



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 3159

Colocation Data Center Services

Prepared by

Community College of Allegheny County

Purchasing Department – Office of College Services

800 Allegheny Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO

mcvetic@ccac.edu NO LATER THAN

February 18, 2026, at 12:00 NOON

Submit proposals to: mcvetic@ccac.edu **NO LATER THAN:**

[February 25, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.](#)

Please make sure that you receive a confirmation of receipt from Mike Cvetic.

1. Introduction

The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit qualified colocation data center providers to support the migration of CCAC's on-premises data center infrastructure to a secure, resilient colocation facility. This RFP outlines the technical, operational, security, and commercial requirements for the proposed solution.

The goal of this RFP is to identify a provider that can deliver reliable colocation services within close proximity to CCAC's primary facilities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, while meeting current capacity needs and allowing for future growth.

2. Organization Overview

The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) is a public community college serving Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, with multiple campuses and learning centers. CCAC's IT Services organization supports academic, administrative, and student-facing systems that require high availability, strong security controls, and reliable network connectivity.

This colocation initiative is part of a broader strategy to modernize CCAC's infrastructure, improve resiliency, and reduce risk by transitioning from on-premises data center operations to a professionally managed colocation environment.

CCAC Mission Overview

The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) is committed to providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality education that supports student success, workforce development, and lifelong learning. We serve a diverse population by offering transfer programs, career and technical education, workforce training, and community enrichment opportunities that respond to regional and employer needs while promoting equity and economic mobility.

High-Level IT Environment

CCAC operates a distributed, enterprise IT environment that supports academic instruction, student services, and administrative operations across multiple campuses and learning centers. Our technology ecosystem includes a mix of centralized student information system (SIS), learning management system (LMS), enterprise resource planning (ERP) platforms, and cloud-based collaboration tools.

The IT environment integrates on-premises and cloud infrastructure, with a focus on secure network connectivity, identity and access management, data protection, and system availability. Information Technology Services (ITS) supports instructional technologies, administrative systems, cybersecurity, and end-user computing, enabling both in-person and online learning while ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory and data-privacy requirements.

3. RFP Schedule (Tentative)

- RFP Issued: February 4, 2026
- Vendor Questions Due: February 18, 2026
- Responses to Vendor Questions: February 20, 2026
- Proposal Submission Deadline: February 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
- Vendor Presentations / Site Tours (if required): Early March 2026
- Vendor Selection: March 16, 2026
- Target Service Start Date: April 1, 2026

4. Facility Location Requirements

To support operational efficiency, staff access, and risk management, CCAC has defined both **preferred** and **acceptable** geographic ranges for the colocation facility.

4.1 Preferred Location Range

- Facility located within 75 miles of **800 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233**
- Sites within this range will be given **preference during evaluation**
- Preference reflects reduced staff travel time, faster emergency response, and simplified logistics

4.2 Acceptable Location Range

- Facility located **greater than 75 miles but no more than 250 miles** from **800 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233**

4.3 Location Disclosure Requirements

Vendors must provide:

- Facility street address
- Distance from the reference location (in miles)
- Details on parking, loading dock access, and equipment delivery procedures

5. Space and Power Requirements

5.1 Cabinet and Cage Requirements

- Dedicated **private cage** (not shared space)
- Capacity for **4 30-inch-wide cabinets and 4 24-inch-wide cabinets, with a minimum of 36-inch clearance on at least three sides.**
- Lockable cage with electronic RFID or Biometrics controlled access
- Minimum aisle clearance meeting industry best practices

5.2 Power Requirements

- Total committed power: **35kW**
- Redundant power design (N+1 or better)
- Dual power feeds to each cabinet (A/B power)
- Metered power usage per each facility provided rack receptacle
- Clearly state power pricing model (per kW, per cabinet, burst options, etc.)

5.3 Secure Storage Space for Spare Equipment

The colocation provider must support **secure storage space** for CCAC owned spare equipment.

