



New England Telehealth Consortium

Healthcare Connect Fund

**Northern Light Health (Formerly
Eastern Maine Healthcare
Systems)**

**Internet, Voice, Leased Fiber (or
equivalent) and WAN Services**

Request for Proposal

RFP-747

1. Statement of Purpose

- 1.1 Established by the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Report and Order released December 21, 2012 (FCC 12-150), the Healthcare Connect Fund is a Universal Service Fund program, authorized by Congress and administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"). This Request for Proposal ("RFP") seeks services to be provided pursuant to the Healthcare Connect Fund.
- 1.2 The New England Telehealth Consortium ("NETC") is a regional healthcare consortium in northern New England comprised of over 300 healthcare providers. NETC was formed in 2007 in response to the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program and was the recipient of \$24.6m in funding commitment, the largest single award through the pilot program.
- 1.3 NETC is comprised of both rural and urban locations, which allows the consortium to meet the needs of patients at any location within the network, even if those patients have to travel to an urban location for specialized care.
- 1.4 NETC operates a three-state redundant IP/MPLS private network across three states, providing private network services and commodity Internet connections for participating healthcare providers.
- 1.5 In addition to the existing NETC network infrastructure, participating healthcare systems often require additional private and public network facilities that are interconnected with the primary NETC network. These additional network facilities are eligible for subsidy under the Healthcare Connect Fund.
- 1.6 This RFP seeks pricing for Internet, Voice, Leased Fiber (or equivalent) and WAN Services for Northern Light, who will be the billing entity associated with this RFP.

2. Project Correspondence and Questions

- 2.1 All project correspondence and questions shall be by email to:

RFP Administrator
HealthConnect Networks
145 Exchange Street
Bangor, ME 04401
Email: rfp@healthconnectnetworks.com

3. Schedule

- 3.1 Proposals will be disqualified if an electronic copy, in either Microsoft Word or Portable Document Format (preferred), is not received prior to the Allowable Contract Selection Date (ACSD) listed on USAC's website; unless no other proposals are received. <https://rhc.usac.org/hcf/public/searchPosted.htm>
- 3.2 This RFP has been submitted with a 28-day competitive bidding period.
- 3.3 Proposals shall be submitted to RFP Administrator, HealthConnect Networks, by email at rfp@healthconnectnetworks.com.
- 3.4 Please indicate "NETC RFP-747 Proposal" on the email subject line.

4. Instructions to Responding Vendors

- 4.1 Responding Vendors shall use the numbering convention in this RFP when formatting their response. The Responding Vendor's response shall be explained in detail and shall indicate how the Responding Vendor proposes to satisfy each requirement, where necessary. **At the very least, the Responding Vendor must indicate compliance, non-compliance, understood or exception for each line item.**
- 4.2 Responding Vendors shall cite specific terms and conditions to which the Responding Vendor takes exception. The Responding Vendor shall state the exact requirement to which exception is taken. Any cost impact associated with an exception shall be identified and included in the proposal.
- 4.3 All proposals shall be electronic and signed by the Responding Vendor.
- 4.4 Responding Vendors should submit any questions, noted errors, discrepancies, ambiguities, exceptions, or deficiencies they have concerning this RFP by emailing such requests, with "NETC RFP-747 Inquiry" in the subject line, to RFP Administrator, HealthConnect Networks at rfp@healthconnectnetworks.com on or before the 14th day following the posting of this RFP on the USAC website. Answers to all questions/requests will be posted on the NETC website, www.netelc.org, on or before the 20th day following the posting of this RFP on the USAC website. If applicable, state the section number being referenced.
- 4.5 Responding Vendors shall take all responsibility for any errors or omissions in their quote or proposal.
- 4.6 No contract will be awarded except to responsible vendors capable of performing the work requested. Responding Vendor's employees shall be trained and qualified to perform the work and operate all required equipment. Before the award of the Contract, any Responding Vendor may be required to show that they have the necessary facilities, experience, ability and financial resources to perform the work in a satisfactory manner.
- 4.7 Requested Contract Period: NETC requests responses for a 36-month contract period.
- 4.8 All proposals submitted shall be valid for one year, or until the contract is signed, whichever comes first.
- 4.9 Negligence on the part of the Responding Vendor in preparing the proposal confers no right of withdrawal after the time fixed for the receipt of the proposals.
- 4.10 All proposals shall provide a straightforward, concise delineation of the Responding Vendor's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this invitation. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.
- 4.11 NETC reserves the right to require Responding Vendors to demonstrate a proof of concept of their offering.
- 4.12 It is the responsibility of the Responding Vendors to review, evaluate and request clarification prior to submittal of a proposal.
- 4.13 Based on the required interaction process with the FCC and USAC, it is not possible to determine a definitive project start date – as it is dependent on approvals and posting where NETC has limited control.
- 4.14 Each Responding Vendor must name the project manager that Responding Vendor will assign to the project along with a description of the project manager's qualifications.

