



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For: Renewing Rhode Island's Food System Plan

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation ("Corporation") seeks proposals from qualified firms to provide an updated food systems plan, building on the 2017 Rhode Island Food Strategy. The state food systems plan will establish collective goals to support the development of a more sustainable, equitable, and economically viable food system for all Rhode Islanders.

This document constitutes a Request for Proposal ("RFP"), in a competitive format, from qualified proposers. This request is an offer by the Corporation to underwrite, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP, the services proposed by the successful proposer(s), by contract.

The respondents ("Proposers") to this RFP shall provide a proposal, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein, to provide all or part of services to the Corporation as described in the Scope of Work.

Project Overview

The purpose of this RFP is to enter an agreement with a qualified consulting firm ("Proposer") to prepare an updated Food Systems Plan for the State of Rhode Island so that the Corporation, Department of Environmental Management, Department of Health, and all partners can collectively and better support the development of a more sustainable, equitable, and economically viable food system for Rhode Island residents. The Food Systems Plan will help to engage stakeholders across the food system to develop clear and measurable objectives, strategies, and metrics towards collective impact by 2030. Since the 2017 Food Strategy was launched, known as *Relish Rhody*, significant progress has been made; however, as the State emerges from the pandemic, there are important lessons to learn about building more resilient supply chains and supporting more equitable access to local and healthy foods and across Rhode Island.

Background

In 2016, concerted efforts were made to establish a statewide food strategy and hire the State's first-ever Director of Food Strategy to lead the initiative. By 2017, a five-year plan was launched charting a path for a more resilient, sustainable and equitable local food system. The State Food Strategy, *Relish Rhody*, set bold goals to: 1) grow the State's local food economy, 2) preserve and grow agriculture and seafood industries, 3) enhance the climate for food businesses, 4) minimize and divert wasted food, and 5) to ensure access to healthy and culturally relevant foods for all Rhode Islanders, particularly the State's most underserved and vulnerable populations.

Significant progress has been made towards these objectives; however, there has been considerable change to the food system landscape since 2017. Some examples of progress include:

- In 2016, the first Director of Food Strategy was hired to lead the development of a statewide food strategy. While initially funded by private foundations, the State began funding the full-time position in 2018 through the Corporation.
- The Local Agriculture & Seafood Act (LASA) grant program has awarded \$1 million+ to 101 small farmers, fishermen, and food producers. In 2021, the General Assembly increased State funding to \$700,000.
- In 2017, the Hunger Elimination Taskforce (HETF) was launched to convene state agencies, non-profits, and community leaders to address food access and nutrition security issues.
- The State has invested over \$25 million+ in economic incentives, loans and grants to grow food and beverage businesses.
- Legislative changes, such as the 2022 Cottage Food Law, removed many barriers for home-based food entrepreneurs.
- Over \$4 million of federal grant funding for RI food system organizations and businesses has been leveraged in the last two years alone.
- The availability of technical assistance and business services for food businesses.

As we emerge from the pandemic, there are important lessons to learn about building more resilient supply chains and supporting more equitable access to local and healthy foods across Rhode Island. A five-year impact study will be published in May 2023, and this strategic planning process will build on the findings of that report. There is shared interest among state government, non-profit, and industry stakeholders who rely on *Relish Rhody* to assess what has been accomplished in the last five years and to develop a roadmap for the next phase of collective impact setting goals out to 2030. This is also an exciting time to align a 2030 food strategy with regional initiatives like the New England Food Vision's 30% by 2030 goal as well as planning efforts underway by State government including:

- Climate Strategy 2025 as mandated by the RI Act on Climate
- Planning for the Healthy Eating & Active Living Program at RIDOH in 2023
- 2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Farm to School Network's Action Plan starting in 2023
- Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan 2038 update

Scope of Work

The selected Proposer(s) will lead the following activities/deliverable with collaborative support from the Corporation and State agency partners:

- Lead the final selection of 30 food system "issue brief" topics, based on prior work and engagement through a statewide advisory board.
- Write and edit a subset of the issue briefs with support from the Commerce project team and subject matter experts.

