

Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ): RFQ10003; BEAD Compliant Fiber Optic Supply

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RFQQ Posting Location: <https://inlandcellular.com/rfp>

RFQQ Questions: procurement@inlandcell.com

Overview

Inland Cellular is requesting quotes and qualifications for BABA compliant fiber optic materials to support Inland’s BEAD project built out from eligible distribution vendors. Inland Cellular will award the RFQQ to the most qualified vendor based on a multitude of factors including but not limited to allocation of BABA compliant fiber, estimated lead times and pricing, guaranteed delivery for life of project, and experience supporting projects of this size and nature.

Based on the provided criteria Inland Cellular will award the RFQQ to the most qualified vendor response. Vendor is responsible for completeness of response; any missing items will be deemed unresponsive and ineligible for award. Vendor will be required to execute a contract with Inland Cellular within 30 days of award, with purchasing of fiber optic cables to closely follow.

Procurement Authority

This RFQQ is issued pursuant to applicable federal and Washington State laws, regulations, and guidance governing federally funded procurements, including but not limited to:

- 2 CFR Part 200, including Sections 200.317 through 200.322 governing procurement standards and requirements for non-federal entities.
- Requirements of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.
- Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) NTIA BEAD Handbook 26-40 and subsequent revisions, amendments, or guidance documents.
- Applicable provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements.
- All applicable federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, executive orders, policies, and administrative requirements governing the use of public funds.

Introduction and Regulatory Compliance Requirements

This Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) is issued to solicit responses from qualified manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, contractors, and service providers capable of furnishing products, materials, equipment, and related services in accordance with the requirements outlined herein. Respondents are expected to demonstrate the technical capability, experience, financial stability, and regulatory compliance necessary to successfully provide the products and services specified in this RFQQ.

All products, materials, and equipment proposed under this procurement shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, standards, and program requirements. Vendors are responsible for ensuring that all submitted quotations, supporting documentation, certifications, and product specifications accurately reflect compliance with these requirements.

This procurement is funded in whole or in part through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. By submitting a response, respondents acknowledge and agree to comply with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, award conditions, policy notices, waivers, reporting requirements, labor standards, civil rights requirements, audit provisions, and domestic preference requirements now in effect or subsequently issued by NTIA, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO), or other authorized governmental entities.

I. Build America, Buy America (BABA) Requirements

The Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials incorporated into federally funded

infrastructure projects be produced in the United States unless a specific waiver has been granted by the applicable federal agency.

All awards and procurements associated with the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, including projects funded through the Benefit of the Bargain Round, are subject to applicable BABA requirements and domestic procurement preferences. Respondents shall ensure that all offered products, materials, and equipment meet the domestic content standards established under BABA and any additional guidance issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the U.S. Department of Commerce, and other governing authorities.

A Manufacturer's Build America, Buy America (BABA) Certification Letter is required for all applicable products proposed and supplied under this RFQQ. Such certification shall clearly identify the products covered and affirm compliance with all applicable BABA domestic sourcing requirements. Failure to provide the required certification may result in a proposal being deemed non-responsive.

Vendors shall maintain supporting records and documentation demonstrating compliance with BABA requirements and shall make such records available upon request by the contracting entity, state oversight agencies, federal authorities, auditors, or other authorized representatives.

Vendors shall provide country-of-origin documentation, manufacturing location information, component sourcing documentation, and any additional records necessary to substantiate compliance with Build America, Buy America requirements.

II. Federal Civil Rights and Non-Discrimination Compliance

All respondents, subcontractors, suppliers, and award recipients shall comply with all applicable federal civil rights laws and regulations, including but not limited to the following:

a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI (Public Law 88-352, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.) prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

b. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 (Public Law 93-112, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794) prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities and requires equal access to programs, services, and opportunities funded in whole or in part by federal assistance.

c. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

d. Age Discrimination Act of 1975

The Age Discrimination Act (Public Law 94-135, 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.) prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

By submitting a response to this RFQQ, respondents certify that they will comply with all applicable federal civil rights, equal opportunity, accessibility, and non-discrimination requirements throughout the duration of any resulting contract.

e. Debarment and Suspension

Respondents shall certify that neither the organization nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in federally funded transactions.

f. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

Contractors and suppliers shall comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity requirements and shall not discriminate in employment practices based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status.

g. Davis-Bacon and Prevailing Wage Requirements

Where applicable, contractors shall comply with prevailing wage requirements, labor standards, certified payroll reporting, and all applicable Davis-Bacon Act requirements associated with BEAD-funded infrastructure projects.