- 4.15 Responding Vendors are encouraged to provide professional references from similar projects, including: contact name, mailing address, phone number, and email address.
- 4.16 NETC reserves the right to seek clarification of each Proposal or to make an award without further discussion of the Proposals received. Therefore, it is important that each Proposal be organized and submitted in a clear and complete manner.
- 4.17 Each Responding Vendor must have a current FCC Registration Number (FRN). More information about obtaining an FRN can be found at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>.
- 4.18 Each Responding Vendor must have a current USAC 498 ID (also known as a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)). More information about obtaining the 498 ID can be found at <http://www.usac.org/sp/about/obtain-498ID/default.aspx>.
- 4.19 All materials submitted in response to the RFP become the property of NETC. If there is any concern about confidentiality, mark the appropriate pages of your response "Confidential." NETC will attempt to honor all reasonable requests for vendor confidentiality.
- 4.20 The Responding Vendor shall comply with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations related to the performance of the contract to the extent that the same may be applicable.
- 4.21 A Proposal may be rejected in whole or in part if it limits or modifies any terms and conditions and/or specifications of this RFP.
- 4.22 By responding, the Responding Vendor states that the Proposal is not made in connection with any competing Responding Vendor submitting a separate response to the RFP and is, in all aspects, fair and without collusion or fraud.
- 4.23 Any and all information provided to vendors by NETC or its sites, is considered to be proprietary information and must be used solely for the purpose of preparing the proposal and is not to be released outside the Responding Vendor organization without written permission from NETC or its sites.
- 4.24 Responding Vendor shall list their experience with the FCC Rural Healthcare USF program and process.
- 4.25 In the event that Dark Fiber is requested in this RFP modulation equipment is not required unless explicitly requested in section 11.

5. Authorized Negotiator

- 5.1 The proposal shall be signed by the person authorized to legally bind the proposal.
- 5.2 The proposal shall designate an authorized negotiator who shall be empowered to make binding commitments.

6. Responding Vendors Responsibility for Proposal Costs

- 6.1 The Responding Vendor shall be fully responsible for all proposal development and submittal costs. NETC assumes no contractual or financial obligation as a result of issuance of this RFP.

7. Compliance with Laws, Permits, Rules

- 7.1 The Successful Vendor shall comply with all rules, regulations, ordinances, codes and laws relating to the work or the conduct thereof and shall secure and pay for any permits and licenses necessary for the execution of the work.
- 7.2 The Successful Vendor shall be subject to the safety department's workplace rules at a given site.

8. Insurance

- 8.1 The Successful Vendor shall agree to maintain General Liability Insurance, Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance, where applicable, to cover all its personnel engaged in the performance of the services herein described as well as damages arising as a result of the performance of such services.
- 8.2 The Successful Vendor further agrees to require its subcontractor(s), if any, to maintain General Liability Insurance, Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance, where applicable. The amounts of such coverage shall be as reasonably determined by Successful Vendor.
- 8.3 Proof of policies shall be provided to NETC with proposal.

9. General Network Requirements

- 9.1 NETC invites Responding Vendors to bid on the whole network or individual sites, services, and/or facilities.
- 9.2 Private network solutions should provide any-to-any connectivity between sites over a common network platform through private tunnels. We anticipate responses that include Carrier Ethernet Services, MPLS/VPLS, and equivalent technologies. NETC anticipates these will be the most cost-effective technologies. If Carrier Ethernet Services are quoted, they should be MEF compliant including the service types discussed in MEF standards 5.1, 22.1, and 33.
- 9.3 WAN services should support an integrated QoS/CoS capability that can prioritize traffic based on DSCP marking and should support at least three customer accessible queues including a low latency queue.
- 9.4 NETC prefers that services be delivered over technology that provides for symmetrical bandwidth, except where specific requests for asymmetrical bandwidth may be noted.
- 9.5 Internet Services offered should be capable of supporting IPv4 and IPv6 and should include static IP addresses, as necessary and justified by each participating HCP.
- 9.6 Fiber (or equivalent) may be jumpered at any distributions point as necessary. Vendor will identify and document any re-transmitting or monitoring equipment, in the fiber (or equivalent) path.
- 9.7 Proposals must include fiber (or equivalent) path routes, route length, and transmission path length.
- 9.8 Bandwidths listed for each particular HCP may indicate multiple bandwidth increments. The first (**bold**) is the minimum requirement. Responding Vendors shall provide pricing for all bandwidths listed for each HCP. If a carrier is unable to meet the requirement cost-effectively, it should respond with pricing for the maximum bandwidth it can provide.

9.9 Responding Vendor shall provide their operational expectations for the following network metrics, with the anticipation that these network metrics will become the basis for a Service Level Agreement to be negotiated with the Selected Vendor:

9.9.1 **Network Availability:** Expressed as a percentage (in the form of ###.###%).

9.10 **Site and Service Substitutions.** Responding Vendor shall allow for Site and Service Substitutions pursuant to FCC 12-150 Rural Health Care Support Mechanism Appendix D (Final Rules), 47 C.F.R. § 54.646. The Responding Vendor shall allow NETC to add sites and/or upgrade, change, or relocate services through the length of the contract-term without having to rebid.

10. Service Level Agreement

10.1 Responding Vendor shall provide their operational expectations for the following network metrics, with the anticipation that these network metrics will become the basis for a Service Level Agreement.

10.2 **Packet Delivery:** Expressed in percentage (in the form of ###.###%) of packets the network is expected to deliver

10.3 **Latency:** Expressed in milliseconds for round trip time between any two HCPs

10.4 **Jitter:** Expressed in milliseconds between any two HCPs

10.5 **Network Availability:** Expressed as a percentage (in the form of ###.###%).

10.6 **Response Time:** Expressed in terms of initial trouble report response time in minutes and on-site response time in hours.

10.7 **Planned Network Maintenance:** Please indicate the standard notification Responding Vendor provides to customers for planned network maintenance. Responding Vendor should describe their standard network maintenance window.

10.8 **Escalation Procedures:** Responding Vendor should provide NOC initial point of contact and trouble escalation procedures.


10.9 **Security Incidents:** Responding Vendor shall list any programs and procedures in place specifically for monitoring and resolving security incidents.

10.10 **Credit Allowances:** Responding Vendor must provide a listing of the credit allowances and/or refunds that may be assessed based upon service outages. Responding Vendor should state the outage intervals and the refund amounts. For example, if service were unavailable for 30 minutes, state the refund amount. If service were unavailable for an hour, state the refund amount.