- Conduct stakeholder engagement outreach to address barriers, opportunities and recommendations for various food systems issues, markets and products (e.g. 1:1 focus groups, 1 stakeholder summit, survey).
- Edit a subset of the issue briefs for consistency and clarity that have been written by local authors with expertise in each issue area.
- Lead writing and editing of the final food strategy document, which will include strategies, indicators and measurable objectives informed by the “issue briefs.”
 - There will be additional staff support from the Director of Food Strategy and the Commerce project team.
- Provide subject matter expertise and guidance on effective stakeholder engagement and research to support food systems planning which takes into accounts intersectional issues such as climate change, racial equity and food justice.
- Develop a list of federal and philanthropic funding opportunities to support implementation of the strategies developed.
- Develop food system strategies with measurable outcomes, realistic timelines and clear ownership to advance a shared vision towards 2030.
- Lead the graphic design and layout of final food strategy document and food system “issue briefs.”
- Support Director of Food Strategy and Commerce project team with planning and co-facilitating of two in-person gatherings in Fall 2023 and one statewide food system summit in early 2024.
 - A part-time project coordinator will support administrative and program tasks such as scheduling meetings, event planning, note taking and report editing, which should be factored into Proposers’ scopes and budgets.

Qualifications

Project team Qualification, Experience, and Demonstrated Success

Provide an explanation of the proposer’s experience in providing the services described herein. This should include examples of successfully developing, researching and producing food systems plans based upon active stakeholder input and participation as well as primary and secondary research. Specifically, include the following:

- a) Provide a summary of the Proposer’s directly related experience, including the qualifications of all personnel and any subcontractors that will be retained by the propose.
- b) Provide a summary of related projects demonstrating success.
- c) Outline the responsibilities of members assisting the study team and include their time commitments.
- d) Provide a one or two-page resume of each person assigned to the contract.
- e) Describe any staff capabilities that you consider unique which better prepares you to handle this project.
- f) Demonstrate experience by providing the name, email and phone number of clients for whom the proposed team has performed this type of service within the last 3-5 years.

Knowledge of Rhode Island

- a) Provide information that demonstrates your knowledge of Rhode Island and projects/initiatives in Rhode Island’s food system.

- b) Provide any relevant information on experience working in Rhode Island with towns, cities, non-profits, state agencies or regional projects.

Strength and Appropriateness of Methodology

Provide information that shows the reasoning of your methodology and a clear understanding of the task at hand through creativity of how to approach the project. Include the following:

- a) Demonstrate your understanding of the Scope of Work to include the objective and the deliverables.
- b) Provide a methodology that will be used to conduct interactions with the ~150 contacts required.
- c) Explain what key draft reports and materials Contractor will submit during the project.
- d) Provide a proposal schedule identifying meeting dates and dates of material submissions and reports.

Project Timeline and Milestones

The contract must be completed within 14 months of the award. The final strategy report should be published by April 1, 2024.

The successful Proposer(s) will enter a contract for services with the Corporation. The duration of the initial contract between the Corporation and the successful Proposer is expected to begin upon the date of contract approval.

Budget

Proposers to this RFP shall provide a proposed fee structure for providing services necessary to complete the proposed scope items. Proposers shall include a total, maximum price to accomplish the scope items incorporated in the proposal. Fee structures shall be provided both for 1) costs for specific task items from the Scope of Work and 2) an hourly rate for all members of the Proposer team assigned to the project. Additionally, Proposers shall include an estimate regarding the duration and number of hours to complete each task. Additionally, proposers shall provide a personnel schedule which includes job title and billing rate for any work which may be undertaken under this contract. Proposers shall also provide job titles and rates for any subcontractors that the respondent is including in this response. If the Proposer contemplates any purchases or pass-through charges during the engagement, any mark-up rate above actual cost shall be identified as a separate line item in the budget. The Corporation reserves the right to adjust both the budget and related services.

