

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Contract Amendment for Broadband Connectivity**  
**FY 2025-26, FY26-27, FY27-28, FY28-29, FY 29-30, FY 30-31**

**Request:** The State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) is asked to approve an amendment to the Broadband Connectivity contract with MCNC to provide internet access to the System Office, all fifty-eight (58) community college main campus', enhance network security, hosting computer services, video conferencing software, and extend the contract for an additional five (5) years for an amount not to exceed \$21,250,000.

**Strategic Plan Reference:** Goal 5: System Funding and Effectiveness. Increase state aid funding allocations, streamline the allocation formula, and implement practices to improve system effectiveness.  
Strategy 5.3.1

**Background:** In 2011, the State Board initiated a 1-year contract with MCNC to provide all community college main campuses with broadband data service and video services. The contract provided two 1-year renewal options, ending on June 30, 2014. In November of 2013, the contract was extended for one year with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods with a 5% reduction in cost per year and enhancements to the services previously offered. The contract was again amended in January 2017 for an additional 4-year period with enhancements to existing services at a reduced cost. The contract was again amended in September 2019 (FC 02) for an additional 5-year period. The proposed amendment extends the contract for an additional 5-year period without an increase in annual cost.

MCNC is an independent non-profit organization that operates the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN). NCREN provides broadband data and video services to the UNC System, the NC Public Schools, the NC Community College System, many private colleges and universities, government organizations and other non-profit organizations. Broadband, in this context, is defined as the continuous connection of colleges' main campuses to a high-speed network that supports data communications.

**Rationale:** MCNC, through its operation of NCREN, provides a minimum of 100Mbps committed capacity for the main campus at each NC Community College, burstable to 1Gbps with a guaranteed availability of 99.95% uptime, latency of less than 25ms, and a mean response time for repairs of 3 hours or less for all outages. Up to twenty (20) colleges will be provided bandwidth up to 10Gb, as needed. MCNC provides and manages routers on all main campuses, unlimited commodity Internet access and Internet2 access, a Network Operations Center with 24-hour access to support and provides college access to a secure portal for network performance monitoring and support. Provides 1Gbps capacity for the NC Community College System Office, and cost for building the infrastructure to the Caswell building. Provide enhanced internet security, video conferencing software and computer server space. The enhanced internet security is managed by MCNC. The software that allows us to broadcast these meetings over the Internet. The computer server space provides redundancy using a

secondary location to house NCCCS servers in case of a catastrophic event within our cloud provider.

**Method of Procurement:** In accordance with the procurement practice of the State of North Carolina, approval is being sought by outside purchasing authorities. Approval of the Amendment by the State Board is contingent upon approval by the procurement approval process.

**Contract Amount and Time Period:** The contract amount will not exceed \$21,250,000 for the period January 3, 2026, through January 2, 2031.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Qty/Hrs</b>	<b>Annual Quote</b>	<b>Total</b>
Amendment 5 Year 1	12 months	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000
Amendment 5 Year 2	12 months	\$4,250,000	\$8,500,000
Amendment 5 Year 3	12 months	\$4,250,000	\$12,750,000
Amendment 5 Year 4	12 months	\$4,250,000	\$17,000,000
Amendment 5 Year 5	12 months	\$4,250,000	\$21,250,000

**Fund Source and Availability:** Funding is contingent upon the availability of General Fund appropriations

**Contact(s):**

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