11. Sites and Services

11.1 Northern Light Health is seeking services at the following HCPs:

<p>EMHS – Brunswick ON Datacenter 14 Resilient Drive Brunswick, ME 04011 HCP# 49490</p>	<p>TAMC - Caribou Health Center 118 Bennett Drive Caribou, ME 04736 HCP# 23601</p>
<p>TAMC-The Aroostook Medical Center 140 Academy Street Presque Isle, ME 04769 HCP #10801</p>	<p>C.A. Dean - Northwoods Healthcare - Monson 7 Greenville Road Monson, ME 04464 HCP# 26476</p>

EMHS - Bangor ON Datacenter 60 Summer St Bangor, ME 04401 HCP# 65088	TAMC - Fort Fairfield Health Center 23 High Street Fort Fairfield, ME 04742 HCP #23637
EMHS - Cianchette Building 43 Whiting Hill Road Brewer, ME 04412 HCP# 23578	Sebastcook Valley Health 447 North Main Street Pittsfield, ME 04967 HCP# 26485
Mercy Hospital 175 Fore River Parkway Portland, ME 04101 HCP #23718	BMMH - Castine Community Health Services 102 Court Street Castine, ME 04421 HCP# 49483
Inland New Horizons Healthcare Unity 80 Main Street Unity, ME 04988 HCP# 23773	Blue Hill Memorial Hospital 57 Water Street Blue Hill, ME 04614 HCP# 13663
Inland Hospital 200 Kennedy Memorial Drive Waterville, ME 04901 HCP# 13641	BMMH - Island Family Medicine 354 Airport Road Stonington, ME 04681 HCP# 49485
EMMC - Eastern Maine Medical Center 489 State Street Bangor, ME 04401 HCP# 23535	C.A. Dean Northwoods Healthcare Sangerville 22 Haley Court Sangerville, ME 04479 HCP# 26504
SVH Family Care-Pittsfield 470 Somerset Avenue Pittsfield, ME 04967 HCP# 23472	Inland New Horizons Healthcare Madison  344 Lakewood Road Madison, ME 04950 HCP# 23691
BMMH - Bucksport Family Medicine 58 Main Street Bucksport, ME 04416 HCP# 49482	Northern Light Rehabilitation 118 Moosehead Trail, Suite 5 Newport, ME 04953 HCP# 23454
SVH Family Care - Newport Triangle Plaza, 8 Main Street Newport ME HCP# 23448	Acadia Healthcare Belfast 23 Mill Lane Belfast, ME 04915 HCP# 49474
SVH Family Care - Clinton 1309 Main Street Clinton, ME 04927 HCP#23605	SVH - Somerset Surgical Associates Urology 72 North Road Detroit, ME 04929 HCP# 23611
C.A. Dean - Charles A. Dean Memorial Hospital 364 Pritham Ave Greenville ME HCP# 13640	Occupational Medicine - Workhealth at SVH 125 Main Street Pittsfield Maine HCP# 68357
TAMC - Aroostook Health Center 15 Highland Ave Mars Hill ME HCP# 68358	MCMH-Main Hospital 50 Union Street Ellsworth, ME 04605 HCP# 11526

MCMH-Eleanor Widener Dixon Memorial Clinic 37 Clinic Road Gouldsboro, ME HCP# 23651	MCMH-Southwest Harbor Medical Center 45 Herrick Road Southwest Harbor, ME 04679 HCP# 26518
Mayo Regional Hospital 897 West Main Street Dover-Foxcroft, ME HCP# 23618	TAMC - Mars Hill Health Center 106 Main Street Mars Hill ME HCP# 68359
Visiting Nurses & Hospice of Aroostook – Houlton 2 Water Street, Suite 1 Houlton, ME HCP# 68583	LifeFlight Foundation 13 Main Street Camden, ME HCP# 68921
Mayo Regional - Dexter Fam Practice 51 High Street Dexter, ME HCP# 23612	Mayo Regional Hospital - Dexter Internal Medicine 41 High Street Dexter ME HCP# 23613
Mayo Regional Hospital - Counseling Program 69 High St. Dover-Foxcroft ME HCP# 23619	Mayo Regional Hospital - Corinth Family Practice 492 Main St. Corinth, ME HCP# 23607
Mayo Regional- Corinth EMS 314 Main St. Corinth, ME HCP# 23654	Mayo Regional Hospital - Milo Family Practice 135 Park St. Milo, ME HCP# 23697
MCMH-Dr. Vachon's Clinic 318 Main Street Ellsworth ME HCP# 71325	MCMH-Ellsworth Rehabilitation 65 Church St. Ellsworth, ME HCP# 71326
MCMH-Somesville Rehabilitation 1049 Main Street Mount Desert, ME HCP# 71327	MCMH-Trenkle 306 Main St. Ellsworth, ME HCP# 71328
MCH-Primary Care 32 Resort Way Ellsworth, ME HCP# 26452	

- 11.2 The services to be provided are Internet, Voice, Leased Fiber (or equivalent) and WAN Services.
- 11.3 **Network Diagram:** A current Network Diagram is provided in Appendix A.
- 11.4 **Private Network #1** - The Aroostook Medical Center (HCP# 10801) requires a multipoint-to-multipoint Layer 2 service (E-LAN or equivalent) connecting all of the following locations in a single broadcast domain.
- 11.4.1 **The Aroostook Medical Center (HCP# 10801)**
- 11.4.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 2 Gbps.
- 11.4.1.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided with 10 Gbps interface speed.
- 11.4.2 **EMHS - Cianchette Building (HCP #23578)**