In addition to showing how you will meet the requirements outlined above, Proposers should also provide information regarding the following:

- **Research & Analytics:** Provide an overview of how you determine success. What are the analytic tools or services that you use, and what type of information will you be reporting back to the Corporation as it relates to meeting our objectives?
- **Travel and Administration:** The Proposer should estimate any travel costs expected to incur during contract period. Travel must be in line with budget submitted and approved

by the Corporation and follow guidance from all relevant Federal and State statutes.

Criteria for Selection

Responsive proposals for this RFP will be evaluated according to the Evaluation Criteria outlined below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

	Points
OVERALL EXPERIENCE OF COMPANY & DEMONSTRATED RESULTS Our evaluation will include an assessment of the history of your company, your experience as it relates to the requirements within this RFP, evidence of past performance, quality and relevance of past work, references, and related items.	20
QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSONNEL Our evaluation will include an assessment of the qualifications and experience of your managerial team, staff, subcontractors, and related items. Resumes must be included as separate attachments with proposal.	15
APPROACH TO DIVERSITY & EQUITY Demonstrated commitment and experience with engaging traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities and stakeholders including but not limited to Black, Indigenous and other People of Color as well as communities with less economic resources and/or facing food and housing insecurity.	20
STRATEGIC THINKING/PLANNING APPROACH Overall approach and strategy described/outlined in the proposal and proposer's capacity to perform the engagement within the specified timeframe (prior experience of the proposer in meeting timelines will be factored in here)	20
BUDGET APPROACH/COST EFFECTIVENESS Effective and efficient delivery of quality services is demonstrated in relation to the budget allocation. The allocation is reasonable and appropriate.	15
FAMILIARITY WITH RHODE ISLAND'S FOOD SYSTEM Our evaluation will include our assessment of your understanding of our organization and Rhode Island's economic drivers and how you integrated this knowledge into your proposal.	10
Total	100
MBE/WBE/DisBE Participation (additional potential points)	6 pts

NOTE: Designated Corporation staff or selected advisors will evaluate the written proposals. The Corporation may at any time during the evaluation process seek clarification from Proposers regarding any information contained within their proposal. Final scores for each respondent will reflect a consensus of the evaluations. Any attempt by a Proposer to contact a member of Corporation staff or selected advisors outside the RFP process, in an attempt to gain knowledge or an advantage, may result in disqualification of Proposer.

1. ISBE Participation Evaluation (see below for scoring)
 - a. The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation encourages MBE/WBE/DisBE participation in this Request. In accordance with Title 37, Chapter 14.1, and Title 37, Chapter 2.2 of the Rhode Island General laws, the Corporation reserves the right to apply additional consideration to MBE/WBE/DisBE up to six (6) additional points in the scoring evaluation as provided below:
 - b. Calculation of ISBE Participation Rate
 - i. ISBE Participation Rate for Non-ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for non ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of non-ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs by the non-ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the non-ISBE's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs, the non-ISBE's ISBE participation rate would be 12%.
 - ii. ISBE Participation Rate for ISBE Vendors. The ISBE participation rate for ISBE vendors shall be expressed as a percentage and shall be calculated by dividing the amount of the ISBE vendor's total contract price that will be subcontracted to ISBEs and the amount that will be self-performed by the ISBE vendor by the ISBE vendor's total contract price. For example, if the ISBE vendor's total contract price is \$100,000.00 and it subcontracts a total of \$12,000.00 to ISBEs and will perform a total of \$8,000.00 of the work itself, the ISBE vendor's ISBE participation rate would be 20%.
 - c. Points for ISBE Participation Rate:
 - i. The vendor with the highest ISBE participation rate shall receive the maximum ISBE participation points. All other vendors shall receive ISBE participation points by applying the following formula:

(Vendor's ISBE participation rate ÷ Highest ISBE participation rate X Maximum ISBE participation points)

For example, assuming the weight given by the RFP to ISBE participation is 6 points, if Vendor A has the highest ISBE participation rate at 20% and Vendor B's ISBE participation rate is 12%, Vendor A will receive the maximum 6 points and Vendor B will receive $(12\% \div 20\%) \times 6$ which equals 3.6 points.