Requirements include:

- Storage space located **within CCAC's private cage** or in a **separate secure, access-controlled storage area** within the facility

- Suitable for spare servers, network equipment, optics, cables, and related hardware
- Access restricted to CCAC & Facility authorized personnel only
- Clearly describe size, configuration, and any limitations of the storage space
- Identify whether storage space is included or offered as an additional service and provide associated pricing

5.4 In-Cage Workspace (Table and Chair)

CCAC **prefers** the ability to place a small table/workbench and chair within the private cage to support maintenance, staging, and troubleshooting activities.

Vendors must indicate:

- Whether a CCAC-provided table and chair are permitted within the cage
- Any size, material, or placement restrictions
- Any applicable safety or fire-code requirements

6. Cooling Requirements

- Cooling capacity sufficient to support 35kW IT load
- Hot aisle / cold aisle containment (preferred)
- Redundant cooling infrastructure (N+1 or better)
- Environmental monitoring (temperature and humidity)

7. Network and Connectivity

Vendors should describe available connectivity options, including:

- Carrier-neutral facility (required)
- List of available carriers and ISPs
- Redundant meet-me rooms and diverse fiber entry paths
- Cross-connect options (single-mode fiber preferred)
- Internet bandwidth options and pricing models
- Support for private connectivity (e.g., cloud on-ramps such as AWS, Azure, GCP, if available)

7.1 Internet and BGP Requirements

The colocation provider **must** support enterprise-grade Internet connectivity that allows CCAC to maintain full control of its public IP address space and routing policy.

Minimum requirements include:

- Support for **Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)** peering
- Ability for CCAC to advertise its **owned public IPv4 address space (/16)**
- Ability for CCAC to peer using its **public BGP Autonomous System Number (ASN)**
- No requirement for provider-owned NAT for Internet-facing services
- Support for redundant BGP sessions across diverse routers and paths
- Clear documentation of supported routing policies, prefix limits, and filtering

Providers should specify:

- Supported BGP configurations (single-homed, multi-homed)
- Number of BGP peers included and any associated costs
- Default route and full-routing table options
- DDoS protection services available (inline or on-demand)

8. Security Requirements

8.1 Physical Security

- 24x7 staffed facility
- Multi-factor access controls (badge, biometric, etc.)
- CCTV coverage of common areas with retention period specified
- Visitor access procedures and escort policies
- Secure loading and staging areas

8.1.1 Customer-Owned Cage Camera Requirements

The colocation provider **must permit and support the installation of customer-owned and customer-operated IP video cameras** within CCAC's private cage.

Minimum requirements include:

- Authorization for CCAC to install and operate its own IP cameras within the private cage
- Camera placement must allow visibility of:

- Cage entrance door(s)
 - Front of all CCAC racks
 - Rear of all CCAC racks
- Cameras will be installed and managed by CCAC and remain CCAC property
- Network connectivity for cameras will be provided via CCAC owned network equipment within the cage
- Provider must document any reasonable physical or electrical constraints (mounting methods, cabling pathways, etc.) in advance

Vendors must clearly state:

- Any policies or approval processes related to customer-installed cameras
- Any restrictions on camera type, mounting, or field of view
- Any associated fees or requirements related to installation

8.2 Compliance and Certifications

Please indicate current compliance certifications, such as:

- SOC 1 / SOC 2 Type II
- ISO 27001
- PCI-DSS (if applicable)
- Any additional relevant certifications

9. Reliability and Resiliency

- Facility Tier classification (e.g., Uptime Institute Tier II/III/IV)
- Utility power redundancy
- Generator capacity and fuel run-time on site
- Refueling providers and SLA times
- UPS architecture and maintenance procedures
- Historical uptime statistics (past 24–36 months)

10. Operations and Support

- 24x7 on-site support availability
- Remote hands services (basic and advanced)
- SLAs for response times and service delivery
- Change management and maintenance notification procedures

10.1 Remote Hands Services – Scope and Billing

The colocation provider must offer **24x7 Remote Hands services** to support CCAC operations.

Vendors must clearly distinguish between **included (no-cost)** services and **billable** services.

