

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

1. **SCOPE AND INTENT:** Garland County, Arkansas is seeking proposals from Internet Service Providers to provide broadband service to Garland County residents pursuant to the Arkansas Rural Connect Program, a grant program through the Arkansas Department of Commerce, Arkansas State Broadband Office, which can assist with funding for infrastructure. Garland County would become a local jurisdiction co-applicant for the provider or providers selected.
  
2. **ARKANSAS RURAL CONNECT PROGRAM:** Providers should be familiar with the Arkansas Rural Connect program and demonstrate knowledge of its requirements. Copies of the applications for service providers and local officials are attached hereto and incorporated herein. Additional information is available at: [https://broadband.arkansas.gov/ar-rural-connect/#:~:text=Arkansas%20Rural%20Connect%20\(ARC\)%20is,through%20telemedicine%2C%20and%20improve%20education.](https://broadband.arkansas.gov/ar-rural-connect/#:~:text=Arkansas%20Rural%20Connect%20(ARC)%20is,through%20telemedicine%2C%20and%20improve%20education.)
  
3. **PROPOSALS:** Proposals may be received July 1, 2020 through 3 p.m., CST, July 15, 2020. Proposals received after that date and time will not be considered. Proposals will be publicly opened at 3:01 p.m., CST, July 15, 2020, at the Garland County Court House, Room 210, 501 Ouachita Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71901. Clarification questions shall be received and responded to not later than July 14, 2020. Notification of selected proposals will be made not later than July 25, 2020.
  
4. **SUBMISSION:** Proposals may be submitted by US Mail, electronic mail, or hand delivery. Electronic mail or U.S. Mail should include delivery confirmation. Proposals shall be submitted to:  
  

Darryl Mahoney  
Garland County Judge  
Garland County Court House  
Room 210  
501 Ouachita Ave.  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
[dmahoney@garlandcounty.org](mailto:dmahoney@garlandcounty.org)
  
5. **PREFERENCES:** Garland County's goal is that the entire county should have access to reliable, high speed broadband internet service. Recognizing that this goal is not feasible or practicable at this time, Garland County seeks to partner with Internet Service

Providers who share this goal and intend to work toward it. Accordingly, preference will be given to:

- Proposals that would serve the largest area of the county.
- Proposals that would serve the greatest number of homes and business in the county.
- Proposals that would serve or improve service to areas of the county which have no service or limited service.
- Proposals that would serve or improve service to schools which have no service or limited service.
- Proposals that would serve or improve service to hospitals, nursing homes and long term care facilities which have no service or limited service.
- Proposals that exceed the required technical specifications and levels of service required by the Arkansas Rural Connect Program.
- Proposals that provide fiber to the home or wireless service.
- Proposals that consider and plan for future expansion.

6. **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS:** Garland County reserves the right to refuse or reject all proposals. Garland County shall have no obligation other than submitting a Local Official Application to the Arkansas Rural Connect Program as a co-applicant with the chosen provider(s).

**ISSUED JULY 1, 2020**

---

**DARRYL MAHONEY  
GARLAND COUNTY JUDGE**