See Appendix A for information and the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s). Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit these forms with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation

Instructions and Notifications to Proposers

1. Potential proposers are advised to review all sections of this RFP carefully and to follow instructions completely, as failure to make a complete submission as described elsewhere herein may result in rejection of the proposal.
2. Alternative approaches and/or methodologies to accomplish the desired or intended results of this procurement are solicited. However, proposals that depart from or materially alter the terms, requirements, or scope of work defined by this RFP will be rejected as being non-responsive.

3. All costs associated with developing or submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, or to provide oral or written clarification of its content, shall be borne by the proposer. The Corporation assumes no responsibility for such costs.
4. Proposals are considered to be irrevocable for a period of not less than 120 days following the date set for submission of proposals.
5. All pricing submitted will be considered to be firm and fixed unless otherwise indicated herein.
6. Proposals misdirected to other locations, or that are otherwise not present at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation by the submission deadline for any cause will be determined to be late and will not be considered. For the purposes of this requirement, the official time and date shall be that of the time clock in the reception area of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.
7. All proposals should identify the proposed team of professionals, including those employed by subcontractors, if any, along with respective areas of expertise and relevant credentials. Proposer should also provide a delineation of the portion of the scope of work for which each of these professionals will be responsible.
8. All proposals should include the proposer's FEIN or Social Security number as evidenced by a W9, downloadable from <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>
9. All proposals should include a completed RFP Response Certification Cover Form, included in this document and available here: <https://commerceri.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/RFP-RESPONSE-CERTIFICATION-COVER-FORM.pdf>
10. The purchase of services under an award made pursuant to this RFP will be contingent on the availability of funds and made at the discretion of the Corporation.
11. Awarding this RFP is based on the Evaluation Criteria set forth in this RFP. Vendors are advised, however, that all materials and ideas submitted as part of this proposal and during the performance of any award shall be the property of and owned by the Corporation, which may use any such materials and ideas.
12. Interested parties are instructed to peruse the Corporation's website (www.commerceri.com) on a regular basis, as additional information relating to this solicitation may be released in the form of an addendum to this RFP. Addenda will also be posted to the Rhode Island State Division of Purchases' website at www.ridop.ri.gov.
13. Equal Employment Opportunity (R.I. Gen. Laws § 28-5.1-1, et seq.) – § 28- 5.1-1 Declaration of policy – (a) Equal opportunity and affirmative action toward its achievement is the policy of all units of Rhode Island state government, including all public and quasi-public agencies, commissions, boards and authorities, and in the classified, unclassified, and non-classified services of state employment. This policy applies to all areas where State dollars are spent, in employment, public services, grants and financial assistance, and in state licensing and regulation.
14. In accordance with Title 7, Chapter 1.2 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, no corporation organized under the laws of another state or country shall have the right to transact business in Rhode Island until it shall have procured a Certificate of Authority to do so from the Rhode Island Secretary of State (401-222-3040). This is a requirement only of the successful bidder.

15. The proposer should be aware of the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) requirements, which address the State's goal of ten percent (10%) participation by MBE's in all procurements. For further information, visit the website www.mbe.ri.gov.

16. The Corporation reserves the right to award to one or more Proposers.

Proposal Requirements

In order to be considered responsive, proposals must at a minimum contain the following:

Technical Proposal Elements

1. Description of the proposed approach and work plan. Activities and timelines should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time oriented. Include a timeline of major tasks and milestones.
2. Person who will be the primary point of contact with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.
3. Qualifications of the Proposer to provide the requested services including capability, capacity, similarly complex projects and related experience and client references. Attestation of availability of individuals in proposal.
4. A listing of the staff to be assigned to this engagement and their respective qualifications, past experience on engagements of this scope including resumes, and their role in those past engagements.
5. A description of the outcome monitoring and evaluation plan including a list of tools to track process, output and outcome measures for each component of the application.

