share an estimated contract duration for this scope of work.

Answer: The estimated contract duration for the phase of work covered by the RFP Process Scope of Work is approximately 10 months.

6. **Question:** Does CCCUD have any specific technology preferences or requirements (e.g., Fiber-to-the-Home, Fiber-to-the-Premises, or alternative last-mile solutions) for the implementation of the network infrastructure?

Answer: VCBB funding requires that the technology provide 100/100 mbps service. The projects the board has funded so far have accomplished this with fiber-to-the-home service.

7. **Question:** Are there any existing partnerships or agreements between CCCUD and ISPs, utility companies, or other stakeholders that we should consider when developing the RFP and negotiating contracts?

Answer: The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission is supporting the CCCUD in its beginning stages. CCCUD is now a member of the [Vermont Communications Union Districts Association \(VCUDA\)](#). CCCUD currently receives all of its funding and operational support from the [Vermont Community Broadband Board \(VCBB\)](#). CCCUD does not currently have any existing partnerships or agreements with ISPs or utilities.

8. **Question:** Are there any local or regional regulations, permitting requirements, or environmental considerations that we need to be aware of when developing the RFP and working with ISPs?

Answer: ISPs need to follow all relevant regulations and permitting requirements. CCCUD could consider ensuring that this responsibility falls to the ISP that is building the infrastructure.

9. **Question:** What is the preferred method of communication between our team and CCCUD's Governing Board and legal counsel during the RFP process, contract negotiation, and project implementation?

Answer: As a public board of a legal municipality, the CCCUD Board must adhere to [Vermont's Open Meeting laws](#). However, many discussions will need to occur confidentially in executive session in order to not put the CCCUD at a disadvantage in negotiations. There are some best practices when sending emails to public boards and decisions cannot be discussed with a quorum of board members over email. This can be discussed more with a chosen contractor and chosen legal counsel.

10. **Question:** In Section 2.1.5, it states that the consultant will be responsible for "working with CCCUD's legal counsel to negotiate one or more contracts with one or more internet service providers to extend fiber networks to unserved/underserved premises in the district." Could you please provide more detail on the process for negotiating contracts? For example, will the consultant be responsible for drafting the contracts, or will CCCUD provide the contracts?

Answer: VCBB is working on a document that summarizes the different Vermont CUD contract models. Sample contracts from other CUDs may be available.

11. **Question:** Is it okay to price the optional Project management scope of work differently?

Answer: Yes.