

**County of Lancaster
Request for ARPA Funding**

Organization: Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13

Date: 6/23/2022

Submitted By: Matt Stem, Executive Director

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Please attach any supporting documentation. Submission should be in PDF Format.

<p>Project/Item Description</p>	<p>IU13 leads a local Wide Area Network Consortium as a value-add to our member districts and nonpublic schools; by joining the WAN Consortium, schools and districts can leverage collective buying power and collaboration. The IU13 WAN serves approximately 50,000 Lancaster County public and private students enrolled at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cocalico School District ● Conestoga Valley School District ● Donegal School District ● Ephrata Area School District ● Elizabethtown Area School District ● Hempfield School District ● Lampeter-Strasburg School District ● Manheim Central School District ● Manheim Township School District ● Pequea Valley School District ● Solanco School District ● Hinkletown Mennonite School ● The Janus School ● Kraybill Mennonite School ● La Academia Partnership Charter School ● Lancaster Country Day School ● Lancaster Mennonite School ● The Stone Independent School <p>The IU13 Wide Area Network firewalls provide the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Network cybersecurity ● CIPA (Children's internet Protection Act) compliant Web content filtering ● Staff and student remote access to school resources for at home/hybrid learning ● 40 Gbps or more of safe Internet bandwidth capacity to schools ● Detailed network logging and analysis ● Malware protection <p>These benefits allow students to have safe, fast, and reliable internet for online learning from home or school.</p> <p>The current WAN firewall system is 4 years old and will reach its planned end-of-life in 1 more year. At that time, software licenses and technical support will expire and the system will cease to function. Furthermore, demand for reliable WAN services is increasing dramatically year-over-year as schools incorporate more online resources in their in-person teaching and also experience increased demand for remote teaching/learning. The current WAN system is near the top of its capacity, and occasionally seizes up during periods of extremely high demand, causing an interruption of service to students and staff.</p> <p>IU13 therefore respectfully requests ARPA funding to support the replacement aging Internet firewalls for the IU13 Wide Area Network. We will replace our current WAN system components with newer, more capable components that will approximately double the Internet speed and capacity for our schools and provide for anticipated expansion of the WAN to additional Lancaster County schools beyond those listed above.</p>
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Estimated Cost – how cost was derived & provision of partner funds (who is providing, how much and show commitments).

The estimated total cost of this project is \$2.1 million, based on vendor quotes, including PEPPM/COSTARS master contract pricing that was competitively bid. IU13 seeks \$863,550 in Lancaster County ARPA funding for the initial purchase/licensing of the new WAN components; the remainder of the cost will be supported by the IU13 Wide Area Network Consortium. Any ongoing licensing/maintenance costs will be provided by the IU13 Wide Area Network Consortium budget.

	The following are attached to this request: 1) vendor quotes; 2) documentation of IU13's commitment to fund the balance of the project
Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrastructure (water, sewer, broadband) ● Technology modernization ● Safety
Briefly explain how the project meets the <u>County's</u> guidelines.	<p>This project meets Lancaster County's ARPA guidelines in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It falls under the objectives of "Infrastructure," "Technology Modernization," and "Safety" 2) It will immediately support the educational needs of over 50,000 students across Lancaster County, as well as their teachers, and will enable to that number to grow as demand for online learning (in school or at home) increases 3) ARPA funds will not fully fund this project; IU13 programs will bear a portion of the startup cost and the entirety of ongoing licensing/maintenance costs 4) IU13 is requesting one-time funding from the County for this project
Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.	<p>The demand for fast, reliable, and safe internet in the schools served by the IU13 Wide Area Network has grown steadily by 40% per year over the last several years. COVID-19 caused a large shift in how the network is used to deliver instruction, and a high capacity network has become more important than ever. While other entities are working to increase broadband access to homes, IU13's WAN Consortium works to maintain a modern core network infrastructure to ensure that current and future internet connections can be leveraged efficiently and safely. When the Wide Area Network has sufficient capacity to meet the needs of our schools, students and educators will be able to learn and teach effectively and make use of all of the digital learning resources they can. By making ARPA funds available for this project, Lancaster County will benefit thousands of students and educators and also reduce costs to Lancaster County schools and districts.</p>
Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?	<p>This project will not have large ongoing expenses. The largest expense will be the up-front cost to purchase/install necessary hardware and the initial licensing cost of those new components. Once installed, the WAN firewall upgrades will last for five years.</p> <p>After the initial purchase, there will be ongoing annual software license costs; these will be minimal compared to the up-front hardware cost, and will be shared among the members of the IU13 WAN Consortium.</p>
Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.	<p>The current firewalls are due to be replaced in July 2023, before the start of the 2023-24 school year.</p> <p>Funding will be needed by November 2022 in order to purchase components in February-March 2023 and have them ready to install in July 2023, before the start of the 2023-24 school year. (We are trying to anticipate supply chain delays with this timeline.)</p>
Are there other organizations a part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why?	<p>The IU13 Wide Area Network Consortium is a main organizational stakeholder in this project. IU13 leads this group, which includes the public school districts and private schools listed on the previous page. Members of the IU13 WAN Consortium share all costs incurred by the Consortium; for this project, Lancaster County ARPA funding will cover approximately 50% (\$863,550) of the initial cost and the IU13 WAN Consortium will cover the remaining cost. Documentation of this commitment is attached to this proposal.</p>
ARPA Committee Comments	
ARPA Committee Recommendation	
Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval)	\$