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## BROADBAND PROVIDERS (RFI)

Martin County, a rural county with a population of 23,000 is partnering with the other Counties in the Roanoke Region (Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton) and Gates County to gather information from Broadband Service Providers (BSP) interested in providing 100Mbps symmetrical broadband service to currently unserved and underserved areas of the Counties,

Currently, in Martin County we have the Underserved and Unserved population for internet services. Our goal is to close the digital divide that exist in our Economical Distressed Area.

The Roanoke Region in NC compiled a questionnaire to gain information from all broadband service providers who are interested in serving counties in the region. This questionnaire will be distributed during the second week of February. The Counties will ask for a response by the beginning of March. The questionnaire will help the Counties in the Roanoke Region determine which BSPs they will partner with to seek and receive funds from the State of North Carolina broadband grant programs that are funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Capital Project Fund and/or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other . The Counties in the Roanoke Region may also choose to invest County controlled funds with the BSPs in addition to the State broadband grant programs

The Counties in the Roanoke Region have worked together to establish the standards outlined in the questionnaire. The Counties in the Roanoke Region will use the information provided in the questionnaire to determine the BSPs with whom they will partner.

If your organization has an interest in receiving the questionnaire send an expression of interested to James Bennett, County Manager for Martin County via e-mail at [james.bennett@martincountyncgov.com](mailto:james.bennett@martincountyncgov.com) Deadline is January 28, 2022 by 3:00 pm.