

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ITQ 2026-04
BRC GRANT NON-PROFIT AGENCY COMPUTER NETWORK UPGRADES
JANUARY 27, 2026**

Potential Proposers,

Below are the questions and answers asked about the computer network upgrades Hamblen County is proposing for three local non-profit agencies. **The answers are in the red font.**

1) Boys & Girls Club Project –

“Install new Cat6 cabling to replace any cabling that tests below Cat5E specifications.”

- a) I assume this statement limits the above to only these (listed) areas even if other cable in the building tests below these limits? Executive Director’s Office, Admin Assistant’s office, Lobby, Library office and Hallway outside of Gym office.
CORRECT
- b) Having onsite inspection and testing done will be difficult to provide pricing unless we assume all must be replaced to the designated offices, is that the assumption that needs to be made? **Yes. We have provided an estimate of 1400 ft of new cable for the Boys & Girls Club. If it exceeds that amount, Hamblen County is willing to negotiate a change order to the contract for the B&G Club project. Please submit a unit price (per ft) for additional cabling and/or drops that may be necessary.**
- c) Is cable being replaced expected to be removed and left in place? **Hamblen County expects the old cable to be removed where practical and publicly visible; otherwise, the cable to be replaced should be cut, rolled up and placed out of public view.**
- d) *Supply new cables for hardware devices.*
 - a. Is this for all computers, printers, etc in the building? **No, the new patch cables are for devices and equipment connected directly to the new network components. Please submit a unit price for 3 ft and 6 ft patch cables if the agency wishes to replace existing patch cables outside of this grant project. It does NOT cover cameras attached to the current camera system. The camera and telephone systems are not part of this project**

2) Girl’s Inc. Project

“Install new Cat 6 cabling estimated at 200 ft above ceiling, wall fish, or surface mounted in conduit terminated, labeled and tested. New cabling to access points and from demarcation point to gateway router.

- a) It is assumed that this 200 ft will be for the 2 Wifi Aps? **CORRECT, and the estimate possibly includes a cable run to the organization’s office. If it exceeds that amount, Hamblen County is willing to negotiate a change order to the contract for the Girls Inc. project. Please submit a unit price (per ft) for additional cabling and/or drops that may be necessary.**
- b) *Supply new patch cables for hardware devices.* Is this for all computers, printers, etc in the building? **No, the new patch cables are for devices and equipment connected directly to the new network components. Please submit a unit price for 3 ft and 6 ft patch cables if the agency wishes to replace existing patch cables outside of this**

grant project. It does NOT cover cameras attached to the current camera system. The camera and the telephone systems are not part of this project.

3) **Senior Citizen's Center**

a. Cable

"Install new Cat6 cables estimated at 560 ft above ceilings wall fish or surface mounted in new conduit terminated, labeled and tested. (This is vague and open to interpretation without more specifics in regards to the following:

- i) *How many individual cable runs would this require to equal 560 ft?*
- ii) *Where does this cable need to run from and to?*
- iii) *Is this the 560 ft for this 2 new AP's in item B below?*

Hamblen County is estimating it will take 560 feet of new cabling to replace the current cable runs and add the new AP. The County is willing to negotiate a change order to the contract if the cabling exceeds the estimated amount. Please submit a unit price (per ft material plus labor) for additional cabling and/or drops that may be necessary.

Answer to ii)

- a) *From gateway router in craft room closet to new 24 port switch in craft room closet*
- b) *From 24 port switch in craft room closet to new 24 port switch in computer lab*
- c) *From 24 port switch in craft room closet to new 24 port switch in director's office*
- d) *From new 24 port switch in craft room closet to 16 port switch in maintenance room*
- e) *From 24 port switch in craft room to the existing and new wifi access points*

b. New Wifi Points

- i) *Is this wiring in place, is it included in the 560 ft, or is it in addition to the 560 ft? **It is included in the 560 ft.***

c. Supply new cables for hardware devices

*Is this for all computers, printers, etc in the building? I assume it does not cover cameras attached to a camera system. **No, the new patch cables are for devices and equipment connected directly to the new network components. Please submit a unit price for 3 ft and 6 ft patch cables if the agency wishes to replace existing patch cables outside of this grant project. It does NOT cover cameras attached to the current camera system. The camera and telephone systems are not part of this project.***