Vendors must provide:

- Hourly rates and minimum billing increments
- Request submission process and authorization requirements
- SLA targets for Remote Hands response times

10.2 Emergency Access and After-Hours SLA

The colocation provider must support **emergency access** to CCAC equipment outside of normal business hours, including during adverse conditions.

Requirements include:

- **24x7 access** for authorized CCAC personnel
- Defined procedures for emergency access requests
- On-site staff availability for escorting during emergencies
- Support during regional weather events (snow, flooding, severe storms)

Vendors must disclose:

- Any access restrictions during severe weather or declared emergencies
- Historical performance during past regional weather events
- Escalation paths and on-call management contacts

11. Migration and Onboarding Support

- Assistance with initial move-in and rack placement options
- Available working space during migration options
- Move-in coordination and scheduling process

11.1 Receiving, Asset Handling, and Chain of Custody

The colocation provider should support secure and auditable receiving and handling of CCAC owned equipment.

Requirements include:

- Ability to receive shipments on behalf of CCAC during normal business hours
- Secure holding/storage of received equipment prior to installation
- Clearly defined **maximum storage duration** before additional fees apply
- Documented **chain-of-custody procedures**, including:
 - Shipment receipt confirmation
 - Secure storage controls
 - Authorized release to CCAC personnel only
- Notification process upon shipment arrival
- Procedures for damaged, misdelivered, or unexpected shipments

Vendors must describe:

- Receiving address and labeling requirements
- Storage conditions and physical security controls
- Any fees associated with receiving, storage, or handling

11.2 On-Site Tools, Ladders, and Crash Carts

CCAC prefers facilities that provide access to common data center tools to support installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting activities.

Vendors should indicate availability of:

- Step ladders or rolling ladders suitable for standard 45U cabinets
- Crash carts or mobile workstations
- Shared basic tools (e.g., screwdrivers, cage keys, cable management tools), if available

Vendors must clearly state:

- Whether these items are included or available upon request
- Any restrictions, liability considerations, or usage policies
- Whether CCAC is permitted to store its own ladders, crash carts, or tools within the private cage

12. Pricing and Commercial Terms

Vendors must provide clear and detailed pricing for:

- Cabinet and cage space
- Power (35kW committed)
- Cross-connects and connectivity
- Remote hands services
- One-time setup or installation fees
- Contract term options (e.g., 1-year, 3-year, 5-year)
- Annual escalation clauses, if any

Pricing should be provided in a structured and easy-to-compare format.

13. Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

Please include details on:

- Power availability SLA
- Cooling SLA
- Network SLA (if applicable)
- Service credits for SLA violations

14. Future Scalability

Describe the ability to support future growth, including:

- Additional cabinets and power
- Higher-density deployments
- Expansion within the same facility or campus

15. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals should include:

- Executive summary
- Detailed response to each RFP section
- Facility datasheet
- Sample contract and SLA documents
- References (minimum of three similar customers)

16. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using a **weighted scoring matrix** to ensure a fair, transparent, and objective comparison aligned with CCAC’s operational and strategic priorities.

16.1 Weighted Scoring Matrix

Category	Description	Weight
Location	Proximity to CCAC, preferred vs acceptable range, accessibility, emergency travel considerations	20%
Power & Facility Infrastructure	Power capacity, redundancy, cooling, scalability, Tier rating	20%
Network – Internet Connectivity	BGP support, CCAC owned /16 IP advertisement, public ASN support, routing resiliency	12%
Network – Cross-Connects	Carrier diversity, meet-me rooms, fiber entry diversity, cross-connect options and pricing	8%
Network – Cloud Connectivity	Availability of cloud on-ramps (AWS, Azure, GCP), redundancy, latency	5%
Operations & Support	Security, remote hands, emergency access SLAs, receiving & asset handling, tools	20%
Cost & Commercial Terms	Transparency, competitiveness, contract flexibility, escalation clauses	15%

Total | | 100% |

16.2 Scoring Methodology

- Each category will be scored on a standardized numeric scale (e.g., 1–5 or 1–10)
- Scores will be multiplied by the assigned weight to calculate a weighted total
- Vendors meeting **preferred** requirements may receive higher scores
- Failure to meet any **mandatory (pass/fail)** requirement may result in disqualification regardless of score

16.3 Mandatory Requirements (Pass/Fail Compliance Checklist)

The following requirements are **mandatory** and will be evaluated on a **pass/fail** basis. Vendors must explicitly indicate compliance.

