

## **RFQ: Regional Broadband Adoption Effort Questions and Answers**

### **1. Can you send or direct me to the Focus Forward CI six recommendations?**

1. On [www.tricountyrpc.org](http://www.tricountyrpc.org), click on “Regional Strategy Policy Steering Committee” under “Quicklinks” (left side of the page).
2. Click on the “Reports” tab.
3. Click on “Recommendations Report.”
4. The six initiative recommendations are listed on Pages 16-18.

### **2. What role do you see for existing telecommunications providers in this effort?**

The “Scope of Work” section of the RFQ lists the required tasks for this project, so there is no requirement to engage telecommunications providers as part of this project. However, whether now or at some point in the future, we would like to engage telecommunications providers to examine regional broadband demand and examine how broadband access can be increased. We are open to investigating the engagement of telecommunications providers with the winning firm as a task that will be in addition to the required tasks listed in the “Scope of Work” section.

### **3. Are the meetings with the county based action teams viewed as a way to educate attendees, gather information for the regional group's consideration or both?**

The meetings with the county-based action teams will serve to 1) Educate team members of how broadband can be used to strengthen economic development; and 2) Provide an opportunity for the winning firm to gather information in order to develop a customized broadband awareness program for the region.

### **4. Are the four regional meetings planned as four meetings with the same group, essentially as a task force over a period of time, or with four different audiences over a short period of time to gather and share information?**

The four meetings with regional economic development leaders and leaders of key economic sectors will provide an opportunity for the winning firm to gather information in order to develop a customized broadband awareness program for the region. These meetings will take place early in the project. The winning firm and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will work together to identify the leaders who should be present at these meetings.

### **5. Is the broadband awareness program to be targeted to community and economic development leadership providing information at the strategic level – how to leverage broadband for economic development, health care, education, etc. - or to the general public – how to use the Internet to find jobs, apply for work, attend school, skype, etc.?**

The purpose of the broadband awareness program is to educate the four-county region on how broadband can be used most effectively to strengthen economic development in the region. The winning firm will be expected to develop a broadband awareness program that is customized to

the needs of the region based on existing data and meetings with regional economic development leaders, leaders of key economic sectors, and county-based action teams. It is expected that the customized broadband awareness program will be targeted to community and economic development leadership and the general public should it be identified that providing broadband education to both groups will strengthen regional economic development.

**6. What is the timeline for this work?**

This work is being funded by a grant from The Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI), also known as Broadband Illinois (<http://www.broadbandillinois.org/index.html>). Per the terms of the grant agreement, this work must be completed by May 29, 2013.

**7. Are travel costs separate from the stated budget?**

No. Travel costs will be paid for out of the budget amount stated in the RFQ.

**8. How far apart geographically will the 4 meetings with regional economic development leaders and leaders of key economic sectors and the 4 meetings with county-based action teams be held?**

The meeting locations will be held within a one-hour drive of Peoria. While the exact locations of meetings with regional economic development leaders and leaders of key economic sectors are not known, the meetings with county-based action teams (one meeting in each of the four counties) will likely be held in the county seat of each county. For reference, the Tazewell County seat (Pekin) is a 25-minute drive from Peoria, the Woodford County seat (Eureka) is a 30-minute drive from Peoria, and the Mason County seat (Havana) is a one-hour drive from Peoria.

**9. Can the broadband education classes be clustered geographically (e.g., hold two or three meetings at the same or nearby locations)?**

This can be explored once the project is underway. The locations of classes can't be determined at this time because the audiences to receive the classes will not be determined until the customized broadband awareness program is developed. After the audiences are identified, possible locations can be identified and the geographic clustering of meetings can be explored.