

December 14, 2022  
**Rhode Island Commerce Corporation**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2297**

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Questions & Answers

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**New Attractions & Destinations RFP #1 – 1 of 2 RFPs**

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks proposals from qualified firms for new attractions & destination events. The goal of this initiative is to provide seed funding for development of new attractions or new recurring events located in Rhode Island. Special consideration will be given to those proposals that drive visitation from out of state during the shoulder and off-season (November – April) and propose events that operate yearly. Requests for funding should be focused on event production with no more than 10% of the allocation to administration and/or advertising for the events. Applications must include a marketing strategy and trackable metrics. Funds cannot be used for construction. This RFP will be funded with a \$1 million grant from the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration that the Corporation has received to support travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors in the State.

Question 1: The subheading on this RFP document notes that this RFP is 1 of 2 RFPs. Can you confirm that another RFP will be issued by CommerceRI? If so, is this second RFP related to the development and/or construction of tourism attractions? If not, can you share what the second RFP is for.

This first RFP limits awards to \$100,000, funded by a \$1 million grant from EDA. What will the award limit be on the second RFP? What is the total amount of funds to be granted? Will non-profits be eligible for funding under this second RFP?

Answer: The date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RFP is undermined at this time. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> RFP is released it will be for similar activities. The limits of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RFP are undetermined at this time. Non-profits will be eligible.

Question 2: Can these funds support the development of an inaugural convening of leaders of organizations from around the country that are in an industry sector that RI is looking to lead in such as life sciences/ bio, blue economy, advanced manufacturing etc.?

Answer: This is not an eligible activity under this RFP.

Question 3: If a non-profit receives a grant from this program to host an event and revenue is earned, will there be reporting requirements or restrictions on that revenue?

Answer: There would be no restrictions on revenue from the event. If awarded under this RFP there will be reporting requirements for the activities.

Question 4: Can funds be used to pay for speakers' participation in an event that will attract out of state overnight participants?

Answer: This may be eligible in conjunction with an overall event that supports new attractions and destination marketing. Please submit so it can be reviewed.

Question 5: Are there bidding requirements associated with use of the funds to pay 3 party entities?

Answer: Yes, depending on the amount of the item that is being purchased. Funding for the activities described in this RFP comes from an EDA grant, the source of which is the American Rescue Plan Act, Pub. L. 117-2. As previously set forth in the RFP, Proposers should be familiar with the requirements under the Uniform Guidance with respect to federal grants (2 C.F.R. Part 200), including procurement requirements applicable to subrecipients of federal grants: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part200?toc=1>.

Question 6: Can Commerce RI be a 'partner' in the organizing of an event?

Answer: Commerce can offer guidance to ensure that events are successful and/or make connections for additional resources.

Question 7: Can an entity submit a project proposal and also be included as a partner in a separate proposal submission?

Answer: Yes

Question 8: Is the date right in this section of the RFP? The successful Proposer(s) will enter into a contract for services with the Corporation. The duration of the initial contract between the Corporation and the successful Proposer(s) is expected to begin upon the date of contract approval (expected by December 1, 2022) and terminate on June 30, 2024.

Answer: This is a word processing error. Contracts likely would begin February 1, 2023 and terminate June 30, 2024.

All other terms and conditions of the RFP remain in place.

\*\*\*End of Addendum \*\*\*