III. Conflict of Interest

All respondents shall disclose any actual, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest associated with this procurement. Failure to disclose such conflicts may result in disqualification from consideration or contract termination.

IV. SAM.gov Registration

Respondents shall maintain an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) throughout the procurement process and any resulting contract period.

V. Company Identifications

All required registrations, licenses, and identification numbers, including the DUNS Number (if applicable), Washington State Department of Revenue Excise Tax Registration Number, Unified Business Identifier (UBI), Washington State Contractor's License, Employment Security Department Number, Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Registration Number (FRN), must remain active, valid, and in good standing throughout the entire solicitation process, including the bidding, evaluation, and award phases. Any proposer selected for award must maintain these registrations and licenses for the full duration of the resulting contract, including any amendments, extensions, or renewal periods. Failure to maintain active status, remain compliant with applicable federal, state, and local requirements, or provide proof of good standing upon request may result in disqualification from the procurement process, contract termination, suspension of work, or other remedies available to the contracting entity.

VI. Insurance

The awarded contractor shall maintain, at its own expense, insurance coverage sufficient to protect against claims arising from the performance of the work and/or materials. Prior to contract execution, and upon request during the term of the agreement, the vendor shall provide a current Certificate of Insurance evidencing coverage including, but not limited to, Commercial General Liability, Automobile Liability (if applicable), Workers' Compensation, and Employer's Liability insurance. Insurance shall remain in full force and effect throughout the duration of the contract, including any extensions or renewals. Failure to maintain required insurance coverage may result in termination of the agreement.

- Commercial General Liability Insurance
- \$1 Million Per Occurrence Limit
- \$1 Million Auto Liability Coverage
- \$2 Million General Aggregate Limit
- \$1 Million Products-Completed Operations Aggregate Limit

VII. Record Retention and Audit Rights

Contractors shall maintain all books, records, certifications, invoices, and supporting documentation related to this procurement for a minimum period required by federal and state regulations and shall provide access to such records for audit, inspection, monitoring, or review upon request.

VIII. Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance

Respondents shall cooperate with all environmental, historic preservation, archaeological, cultural resource, and permitting requirements applicable to federally funded broadband infrastructure projects.

IX. Cybersecurity Requirements

Vendors supplying broadband network equipment, electronics, software, or telecommunications systems shall comply with applicable federal cybersecurity, supply-chain security, and prohibited equipment requirements.

Proposal Rejection Criteria

The Owner reserves the right to reject any proposal determined to be non-responsive, incomplete, inaccurate, or not in the best interest of the project. Proposals may be rejected if the respondent fails to provide all required documentation, certifications, pricing information, or supporting materials requested within this RFP. Proposals may also be rejected if the respondent is unable to demonstrate the financial, technical, managerial, operational, or compliance capabilities necessary to successfully complete the scope of work and satisfy all applicable Washington State BEAD Program requirements, federal grant requirements, and other regulatory obligations.

In addition, proposals may be rejected if the respondent is found to have provided false, misleading, or materially incomplete information; is debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to participate in federally funded projects; cannot demonstrate the ability to comply with applicable labor, environmental, reporting, cybersecurity, or procurement requirements; or fails to meet any mandatory qualification, licensing, insurance, or performance standards established in this RFP. The Owner further reserves the right to reject any proposal that does not demonstrate a clear ability to deliver the project in a cost-effective, timely, and compliant manner consistent with the objectives of the Washington State Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Vendor Responsibility

Respondents are solely responsible for reviewing and understanding all applicable program requirements and compliance obligations associated with this RFQQ. Submission of a quotation shall constitute acknowledgment that the respondent understands and agrees to comply with all applicable procurement, reporting, certification, domestic preference, labor, civil rights, audit, and record-retention requirements associated with any resulting award.