Proposal Submission

Responses to this RFP must be received as follows:

One (1) electronic (PDF) version must be provided by email to RFP@commerceri.com **before Friday, June 2, 2023 by 2:00pm**. Submissions that are misdirected or sent to the wrong email address will not be accepted.

Note: No phone calls or late responses will be accepted.

Questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP should be directed by e-mail to RFP@commerceri.com no later than 2:00 pm on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Responses to questions, interpretations, or clarifications concerning this RFP will be posted online via addendum at www.commerceri.com and www.ridop.ri.gov on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, to ensure equal awareness of important facts and details.

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to terminate this solicitation prior to entering into any agreement with any qualified firm pursuant to this Request for Proposal, and by responding hereto, no firms are vested with any rights in any way whatsoever.

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for not complying with the terms of this RFP.

APPENDIX A

PROPOSER ISBE RESPONSIBILITIES AND MBE, WBE, AND/OR DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION FORM

A. Proposer's ISBE Responsibilities (from 150-RICR-90-10-1.7.E)

1. Proposal of ISBE Participation Rate. Unless otherwise indicated in the RFP, a Proposer must submit its proposed ISBE Participation Rate in a sealed envelope or via sealed electronic submission at the time it submits its proposed total contract price. The Proposer shall be responsible for completing and submitting all standard forms adopted pursuant to 105-RICR-90-10-1.9 and submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by either the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to the names and contact information of all proposed subcontractors and the dollar amounts that correspond with each proposed subcontract.
2. Failure to Submit ISBE Participation Rate. Any Proposer that fails to submit a proposed ISBE Participation Rate or any requested substantiating documentation in a timely manner shall receive zero (0) ISBE participation points.
3. Execution of Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. Proposers shall be evaluated and scored based on the amounts and rates submitted in their proposals. If awarded the contract, Proposers shall be required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates. During the life of the contract, the Proposer shall be responsible for submitting all substantiating documentation as reasonably requested by the Using Agency's MBE/WBE Coordinator, Division, ODEO, or Governor's Commission on Disabilities including but not limited to copies of purchase orders, subcontracts, and cancelled checks.
4. Change Orders. If during the life of the contract, a change order is issued by the Division, the Proposer shall notify the ODEO of the change as soon as reasonably possible. Proposers are required to achieve their proposed ISBE Participation Rates on any change order amounts.
5. Notice of Change to Proposed ISBE Participation Rate. If during the life of the contract, the Proposer becomes aware that it will be unable to achieve its proposed ISBE Participation Rate, it must notify the Division and ODEO as soon as reasonably possible. The Division, in consultation with ODEO and Governor's Commission on Disabilities, and the Proposer may agree to a modified ISBE Participation Rate provided that the change in circumstances was beyond the control of the Proposer or the direct result of an unanticipated reduction in the overall total project cost.

B. MBE, WBE, AND/OR Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan Form:

Attached is the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form. Bidders are required to complete, sign and submit with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.

MBE, WBE, and/or DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION PLAN

Bidder's Name:

Bidder's Address:

Point of Contact:

Telephone:

Email:

Solicitation No.:

Project Name:

This form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers, including a description of the work to be performed and the percentage of the work as submitted to the prime contractor/vendor. Please note that all MBE/WBE subcontractors/suppliers must be certified by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity MBE Compliance Office and all Disability Business Enterprises must be certified by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities at time of bid, and that MBE/WBE and Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors must self-perform 100% of the work or subcontract to another RI certified MBE in order to receive participation credit. Vendors may count 60% of expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from an MBE certified as a regular dealer/supplier, and 100% of such expenditures obtained from an MBE certified as a manufacturer. This form must be completed in its entirety and submitted at time of bid. **Please complete separate forms for each MBE/WBE or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractor/supplier to be utilized on the solicitation.**

Name of Subcontractor/Supplier:

Type of RI Certification:

☐ MBE ☐ WBE ☐ Disability Business Enterprise

Address:

Point of Contact:

Telephone:

Email:

Detailed Description of Work To Be Performed by Subcontractor or Materials to be Supplied by Supplier:

Total Contract Value (\$):

Subcontract
Value (\$):ISBE Participation
Rate (%):

Anticipated Date of Performance:

I certify under penalty of perjury that the forgoing statements are true and correct.