- 11.4.2.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 2 Gbps.
- 11.4.2.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided with 10 Gbps interface speed.
- 11.4.3 **Mercy Gastroenterology at Casco Bay** 25 Long Creek Rd. S Portland, ME
 - 11.4.3.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.4 **Mercy Physical Therapy Center** – 1364 Congress St. Portland, ME
 - 11.4.4.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.5 **VNA Home Health and Hospice** – 225 Gorham Rd., S. Portland ME
 - 11.4.5.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **100 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.4.6 **Mercy Express Care Westbrook** - 40 Park Rd Westbrook, ME
 - 11.4.6.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **200 Mbps** to 500 Mbps.
- 11.4.7 **Mercy Hospital** (HCP #23718)
 - 11.4.7.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **200 Mbps** to 500 Mbps.
- 11.4.8 **Mercy Express Care Windham** - 409 Roosevelt Dr. Windham, ME
 - 11.4.8.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.9 **EMMC Family Med Hampden** – 7 Main Road N. Hampden, ME
 - 11.4.9.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- ~~11.4.10 **Mercy - Warehouse** – 167 Rumery Street, South Portland, ME~~
 - ~~11.4.10.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.~~
- 11.4.11 **Inland Hospital** (HCP# 13641)
 - 11.4.11.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **200 Mbps** to 500 Mbps.
- 11.4.12 **Blue Hill Memorial Hospital** (HCP# 13663)
 - 11.4.12.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **200 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.4.13 **Inland New Horizons Healthcare Unity** (HCP# 23773)
 - 11.4.13.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.14 **BMH - Bucksport Family Med.** (HCP# 49482)
 - 11.4.14.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.15 **BMH - Castine Community Health Services** (HCP# 49483)
 - 11.4.15.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.16 **Mercy - Gary's House** 97 State St. Portland, ME
 - 11.4.16.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.

- 11.4.17 **BMH Island Family Medicine** (HCP# 49485)
 - 11.4.17.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.18 **Mercy - Portland Internal Med.**- 43 Baxter Blvd. Portland, ME
 - 11.4.18.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.19 **Mercy - Yarmouth Primary Care** - 385 Route 1 Yarmouth, ME
 - 11.4.19.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.20 **Mercy - Gorham Crossing Primary Care** - 74 County Rd Gorham, ME
 - 11.4.20.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.4.21 **Sebasticook Valley Health** (HCP# 23472)
 - 11.4.21.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **200 Mbps** to 500 Mbps.
- ~~11.4.22 **Mercy Primary Care South** - 778 Main St, Suite 1 S. Portland, ME~~
 - ~~11.4.22.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.~~
- 11.4.23 **Mercy W. Falmouth Primary Care**-75 Gray Rd. W. Falmouth, ME
 - 11.4.23.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.5 **EMHS - Cianchette Building (HCP #23578)** requires a Point-to-Point connection (E-Line or equivalent) connecting it to the following sites:
 - 11.5.1 **EMHS - Brunswick ON Datacenter** (HCP# 49490)
 - 11.5.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 2 Gbps.
- 11.6 **EMHS - Bangor ON Datacenter** (HCP# 65088) requires a Point-to-Point connection (E-Line or equivalent) with at least 2 geographically diverse redundant connections which connects it to the following site:
 - 11.6.1 **EMHS - Brunswick ON Datacenter** (HCP# 49490)
 - 11.6.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Gbps** to 100 Gbps.
 - 11.6.1.2 Please provide a DWDM solution (or equivalent).
 - 11.6.1.3 Additional details to be discussed during contract negotiations.
- 11.7 **EMHS - Bangor ON Datacenter** (HCP# 65088) requires a Point-to-Point connection (E-Line or equivalent) that connects it to the following location
 - 11.7.1 **Cerner** - 2800 Rock Creek Parkway, Kansas City, MO
 - 11.7.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **100 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.
- 11.8 **EMHS - Brunswick ON Datacenter** (HCP# 49490) requires a Point-to-Point connection (E-Line or equivalent) that connects it to the following location
 - 11.8.1 **Cerner** - 2800 Rock Creek Parkway, Kansas City, MO
 - 11.8.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **100 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.

- 11.9 **Private Network #2 - Mercy Hospital (HCP# 23718)** requires multipoint-to-multipoint Layer 2 service (E-LAN or equivalent) connecting all of the following locations in a single broadcast domain.
 - 11.9.1 **Mercy Hospital (HCP# 23718)**
 - 11.9.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 10 Gbps.
 - 11.9.1.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided 40 Gbps interface speed.
 - 11.9.2 **EMHS – Brunswick ON Datacenter (HCP# 49490)**
 - 11.9.2.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **5 Gbps** to 20 Gbps.
 - 11.9.2.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided 40 Gbps interface speed.
 - 11.9.3 **EMHS – Bangor ON Datacenter (HCP# 65088)**
 - 11.9.3.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **5 Gbps** to 10 Gbps.
 - 11.9.3.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided 40 Gbps interface speed.
 - 11.9.4 **EMMC – 417 State St. Bangor, ME 04401 (HCP# 23535)**
 - 11.9.4.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 10 Gbps.
 - 11.9.4.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided with 10 Gbps interface speed.
 - 11.9.5 **EMHS – Cianchette Building (HCP #23578)**
 - 11.9.5.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 10 Gbps.
 - 11.9.5.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided with 10 Gbps interface speed.
 - ~~11.9.6 **Foot and Ankle – Oakland 25 First Park, Ste D Oakland, ME**~~
 - ~~11.9.6.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.~~
 - 11.9.7 **Beacon Health – 325C Kennedy Memorial Dr. Waterville, ME**
 - 11.9.7.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.
 - 11.9.8 **EMMC Pediatric Clinic – 325D Kennedy Memorial Dr. Waterville, ME**
 - 11.9.8.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.
 - ~~11.9.9 **Affiliated Miller Drug Central – 401 North Main St. Brewer Maine**~~
 - ~~11.9.9.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **30 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.~~
 - 11.9.10 **Mayo Regional Hospital (HCP# 23618)**
 - 11.9.10.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 10 Gbps.
 - 11.9.11 **LifeFlight Foundation (HCP# 68921)**
 - 11.9.11.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.

