CONSIDERATIONS:

Network Fiber Buildout: Timelines and Potential Delays

Other Factors and Issues to Keep in Mind:

- Bids and all the paperwork that a disgruntled provider calls a code 9—a complaint alleging waste, fraud, or abuse. For some districts, this may mean increased budget scrutiny and the potential loss of funding.

- Funding expiration: Providers may find that after they do their best to respond rapidly to questions, their funding expires. This can happen if their request was denied for not choosing the right fiber build options submitted to E-Rate.

- Districts are finding increased scrutiny of the bid process, their funding rules, and their community partnerships in advance. This can be mitigated by building proper documentation, or are unable to complete the project before their funding expires. This can be mitigated by preparing for the volume of questions that come out of the review process.

- Some districts found that the review process was so slow that they weren’t able to complete the project before their funding expired. This can be mitigated by starting the process earlier and having a solid audit trail for all invoices.

- Note that there is significant variation in the time frames as these will vary based on the size and scope of the project.

- The bid matrix needs to compensate for different scenarios in one bid.

- The right team in place to ensure the bids are scored equally, through the same lens.

- The contract includes an out-clause in case of cost of service installation may drive total cost of ownership analysis over 20 years.

- E-Rate approval for owned fiber is uncertain.

- Budgets may not go through entire planning process.

- Documentation of current infrastructure, carriers and service options is needed.

- The future needs assessment scorecard is needed.

- There may be unexpected costs for permits, fees, and attorney agreement on terms and conditions

- Extensions are not guaranteed.

- Approval timeline may delay construction start.

- Current deadline for special construction is 6/30 of the expected year.

- Only start construction if you can pay out of pocket.

- Funding is not guaranteed.

- Provider contract completion is required.

- Enlisting district executive support.

- Additional questions and audit errors can delay.

- Make sure to have a solid audit trail for all invoices.

- Don’t purchase equipment until approval is received.

- Rollover of staff at USAC

- May have to work with finance department to ratio.

- Gotta be ready.

- More details on the process below:

  1. Consider / Plan:
     - Start process
     - Districts may find that after they do their best to respond rapidly to questions, their funding expires. This can be mitigated by preparing for the volume of questions that come out of the review process.

  2. Start Process:
     - Identify & Complete with State Preprocurement Rules (formal RFP), with State

  3. Negotiate Contact:
     - E-Rate

  4. Complete E-Rate Form 470:
     - Negotiate

  5. Develop Bid Matrix for Scoring Proposals:
     - Negotiate

  6. Complete E-Rate Form 471:
     - Negotiate

  7. Identify & Complete with State Preprocurement Rules (formal RFP):
     - Negotiate

  8. Select Vendor:
     - Negotiate

  9. Complete E-Rate Form 467:
     - Negotiate

  10. Schedule Work to Be Done:
     - Negotiate

  11. Implement Work to Build Out Fiber Network:
     - Negotiate

  12. Invoice and Pay Bills:
     - Negotiate

  13. Complete E-Rate Form 472:
     - Negotiate

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