

MBI

MASSACHUSETTS
BROADBAND INSTITUTE



at the MassTech
Collaborative

GIS Support for Gap Networks Grant Program

RFP No. 2024-MBI-02 Bidders' Conference

December 1, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

BIDDERS' CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Webinar Objectives

1. To provide prospective Respondents with guidance to develop proposals that are responsive to the RFP for GIS Support for Gap Networks Grant Program.
2. To begin answering questions to help Respondents prepare proposals.

Agenda

01 | Bidders' Conference Guidelines

02 | Overview of the Services

General Description

GIS Support Services for Round 1

GIS Support Services for Round 2

GIS Support Services for Coordination with BEAD Program

03 | Federally Funded Services Agreement Terms and Conditions

04 | Questions and Answers Session

Bidders' Conference Guidelines

- This Bidders' Conference is being recorded.
- This presentation provides participants with an overview of Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MassTech"), Massachusetts Broadband Initiative ("MBI"), and the Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program.
- All microphones are muted on entry; please stay muted throughout the initial presentation
- Please set your screen name as your full name and affiliated organization
- There will be time allocated after the presentation for Q&A with attendees
- Written Questions must be submitted electronically to proposals@masstech.org on or before **December 5, 2023 @ 5:00 PM** with the following subject line: "Questions – RFP No. 2024-MBI-02".
- Answers will be posted on MassTech's website and COMMBUYS by **December 11, 2023 @ 5:00 PM.**
- MBI reserves the right to mute or dismiss participants that behave in an inappropriate manner



01

Bidders' Conference Guidelines

Established in 1982



MASSACHUSETTS
TECHNOLOGY
COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION:

We strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy by driving strategic investments, partnerships, and insights that harness the talent of Massachusetts.

MBI

MASSACHUSETTS
BROADBAND INSTITUTE

Mission: To partner with municipalities and service providers to close the digital divide in targeted areas of the Commonwealth.



Mission: To support the cybersecurity ecosystem, compete as the national cybersecurity leader, and strengthen the resiliency of the public and private sector.

MeHI

MASSACHUSETTS
eHEALTH INSTITUTE

Mission: To lead as the single best destination for digital health innovation with focus on accelerating innovation; health data transparency and access; and improving healthcare outcomes and costs.



THE INNOVATION INSTITUTE

Mission: To create conditions for growth in the innovation economy.



MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Mission: To foster the most complete, most connected, and fastest manufacturing ecosystem from innovation through production.



Gap Networks Grant Program Overview

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“the Commonwealth”) will make \$145 million in Capital Projects Funds (“CPF”) available to the Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program (“Gap Networks Grant Program” or the “Program”), to **address the critical digital needs of towns and cities**, with a particular focus on communities with substantial low-income households and disadvantaged populations.
- The Program will fund the deployment of broadband infrastructure in areas that currently lack access to sufficient broadband internet service, defined as service offering download speeds of at **least 100 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps**.
- MBI will administer two rounds of funding under the Gap Networks Grant Program. The deadline for submitting applications for **Round 1** of the Gap Networks Grant Program **is December 11, 2023**. Round 1 grant award notifications are expected in **January – February of 2024**. The deadline for submitting applications for **Round 2 is April 17, 2024**. Round 2 grant award notifications are expected in **May – June of 2024**.
- MassTech is aware of approximately 18,000 Un/Underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Timeline

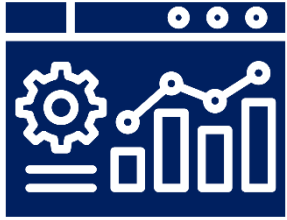
Milestone	Date
RFP Issued:	November 16, 2023
Bidders' Conference:	December 1, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
Questions Due:	Deadline to submit questions is December 5, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.
Answers Posted:	Answers will be posted on December 11, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.
Responses Due:	December 21, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.



02

Overview of the Services

General Description of the Services



- MBI is seeking GIS Support Services to support the Gap Networks Grant Program related to the **review, processing, analysis, and mapping of spatial data to ensure there is an accurate database of locations** being evaluated and awarded under MBI's Program. This will include support during all phases of the Gap Networks Grant Program such as
 - 1) quarterly application review periods,
 - 2) project status tracking, and
 - 3) reporting.
- There will be **two rounds of grant applications** for the Gap Networks Program. GIS support **services will be needed from the deadline for submitting applications until the grant announcements are made** for each round (see Section 1.3 for specific timeframes).
- MBI will also require GIS services to **support data coordination between the Gap Networks Grant Program and the forthcoming BEAD Challenge Process.**

GIS Services to Support Gap Networks Grant Rounds 1 & 2



- **Keep the geospatial BSL data up-to-date**

- Intake project location data from applicants:
 - Project Service Area(s)
 - Project infrastructure
 - Served Locations
- Verify eligibility of each location:
 - Is unserved or underserved
 - Has not received a state or federal funding commitment
- Maintain and update the BSL and eligibility data
- Compare locations across all applications to identify any overlap

- **Generate data summaries, maps and reports for MBI for making grant award decisions**

- **Attend biweekly meetings with MBI**
- **Provide documentation that conforms to specified formats**
 - All data created as part of this project should be provided to MBI as a deliverable

GIS Services to Support Gap Networks Grant Rounds 1 & 2 Continued



- **Following Round 1, update the geospatial dataset of eligible BSLs from Round 1 for Round 2 applicants**
 - Update eligibility based on new versions of FCC BDC data and information collected from ISPs and other knowledgeable parties
 - Use attributes to identify BSLs included in awarded applications
 - Update eligibility based on changes to federal funding commitments from other programs, such as CAF II and RDOF
- **Following Round 2, make BSL and eligibility info available through the existing MBI broadband map or a new interactive online map**

Additional Support Services (e.g., BEAD Program Coordination)



- **Provide data coordination between the Gap Networks Program and the BEAD Challenge Process:**
 - Develop a process for aligning data from the Gap Networks Grant Program with FCC data that will be used during the BEAD challenge process
 - Support MBI throughout the BEAD Challenge Process by keeping the list of eligible locations up-to-date whenever BSLs are awarded as part of the Gap Networks Program
 - All data created as part of this project should be provided to MBI as a deliverable



03

Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions

Federally Funded Services Agreement Terms and Conditions



- The Federally Funded Services Agreement includes terms and conditions including, but not limited to:
 - Period of performance
 - Insurance
 - Indemnification
 - Public records
 - Anti-lobbying certification
 - Various federal flow-down provisions

This agreement is available on the MassTech Procurement page:
[Services Agreement \(Federally Funded\)](https://broadband.masstech.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Services%20Agreement%20%28Federally%20Funded%29.pdf)

<https://broadband.masstech.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Services%20Agreement%20%28Federally%20Funded%29.pdf>



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Questions and Answers Session