The issuing entity reserves the right to request additional documentation, certifications, testing results, manufacturing origin information, or other evidence necessary to verify compliance with federal, state, and program-specific requirements prior to award or at any time during contract performance.

Proposal Evaluation and Award Criteria

All responsive proposals will be evaluated using a best-value approach to determine the vendor most capable of supporting Inland Cellular's BEAD-funded projects. Evaluation will consider a combination of factors including demonstrated compliance with Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements, product availability and allocation commitments, pricing competitiveness, estimated lead times, ability to guarantee material availability and delivery throughout the life of the project, experience supporting broadband infrastructure projects of similar size and complexity, financial and operational capability, and overall responsiveness to the RFQQ requirements. Submission of the lowest-priced proposal alone will not guarantee award.

Award Criteria

Award will be made to the responsible and responsive vendor whose proposal is determined to provide the best overall value to Inland Cellular and the BEAD project objectives. To be considered for award, vendors must submit all required documentation, demonstrate compliance with applicable federal and state requirements, provide acceptable BABA certifications, maintain an active SAM.gov registration, and show the ability to deliver the requested materials within the required project schedule. Inland Cellular reserves the right to negotiate with one or more respondents, request additional information, waive minor irregularities, and make an award based on the proposal that best meets project requirements, schedule, compliance obligations, and long-term project success.

Results Posting: All results of awardees will be posted on our website, <https://inlandcellular.com/rfp>.

Evaluation Rubric:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Standard
BABA Compliance & Documentation	30 Points	27-30: Complete BABA certifications and supporting documentation for all products. 21-26: Minor clarification required. 11-20: Partial documentation provided. 0-10: Significant deficiencies or missing certifications.
Material Availability & Allocation Guarantee	15 Points	13-15: Guaranteed material allocation and availability throughout project duration. 10-12: Strong commitments with minor limitations. 5-9: Allocation partially demonstrated. 0-4: Insufficient supply assurance.
Pricing Competitiveness	20 Points	Scored using formula: $\text{Lowest Responsive Bid} \div \text{Vendor Bid} \times 20$. Lowest-priced responsive proposer receives the full 20 points.
Lead Times & Delivery Schedule	15 Points	13-15: Excellent lead times with delivery guarantees. 10-12: Acceptable lead times. 5-9: Extended lead times creating moderate schedule risk. 0-4: Lead times create significant project risk.
Experience & Past Performance	5 Points	5: Extensive experience supporting similar broadband and fiber deployments with excellent references. 3-4: Relevant project experience and satisfactory references. 1-2: Limited experience. 0: Insufficient experience or unsatisfactory references.
Warehousing & Inventory Management	5 Points	5: Demonstrated secure Washington-based warehousing and inventory controls. 3-4: Adequate storage and logistics capabilities. 1-2: Limited storage capabilities. 0: No warehousing plan provided.
Financial Stability & Operational Capacity	5 Points	5: Strong financial resources and operational capability to support project demands. 3-4: Adequate capacity. 1-2: Capacity concerns identified. 0: Unable to demonstrate sufficient financial or operational capability.
Vendor Responsiveness & Completeness	5 Points	5: Complete and responsive submission with all required documents and certifications. 3-4: Minor deficiencies. 1-2: Multiple deficiencies requiring clarification. 0: Materially incomplete or non-responsive proposal.
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE	100 Points	

Mandatory Pass/Fail Requirements (Not Scored)

Failure to provide any of the following may result in the proposal being deemed Non-Responsive:

- BABA Certification Letters
- W-9
- Active SAM.gov Registration
- DUNS Number (if applicable)
- UEI
- FCC Registration Number (FRN)
- Washington State UBI
- Washington State Excise Tax Registration
- Washington State Contractor's License (if applicable)
- Employment Security Department Number
- Certificate of Insurance meeting RFQQ requirements
- Equal Employment Opportunity Certification
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Non-Collusion Affidavit
- Debarment Certification
- Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire
- Quote on Company Letterhead
- All required references and supporting documentation