Requirement	Pass	Fail
Facility within acceptable 250-mile range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dedicated private cage with electronic lock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity for 4 30-inch-wide cabinets and 4 24-inch-wide cabinets, with a minimum of 36-inch clearance on at least three sides.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35kW committed power with A/B feeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BGP support with CCAC owned /16 IP space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support for CCAC public ASN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Customer-owned IP cameras permitted in cage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24x7 staffed facility and emergency access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure receiving and documented chain of custody	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16.4 Executive Summary Scoring View (One Page)

Vendors must include a **one-page executive summary** intended for executive leadership review.

At a minimum, the executive summary must include:

- Facility location and distance from CCAC reference address
- Summary of space, power, and scalability
- Network capabilities overview (Internet/BGP, cross-connects, cloud connectivity)
- Key operational strengths and differentiators
- Total estimated monthly and annual recurring cost
- Any exceptions or deviations from RFP requirements

CCAC will use this executive summary to facilitate high-level comparison and decision-making.

17. Submission Instructions

- Proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF format
- Submission deadline: February 25, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
- Submit proposals to: mcvetic@ccac.edu. Please make sure that you receive a confirmation of receipt from Mike Cvetic.

18. Terms and Conditions

The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, request additional information, and negotiate terms with selected vendors. Submission of a proposal does not constitute a commitment to award a contract.

All services must comply with applicable Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regulations, CCAC policies, and relevant public-sector procurement requirements.

19. MWDBE Participation: CCAC is committed to providing maximum opportunities for qualified minority-owned business enterprises (“MBE’s”), economically disadvantaged group-owned business enterprises (“DBE’s”), and/or women-owned business enterprises (“WBE’s”), and has established an overall goal of having 13% MBE and 7% WBE/DBE participation in its contracts and external procurements. In accordance with these goals, responding firms are asked to include the following information in their submissions: (1) if applicable, proof of certification as an MBE/WBE/DBE business or, if qualified but not yet certified, actions that it will take to obtain appropriate certification as an MBE, WBE or DBE; and (2) actions that it will take to ensure that MBE, WBE DBE’s are appropriately considered as subcontractors, if applicable.

20. Awardee Documents:

Insurance Requirements in accordance with the attached “Form B”.

Master Services Agreement (see attached).

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
800 ALLEGHENY AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

FORM B

Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC), its agents, officers, employees, and volunteers from and against all claims, damages, losses, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney fees and court costs) arising from the acts, errors, mistakes, omissions, work or service of Contractor, its agents, employees, or any tier of its subcontractors in the performance of this Contract. The amount and type of insurance coverage requirements of this Contract will in no way be construed as limiting the scope of indemnification in this Paragraph.

Insurance. Contractor shall maintain during the term of this Contract insurance policies described below issued by companies licensed in Pennsylvania with a current A.M. Best rating of A- or better. At the signing of this Contract, and prior to the commencement of any work, Contractor shall furnish the CCAC Purchasing Department with a **Certificate of Insurance** evidencing the required coverages, conditions, and limits required by this Contract at the following address: Community College of Allegheny County, Purchasing Department, 800 Allegheny Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233.

The insurance policies, except Workers' Compensation and Professional Liability, shall be endorsed to name Community College of Allegheny County, its agents, officers, employees, and volunteers as Additional Insureds with the following language or its equivalent:

Community College of Allegheny County, its agents, officers, employees, and volunteers are hereby named as additional insureds as their interest may appear.

All such Certificates shall provide a 30-day notice of cancellation. Renewal Certificates must be provided for any policies that expire during the term of this Contract. Certificate must specify whether coverage is written on an Occurrence or a Claims Made Policy form.

