

# Improving Prioritization Methods and Metrics for Rural Appalachian Highways RFP Questions & Answers

May 22, 2026

**Q: Would a university outside the Appalachian Region be at a disadvantage compared with applicants located within the region, either as the lead applicant or as a team member?**

**A:** A university located outside the Appalachian Region is eligible to submit a proposal for this opportunity.

**Q: If a proposal includes collaboration with entities located within the Appalachian Region, would the identity or geographic location of the lead organization affect the review process?**

**A:** The evaluation factors for proposals are those listed in Section VI of the RFP.

**Q: Is there a preference regarding the organization type of a proposal's lead and/or team members, such as universities, nonprofit organizations, consulting firms or other private-sector entities?**

**A:** All types of entities listed in this question are eligible to submit a proposal for this opportunity.

**Q: What is the allowed overhead rate?**

**A:** Organizations should use their standard overhead rate for proposals.

**Q: Is there cost share requirement?**

**A:** There is no cost share requirement for this activity.

**Q: Is there a requirement for letters of demand from regional partners?**

**A:** No, there is no requirement for letters of demand from regional partners.

**Q: Under RFP Section IV. Technical, Management, and Cost Proposal Contents (p. 6), ARC states that “organizational background materials” do not count towards the 25-page limit. Can “organizational background materials” be further defined and do they relate to any of the subheaders listed under Section IV. Subsection B. Management Proposal (p. 7)?**

**A:** This refers to the samples of similar completed work products, similar reports, or final deliverables mentioned in Section IV., Subsection B., iv. Relevant Prior Experience.

**Q: Is ARC interested in methods to make both ADHS and other rural highway projects more competitive?**

**A:** As noted in the “Purpose” section of the RFP: "The proposed study shall build on past work with a focus on identifying and advancing the benefit concepts, methods and relevant data sources to support more competitive project prioritization and benefit-cost analysis (BCA) for ADHS and rural highway projects."

**Q: This RFP was discussed at a recent Network Appalachia meeting. Are there any relevant materials from that event that can be shared for review?**

**A:** A relevant presentation from Network Appalachia is available [here](#).

**Q: Will ARC provide estimates for cost of construction of remaining ADHS segments, or actual costs (e.g. per-mile) of recent or in-progress ADHS segments? Or should proposers include efforts to estimate construction costs for scenarios?**

**A:** The total cost of completing the remaining ADHS Corridors is provided in the *2025 ADHS Cost-to-Complete Estimate Report*, which is available on ARC's website at: <https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ADHS-2025-Cost-to-Complete-Estimate-Report.pdf>

These estimates include engineering, right-of-way and construction costs, as appropriate. ARC does not maintain project-level cost data. This information may be available from State Departments of Transportation.

**Q: Should proposers apply developed benefit metrics to projects in urbanized areas of the region with greater levels of traffic and congestion, as points of comparison? Or will the developed metrics be only applied to ADHS segment examples?**

**A:** The proposed metrics would be used for both urban and rural projects, but would focus on the unique needs and challenges of rural areas. Each proposer should outline the approach and comparisons that will best meet the goals of the study.

**Q: Has ARC already developed, purchased or maintained any large datasets related to subjects like commodity flows, origin-destination flows or business establishments that could impact the design of a prioritization methodology?**

**A:** ARC does not have any datasets related to trade or commodity flows, origin-destination flows, or business establishments. Proposers can access publicly available data synthesized by ARC here: <https://www.arc.gov/research-and-data/>

A recent ARC report, *Network Appalachia: Freight, Trade, and Economic Development*, includes commodity flows in Appalachia:

<https://www.arc.gov/report/network-appalachia-freight-trade-and-economic-development/>