- 11.9.12 **NL Pharmacy** – 295 Kennedy Memorial Dr., STE 8, Waterville ME
 - 11.9.12.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.

- 11.10 **Private Network #3:** Blue Hill Memorial Hospital (HCP #13663) requires a multipoint-to-multipoint Layer 2 service (E-LAN or equivalent) connecting all of the following locations in a single broadcast domain.
 - 11.10.1 **EMHS – Brunswick ON Datacenter**^[1] (HCP# 49490)
 - 11.10.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **5 Gbps** to 20 Gbps.
 - 11.10.1.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided 40 Gbps interface speed.
 - 11.10.2 **EMHS – Bangor ON Datacenter** (HCP# 46663)
 - 11.10.2.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **5 Gbps** to 20 Gbps.
 - 11.10.2.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided 40 Gbps interface speed.
 - 11.10.3 **Aroostook Medical Center** (HCP# 10801)
 - 11.10.3.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 5 Gbps.
 - 11.10.4 **C.A. Dean Memorial Hospital** – (HCP# 13640)
 - 11.10.4.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 300 Mbps.
 - 11.10.5 **TAMC Caribou Health Center** (HCP# 23601)
 - 11.10.5.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
 - ~~11.10.6 **TAMC Mars Hill Health Center** – 106 Main St. Mars Hill, ME~~
 - ~~11.10.6.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.~~
 - 11.10.7 **Visiting Nurses & Hospice of Aroostook** – 18 Bangor Rd., Houlton, ME
 - 11.10.7.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
 - 11.10.8 **Hancock County HomeCare**– 441 Main St. Ellsworth, ME
 - 11.10.8.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
 - 11.10.9 **EMMC Family Medicine Orono** – 84 Kelly Road Orono, ME
 - 11.10.9.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
 - ~~11.10.10 **Affiliated Workforce Bangor** – 81 Main St. Bangor, ME~~
 - ~~11.10.10.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **3 Mbps** to 20 Mbps.~~
 - 11.10.11 **C.A. Dean Northwoods Healthcare Sangerville** (HCP# 26504)
 - 11.10.11.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
 - 11.10.12 **SVH Family Care Pittsfield** (HCP# 23472)
 - 11.10.12.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 50 Mbps.

- 11.10.13 **BMH Island Family Medicine** (HCP# 49485)
 - 11.10.13.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **3 Mbps** to 20 Mbps.
- 11.10.14 ~~**Affiliated Miller Drug Central** - 401 N. Main St., Brewer, ME~~
 - ~~11.10.14.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.~~
- 11.10.15 **EMMC Neurology Specialists** - 498 Essex St. Bangor, ME
 - 11.10.15.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.16 **EMMC Brewer Family Medicine** - 234 State St. Brewer, ME
 - 11.10.16.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.17 **TAMC Aroostook Health Center** - (HCP# 68358)
 - 11.10.17.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.18 **Inland New Horizons** (HCP# 23691)
 - 11.10.18.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.19 **TAMC Fort Fairfield Health Ctr.** (HCP# 23637)
 - 11.10.19.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.20 **Inland Hospital** - 180 Kennedy Memorial Drive Waterville, ME
 - 11.10.20.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 5 Gbps.
- 11.10.21 **Blue Hill Memorial Hospital** (HCP#13663)
 - 11.10.21.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 5 Gbps.
- 11.10.22 **Sebasticook Valley Health** (HCP# 26485)
 - 11.10.22.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **300 Mbps** to 1 Gbps.
- 11.10.23 **SVH Rehabilitation Services** (HCP# 23454)
 - 11.10.23.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.24 **Visiting Nurses & Hospice** - 18 Green Hill Dr. Presque Isle ME
 - 11.10.24.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.25 **Northwoods Healthcare Monson** (HCP# 26476)
 - 11.10.25.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **5 Mbps** to 50 Mbps.
- 11.10.26 **SVH Family Care - Newport** (HCP# 23448)
 - 11.10.26.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.27 **EMHS - Camden** 201 Mechanic St. Camden ME 04843
 - 11.10.27.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 200 Mbps.
- 11.10.28 **MCMH-Dr. Vachon's Clinic** (HCP# 71325)

