

April 17, 2023
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
Project Name: Request for Proposals for RI Minority Business Accelerator Intermediary-Based Initiative
RFP-2307

Addendum 1

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

FOR: RI Minority Business Accelerator Intermediary-Based Initiative

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks proposals from eligible proposers to receive funding through an Intermediary-Based Initiative of the Rhode Island Minority Business Accelerator Program (“Program”). The Program is a collection of initiatives aimed at enhancing the growth of minority business enterprises (“MBEs”). The funding made available under this RFP is for the Intermediary-Based Initiative, which will support a range of assistance and programming to MBEs including technical assistance; space for programming and/or co-working; entrepreneurship and business start-up training; mentorship programming and networking opportunities; assistance related to access to capital, licensing, and registering a business; business readiness for Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion registration and government contracting; and translation services.

Prospective Proposers and all concerned are hereby notified of the following questions and answers regarding the Request for Proposals document for the above-described RFP. These questions and answers shall be incorporated in and shall become an integral part of the RFP documents.

Question 1: Is the requirement that we help business owners register their business or that we provide information regarding the best designation for their business and how they can register?

Answer: The Scope of Work includes providing assistance in registering a business with the state and/or a municipality as well as assisting with the Rhode Island Office of Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (“DEDI”) registration. However, there is no requirement that Proposers provide all of the services in the Scope of Work and there is no requirement that intermediaries help MBEs register with DEDI. However, the number of MBEs, if any, a selected Proposer has assisted to submit a complete application to become registered in the DEDI directory is one of several Key Performance Indicators, (“KPIs”) that Commerce will use to evaluate the success of the program. If a Proposer proposes to offer only one, or some, of the items in the Scope of Work, it must identify a budget line for each of the items in the Scope of Work it proposes to undertake.

Question 2: When are the awards expected to be announced?

Answer: We anticipate awards/ selected intermediaries to be announced shortly after the Corporation's May 22, 2023 Board meeting.

Question 3: What is the earliest start date that can be proposed?

Answer: The earliest start date can be July 1, 2023

Question: When is the latest end date for the period of performance?

Answer: The latest end date for the period of performance is June 30, 2024.

Question 4: Does the State expect to have continuing funding for the initiative after this award is completed?

Answer: This is to be determined.

End of Addendum