Insurance coverage required under this Contract is:

- 1) **Commercial General Liability** insurance with a limit of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, property damage, personal injury, products and completed operations, and blanket contractual coverage, including but not limited to the liability assumed under the indemnification provisions of this Contract.
- 2) **Automobile Liability** insurance with a combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage of not less than \$1,000,000 each occurrence with respect to Contractor's owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles.
- 3) **Workers' Compensation** insurance with limits statutorily required by any Federal or State law and **Employer's Liability** insurance of not less than \$100,000 for each accident, \$100,000 disease for each employee, and \$500,000 disease policy limit.



MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT (Awardee only)

RFP 3159 - Colocation Data Center Services

THIS MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of this ____ day of _____, 2014, by and between **Community College of Allegheny County**, with a business office located at 800 Allegheny Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 (hereinafter referred to as the "College"), and the company or business listed on the signature page hereto (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the College has issued a Request for Quotation, Bid Solicitation, Request for Proposal, and/or a Purchase Order (hereinafter individually and collectively referred to as the "Order"), pursuant to

RFP 3159	
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which College seeks to procure certain work and services, as more fully described on the Order; and WHEREAS, Contractor has submitted a proposal to the College to provide the services described in the Order, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A (hereinafter the "Proposal") and incorporated by reference;

WHEREAS, the College desires to engage Contractor to provide the services, pursuant to and in accordance with the terms and conditions that this Agreement set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and covenants that this Agreement contains, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

1. Term. The term of this Agreement shall be as specified in the Order unless otherwise stated in the section below. If no date is specified, this Agreement shall begin with the date first stated above and terminate upon satisfactory completion of the services described herein.

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2. Services. Contractor shall fully and faithfully perform the work and services described in the Order and the Proposal and any specifications, scope of work or other documentation attached thereto. Contractor warrants that all work and services performed by or on behalf of it under this Agreement will conform to all terms and specifications set forth in the Order and in the Proposal.

3. Price/Fees: The College shall pay Contractor for the services and work performed by Contractor in accordance with the fees and/or prices set forth in the Proposal.

4. Terms and Conditions: This Agreement, and the services to be performed by Contractor hereunder, will be subject to and governed by College's Standard Terms and Conditions for the Purchase of Goods and Services ("Master Terms"), which are incorporated herein by reference. The Master Terms can be viewed and

downloaded at <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/182546862/>. By signing below, Contractor acknowledges its receipt and acceptance of the Master Terms.

5. **Insurance Requirements:** In addition to the Master Terms, Contractor shall comply with the insurance and indemnification requirements set forth on Exhibit B, which are incorporated herein by reference. Prior to commencing performance of the Services, Contractor shall furnish to the College a properly executed certificate(s) of insurance which evidence all insurance required by Exhibit B. Said certificate(s) of insurance shall be attached herein as Exhibit C.

6. **Assignment.** Contractor may not assign or subcontract this Agreement or its performance thereof, in whole or in part, without the College's prior written consent.

7. **Entire Agreement; Modification.** This Agreement, together with the Exhibits and other documents referenced and incorporated herein, sets forth the entire agreement of the parties on the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous or concurrent agreements between them, whether oral or written. Any proposal, quotation, acknowledgment, confirmation or other writing submitted by Contractor to the College shall not be deemed to amend or modify this Agreement, and will be of no legal effect except to the extent that it serves to identify the work and services to be performed by the Contractor. This Agreement, and the terms set forth in the Master Terms, will control over any conflicting terms or provisions contained in any proposal, invoice or other documentation submitted by Contractor to College. The terms of this Agreement may not be modified or changed except by a writing that both parties sign. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the College and Contractor and the College's successors and assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

CONTRACTOR:

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY:**

By: _____

By: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBITS - The following Exhibits are attached hereto and made a part of this Agreement for all purposes:

Exhibit A - Contractor's Proposal Response

Exhibit B - Insurance Requirements

Exhibit C - Contractor's Certificate(s) of Insurance.