- 11.10.28.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.10.29 **Newport Family Practice** – 26 Main St. Newport ME
 - 11.10.29.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **20 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.10.30 **Acadia Healthcare Rockland** – 91 Camden St., Rockland, ME
 - 11.10.30.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **10 Mbps** to 100 Mbps.
- 11.10.31 **Northern Light Primary Care Oakland** – 74 Water St., Oakland, ME
 - 11.10.31.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 300 Mbps.
- 11.11 Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems seeks bids for Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) Services (or equivalent) at the following eligible sites:
 - 11.11.1 **EMHS – Bangor ON Datacenter** (HCP# 46663)
 - 11.11.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for a SIP service (or equivalent) that supports 100 concurrent calls with a dedicated or protected private circuit to the carrier’s softswitch network.
 - 11.11.1.2 SIP (or equivalent) configuration details will be negotiated with the carrier after selection.
 - 11.11.2 **EMHS – Brunswick ON Datacenter** (HCP# 49490)
 - 11.11.2.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for a SIP service (or equivalent) that supports 50 concurrent calls with a dedicated or protected private circuit to the carrier’s softswitch network.
 - 11.11.2.2 SIP (or equivalent) configuration details will be negotiated with the carrier after selection.
- 11.12 Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems seeks bids for Primary Rate Interface (PRI) Services (or equivalent) at the following eligible sites:
 - 11.12.1 **Inland Hospital** (HCP#13641)
 - 11.12.1.1 A quantity of four PRI circuits (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.2 **Cianchette Building** (HCP# 23578)
 - 11.12.2.1 A quantity of three PRI circuits (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.3 **Mercy Hospital** (HCP# 23718)
 - 11.12.3.1 A quantity of three PRI circuits (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.4 **Eastern Maine Medical Center** (HCP# 23535)
 - 11.12.4.1 A quantity of six PRI circuits (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.5 **The Aroostook Medical Center** (HCP# 10801)
 - 11.12.5.1 A quantity of two PRI circuits (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.6 **Blue Hill Memorial Hospital** (HCP# 13663)
 - 11.12.6.1 A quantity of one PRI circuit (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.7 **Sebasticook Valley Health** (HCP# 26485)
 - 11.12.7.1 A quantity of one PRI circuit (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.8 **Mayo Regional Hospital** (HCP# 23618)
 - 11.12.8.1 A quantity of two PRI circuit (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.9 **MCMH-Main Hospital** (HCP# 11526)
 - 11.12.9.1 A quantity of two PRI circuit (or equivalent) is required.
 - 11.12.10 **MCH-Primary Care** (HCP# 26452)

- 11.12.10.1A quantity of one PRI circuit (or equivalent) is required.
- 11.13 **Dedicated Internet Access:**
- ~~11.13.1 **Inland Hospital** (HCP# 13641)~~
- ~~11.13.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 500 Mbps~~
- ~~11.13.2 **Sebasticook Valley Health** (HCP# 26485)~~
- ~~11.13.2.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **25 Mbps** to 500 Mbps~~
- 11.13.3 **EMHS – Brunswick ON Datacenter** (HCP# 49490)
- 11.13.3.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **1 Gbps** to 10 Gbps.
- 11.13.3.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided with 10 Gbps interface speed.
- 11.13.4 **Eastern Maine Medical Center** (HCP# 23535)
- 11.13.4.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **500 Mbps** to 2 Gbps.
- 11.13.4.2 Pricing for all bandwidths should be provided with 10 Gbps interface speed.
- 11.13.5 **Acadia Healthcare Belfast** (HCP# 49474)
- 11.13.5.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available asymmetrical bandwidths.
- 11.14 **MCMH-Main Hospital** (HCP# 11526) requires dedicated Single Mode Leased Fiber (or equivalent) that connects the following location.
- 11.14.1 **EMHS - Bangor ON Datacenter** (HCP# 65088)
- 11.1.1.1 One Pair (or equivalent)
- ~~11.15 **EMMC** (HCP# 23535) requires dedicated Single Mode Leased Fiber (or equivalent) that connects the following location:~~
- ~~11.1.2 **Administration** – 16 Godfrey Drive., Orono, ME~~
- ~~11.1.2.1 One Pair (or equivalent)~~
- 11.16 **MCMH-Main Hospital** (HCP# 11526) requires a point-to-point connection (or equivalent) to all the following locations.
- 11.16.1 **MCMH- Ellsworth Rehabilitation** (HCP# 71326)
- 11.16.1.1 Vendor shall provide pricing for all available symmetrical bandwidth increments from **50 Mbps** to 500 Mbps.

12. Miscellaneous Fees

- 12.1 Responding Vendor shall state the Universal Service Fund fee or percentage if applicable. If applicable, Responding Vendor shall define the charge and describe how it is calculated.
- 12.2 Because NETC obtains federal subsidies on costs identified through the RFP process, it is critical for the Responding Vendor to provide an accurate estimate of all costs that may be incurred by HCPs, including non-recurring costs, monthly recurring costs, taxes, and fees that may apply.

- 12.3 The Responding Vendor should define those charges and describe how they are calculated so that NETC can include all anticipated costs in the subsidy request under the Healthcare Connect Fund program.

13. Evergreen Contracts

- 13.1 NETC wishes to maximize the opportunity to obtain Evergreen contracts that result from this RFP; therefore, the following provisions should be included in final contract language:
- 13.1.1 It should refer to itself as a Master Services Agreement;
 - 13.1.2 It should specify Net 45-day payment terms;
 - 13.1.3 It should be signed by the individual Billing Entity;
 - 13.1.4 It should specify the service type, bandwidth, and quantity;
 - 13.1.5 It should specify the term of the contract;
 - 13.1.6 It should specify the cost of services to be provided;
 - 13.1.7 It should include the physical addresses or other identifying information of the HCPs purchasing from the agreement;
 - 13.1.8 It should specify that upon reaching the end of the original contract term that services will continue at the same rates as during the contract term;
 - 13.1.9 It should specify that extension of services beyond the original contract term is automatic unless sufficient notification to terminate is given by either party;
 - 13.1.10 It should contain language that allows for Site and Service Substitutions pursuant to Appendix D, 47 C.F.R. § 54.646. The Responding Vendor shall allow the Billing Entity to add sites and/or upgrade, change, or relocate services and/or bandwidth. This language permits the billing entity to make network changes without going to competitive bid.

14. Billing

- 14.1 Northern Light shall be the billing entity.
- 14.2 Responding Vendor shall describe their capability to provide for duplicate electronic or paper billing.
- 14.3 Reimbursement for network services must comply with Healthcare Connect Fund rules and procedures, and the terms of payment must accommodate USAC billing and payment timeframes. Initial payments are contingent upon delivery of service.
- 14.4 Each Responding Vendor must clearly and specifically state their understanding of and adherence to the FCC/USAC Healthcare Connect Fund payment procedures.
- 14.5 ACH Transfer will be the preferred method of payment.
- 14.6 Additional Fees:
- 14.6.1 Proposing Vendor must include all fees and taxes that will be assessed on any services provided to Northern Light .