Project Specifications

Project Locations:

Adams County-178	Klickitat County-27	Spokane County-53
Adams County-238	Lincoln County-164	Spokane County-70
Adams County-244	Lincoln County-233	Spokane County-78
Asotin County-220	Lincoln County-234	Spokane County-96
Chelan County-176	Lincoln County-74	Stevens County-101
Chelan County-23	Okanogan County-165	Stevens County-104
Chelan County-243	Okanogan County-183	Stevens County-24
Chelan County-29	Okanogan County-197	Stevens County-54
Columbia County-167	Pend Oreille County-128	Stevens County-173
Douglas County-1	Pend Oreille County-55	Stevens County-208
Ferry County-215	Skamania County-20	Walla Walla County-184
Franklin County-159	Spokane County-111	Walla Walla County-71
Franklin County-21	Spokane County-146	Whitman County-222
Franklin County-247	Spokane County-201	Whitman County-236
Garfield County-232	Spokane County-214	Whitman County-240
Klickitat County-166	Spokane County-30	Whitman County-48

Material Request:

- 01CT Non-Armored LT OSP (service drop)
- 12CT Non-Armored LT OSP
- 48CT Non-Armored LT OSP
- 96CT Non-Armored LT OSP
- 144CT Non-Armored LT OSP
- 288CT Non-Armored LT OSP

Application Required Documents:

1. BABA Certification Form for each product
2. W-9
3. SAM.gov Verification Form
4. Insurance
 - a. Commercial General Liability Insurance
 - b. \$1 Million Per Occurrence Limit
 - c. \$1 Million Auto Liability Coverage
 - d. \$2 Million General Aggregate Limit
 - e. \$1 Million Products-Completed Operations Aggregate Limit
5. Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire
 - a. Equal Employer Opportunity Certification
 - b. Conflict of Interest Disclosure
 - c. Non-Collusion Affidavit
 - d. Debarment Certification
6. Quote with letterhead

Advertisement Locations included but not limited to:

- <https://omwbe.wa.gov/>
- <https://inlandcellular.com/rfp>
- <https://www.seattletimes.com/> website and paper

Advertisement

INVITATION FOR BIDS / REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND QUOTATIONS (RFQQ)

Project Owner (Subgrantee): Inland Cellular, LLC

Project Title: RFQQ10003 – BEAD Compliant Fiber Optic Supply

Description of Work: Inland Cellular is soliciting qualifications and quotations from qualified manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors for the furnishing of Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliant fiber optic cable and related materials to support Inland Cellular's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funded broadband infrastructure projects throughout multiple project locations in Washington State.

Location Where Bidding Documents May Be Obtained: <https://inlandcellular.com/rfp>

Opening Date: Application opens on September 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM Pacific Time

Bid Submission Deadline Responses are due September 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM Pacific Time through the portal <https://inlandcellular.com/rfp>

Contact Person: Procurement Department, Email: procurement@inlandcell.com

Basis for Rejecting Bids: The Owner reserves the right to reject any proposal determined to be non-responsive, incomplete, inaccurate, non-compliant with RFQQ requirements, or not in the best interest of the project. Proposals may be rejected for failure to provide required documentation, certifications, pricing information, BABA compliance documentation, SAM registration verification, or other required materials. Proposals may also be rejected if the respondent cannot demonstrate the financial, technical, managerial, operational, or compliance capabilities necessary to satisfy Washington State BEAD Program requirements and all applicable federal and state regulations. Additional grounds for rejection include false or misleading information, debarment or suspension from federal contracting, conflicts of interest, failure to meet qualification requirements, or inability to perform the work in a timely, cost-effective, and compliant manner.

Funding Sources: This project is partially funded by federal award number 53-20-B219N (BEAD NTIA) awarded to Washington State Broadband Office by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Small Business Notice: Small, Minority- and Women-owned firms are encouraged to submit bids.