Other Questions –

- 1) For the "Enterprise grade firewall", does Hamblen County want 6GHz radios on their Wi-Fi 7 devices? **YES**
- 2) Are these sites going to need any access between each other? **NO**

- 3) How large of a space does the outdoor AP (at Senior Citizens Center) need to cover? **The covered picnic area is approximately 30 ft x 60 ft**
- 4) When is Hamblen County trying to start this project? **The County's objective is to award the contract in February so the work can start no later than April 1st.**
- 5) Do you have to have a low voltage permit for this project? **NO.**
- 6) For all firewall = throughput requirements and cable type from ISP? **COPPER**
- 7) Number of years for license term? **At proposers discretion**
- 8) SSID requirements? **Up to 3 per building**
- 9) PoE budget requirements? **Uncertain what is being asked.**
- 10) A drawing of each building in the RFP with the proposed Network closet marked on the drawings? **Drawings of the buildings are not available. Hamblen County recommends, but does not require, that interested vendors conduct a walk-through of each of the buildings.**
- 11) Will all Access Points be installed on ceiling grid of no higher than 12 ft? **YES**
- 12) Are there any known issues with existing network infrastructure, cabling pathways, ceiling conditions or building access that proposers should be aware of prior to installation? **NO**
- 13) Does the County have any preferred manufacturers or minimum specifications for the enterprise router/firewall, switches, or wireless access points, or should proposers recommend equipment that meets the stated requirements? **Proposers should recommend equipment that meets the stated requirements.**
- 14) Are there any specific security or firewall configuration requirements expected as part of the router installation, such as content filtering, network segmentation, or remote access support? **Firewall configuration requirements will be determined by the needs of each agency.**
- 15) To clarify scope, does "restore network configuration for physical Ethernet connections" include VLANs or network segmentation, or only basic connectivity for end user devices? **The vast majority of the work will be basic connectivity for end user devices; however, there may be a few instances that network segmentation will be requested.**
- 16) Will proposers be required to coordinate directly with each agency's ISP during installation, or will ISP coordination be handled by the County or the individual agencies? **The successful proposer will be required to coordinate directly with the agencies' ISP. MU Fibernet is the ISP for all three agencies.**
- 17) Are there any restrictions on work hours or site access at the three locations, including evenings or weekends, that proposers should account for when scheduling work? **The successful proposer can negotiate work hours and building accessibility with the agencies. They will generally be flexible with work hours and building accessibility.**
- 18) Is post installation support beyond installation, testing and initial cutover expected, and if so, for what duration? **A minimum of six (6) months.**
- 19) For existing cabling that tests below Cat5e standards, should proposers assume full replacement regardless of pathway condition or replacement only for failed cable runs? **Proposers should use the estimated length of cabling provided in the ITQ: Boys and Girls Club 1400 ft; Girls Inc 200 ft; M-H Senior Citizens Center 560 ft**
- 20) Are there specific labeling, testing documentation or as-built deliverables required as part of project closeout? **The successful proposer should provide documentation showing how it labeled the cable runs to meet agency wishes, should provide documentation to show which existing runs meet Cat5e standards and which runs are new Cat 6 cable, and should provide illustrations indicating where the new network devices were installed.**
- 21) Can the County clarify how proposals will be evaluated, including the relative weighting of pricing versus technical approach and experience? **Pricing, technical approach and**

experience will play significant roles in the evaluation of the proposals. It would be helpful, but not required, for proposers to provide up to three references for similar work.

- 22) Are there any new laptops, desktops, or end user computing devices included in this requisition, or is the scope limited to network infrastructure only? **This procurement is limited to network infrastructure only.**
- 23) Can the County please clarify the UPS battery backup specifications, including expected run time and any preferred models, given that the County will be purchasing the UPS units separately? **The County will consult with the successful proposer before purchasing the UPS units for these agencies.**
- 24) Is the MU Fibernet network assessment available for review by proposers? **YES**
- 25) How many hard wired devices are there at each location? This would indicate “network drops” for us to determine the time involved and cost? **These are estimates: Boys & Girls Club 5; Girls Inc. 5; M-H Senior Citizens Center 6 plus the WiFi access points. Most of the computer devices at each of these agencies connect to their networks via the WiFi access points.**