14.6.2 Successful Vendors must agree that Late Fees will not be assessed against the portion of the invoice funded by USAC.

15. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

- 15.1 NETC will select the most cost effective vendor per USAC requirements. Each Responding Vendor is encouraged to provide detailed responses to demonstrate its experience and expertise in providing Internet, Voice, Leased Fiber (or equivalent) and WAN Services. The selection will be based on all factors listed and may not go to the lowest price proposal if price is outweighed by a combination of other features and factors in the winning Responding Vendor’s proposal.
- 15.2 NETC reserves the right to select proposals that, in the sole judgment of NETC, most nearly conform to the specifications set forth herein, will best serve the needs of NETC and its participants, and provides the most cost-effective means of producing those results.
- 15.3 NETC is not obligated to accept or select any proposal received in response to this RFP. In particular, NETC may select proposals in whole or in part, or it may disqualify any and all proposals received.
- 15.4 Changes in applicable laws and rules may affect the award process or any resulting contracts. Responding Vendors are responsible for determining legal requirements and restrictions that may apply. Responding Vendors are encouraged to visit the official Federal websites pertaining to the Healthcare Connect Fund at: <http://www.universalservice.org/rhc/healthcare-connect/default.aspx>
- 15.5 The selection decisions made by NETC and reported to USAC under this RFP are final.
- 15.6 NETC will evaluate proposals and select vendors based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Scoring Weight
Costs	20%
Ease of Implementation	20%
Experience with Vendor	20%
Technical Merit of Proposal	20%
Compliance with HCF Payment Process and Rules	20%

15.6.1 Costs may include, among other things, monthly recurring costs, non-recurring costs, taxes and fees, the termination liability associated with existing contractual obligations, and any additional costs that the HCP may potentially realize based on any given vendor selection.

15.6.2 In evaluating Ease of Implementation, the Consortium will consider, among other things, the time to install, the disruption of existing services, the complexity of the installation, HCP requirements proposed by the vendor, and the impact on healthcare operations.

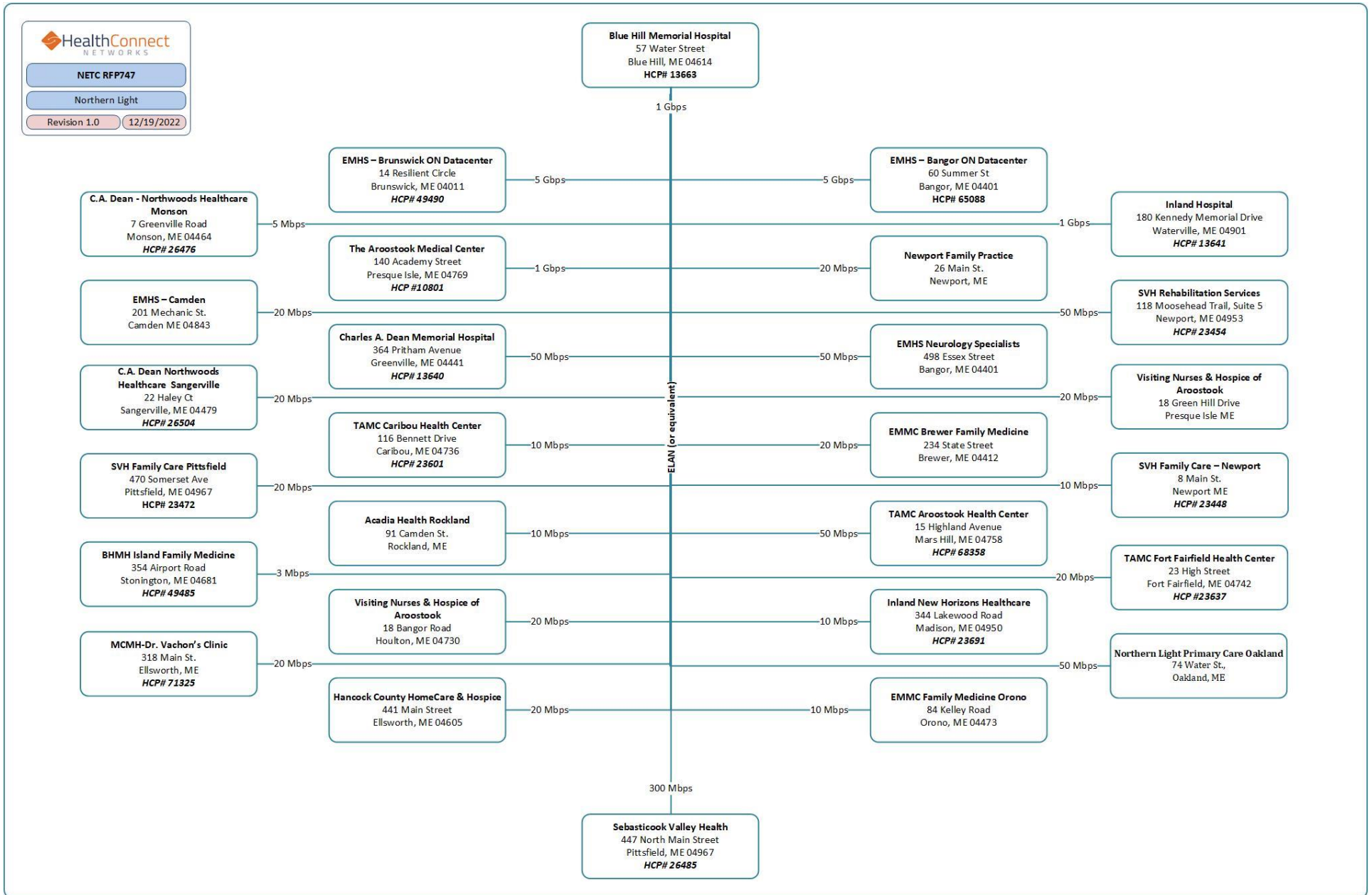
15.6.3 With regard to Experience with Vendor, the Consortium will score vendors based on guidance from the Healthcare Connect Fund Order and the following criteria:

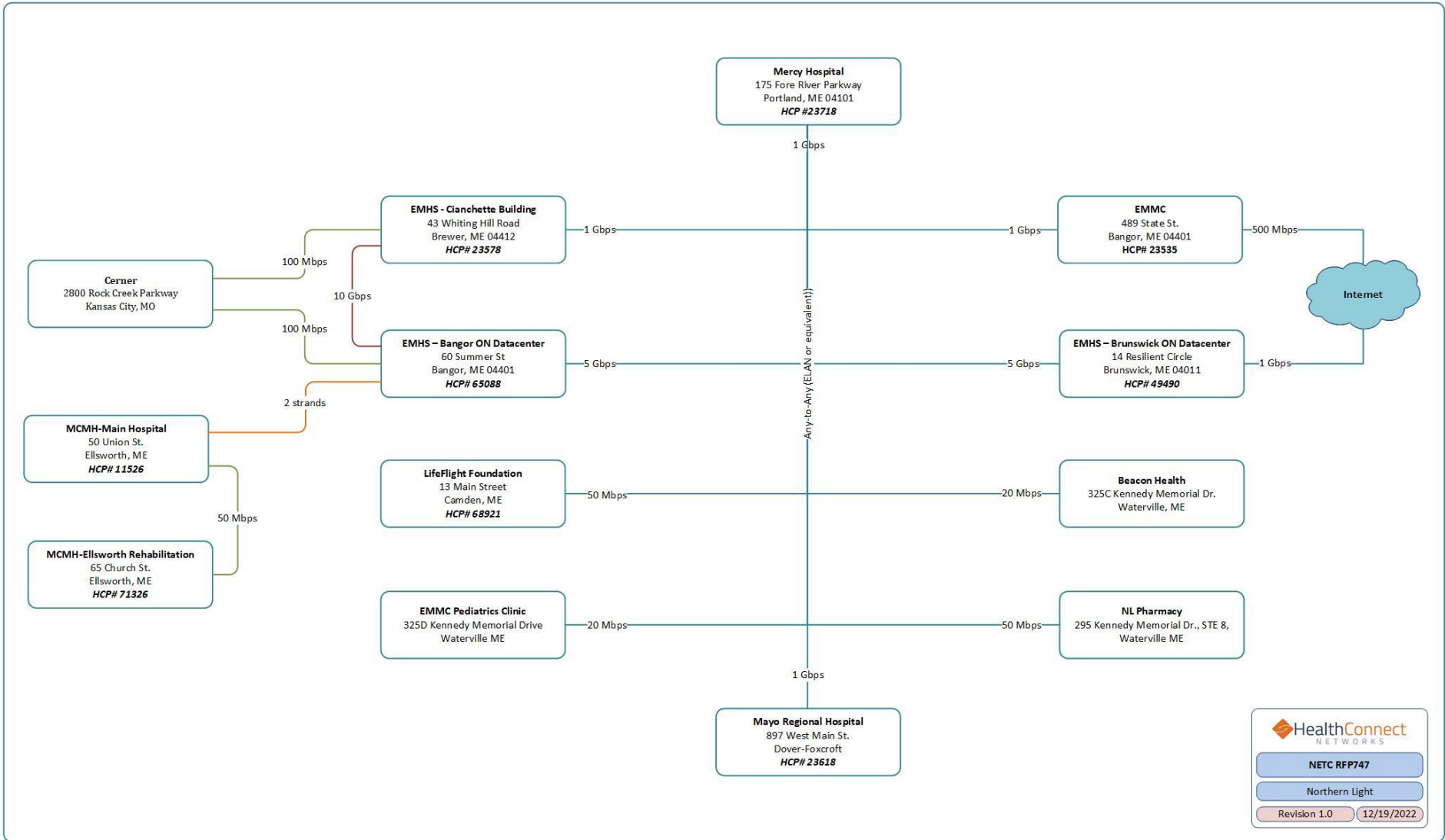
- 15.6.3.1 The bid evaluator’s previous experience with the service provider or proposing vendor.
 - 15.6.3.2 References from Customers of the Proposing Vendor for similar projects of the same size and scope.
 - 15.6.3.3 Documentation from the proposing vendor that demonstrates the vendor’s experience with similar projects of the same size and scope.
- 15.6.4 Technical Merit of Proposal scores will be assigned based on how well the proposed solution meets the current Healthcare needs of the HCP. This may include, among other things, service level agreement language, technology description, continuity of network platform, diversity and redundancy in the service provider’s network, diversity from existing services, transport technology, reliability, technical support capabilities, the availability of local technicians and repair garages, scalability, expandability, and future network capabilities.
- 15.6.5 Compliance with HCF Payment Process and Rules, scores will either receive full points or zero points for this criterion, depending on whether the vendor agrees to comply with the process.


16. Rejection/Negotiation Rights

- 16.1 NETC reserves the right to disqualify any proposals for substantial non-compliance with the terms of this RFP. NETC reserves the right to accept or negotiate the contractual terms of any proposal(s) in response to this RFP.
- 16.2 NETC reserves the right to select multiple service providers, including which circuits each HCP will purchase from selected service providers.

Appendix A: Current Northern Light Diagram






NETC RFP747
 Northern Light
 Revision 1.0 12/19/2022