Prime Contractor/Vendor Signature**Title****Date****Subcontractor/Supplier Signature****Title****Date**

RFP/RFQ RESPONSE CERTIFICATION COVER FORM

Instruction: To fulfill your RFP/RFQ response, this form must be completed, printed, signed and included with your submission.

SECTION 1 - RESPONDENT INFORMATION

RFP/RFQ Number:

RFP/RFQ Title:

RFP/RFQ Respondent Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Contact Name:

Contact Title:

Contact Email:

SECTION 2 —DISCLOSURES

RFP/RFQ Respondents must respond to every statement. RFP/RFQ Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No) for Disclosures 1-4, and if "Yes," provide details below

____ 1. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been subject to suspension or debarment by any federal, state, or municipal governmental authority, or the subject of criminal prosecution, or convicted of a criminal offense within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 2. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has had any contracts with a federal, state, or municipal governmental authority terminated for any reason within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 3. State whether the Respondent, or any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent or any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate has been fined more than \$5000 for violation(s) of any Rhode Island environmental law(s) by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management within the previous 5 years. If "Yes," provide details below.

____ 4. State whether any officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principal of the Respondent is serving or has served within the past two calendar years as either an appointed or elected official of any state governmental authority or quasi-public corporation, including without limitation, any entity created as a legislative body or public or state agency by the general assembly or constitution of this state.

Disclosure details (continue on additional sheets if necessary):

SECTION 3 —OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE

Respondents must provide all relevant information. Respondent proposals submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

If the Respondent is publicly held, the Respondent may provide owner information about only those stockholders, members, partners, or other owners that hold at least 10% of the record or beneficial equity interests of the Respondent; otherwise, complete ownership disclosure is required.

List each officer, director, manager, stockholder, member, partner, or other owner or principle of the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent. For each individual, provide his or her name, business address, principal occupation, position with the Respondent, and the percentage of ownership, if any, he or she holds in the Respondent, and each intermediate parent company and the ultimate parent company of the Respondent.

SECTION 4 —CERTIFICATIONS

Respondents must respond to every statement. Responses submitted without a complete response may be deemed nonresponsive.

Indicate "Y" (Yes) or "N" (No), and if "No," provide details below.

THE RESPONDENT CERTIFIES THAT:

____ 1. The Respondent will immediately disclose, in writing, to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation any potential conflict of interest which may occur during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

____ 2. The Respondent possesses all licenses and anyone who will perform any work will possess all licenses required by applicable federal, state, and local law necessary to perform the requirements of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation and will maintain all required licenses during the term of any contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required license shall lapse or be restricted or suspended, the Respondent shall immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

____ 3. The Respondent will maintain all required insurance during the term of any contract pursuant to this solicitation. In the event that any required insurance shall lapse or be canceled, the Respondent will immediately notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation in writing.

____ 4. The Respondent understands that falsification of any information in its RFP/RFQ response or failure to notify the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation of any changes in any disclosures or certifications in this Respondent Certification may be grounds for suspension, debarment, and/or prosecution for fraud.

____ 5. The Respondent has not paid and will not pay any bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration to any employee or official of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any subdivision of the State of Rhode Island or other governmental authority for the purpose of obtaining an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. The Respondent further certifies that no bonus, commission, fee, gratuity, or other remuneration has been or will be received from any third party or paid to any third party contingent on the award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation.

____ 6. This RFP/RFQ response is not a collusive RFP/RFQ response. Neither the Respondent, nor any of its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents has in any way colluded, conspired, or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other Respondent or person to submit a collusive response to the solicitation or to refrain from submitting response to the solicitation, or has in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement or collusion or other communication with any other Respondent or person to fix the price or prices in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost component of the price in the response or the response of any other Respondent, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State of Rhode Island or any person with an interest in the contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation. The price in the response is fair and proper and is not tainted by any collusion, conspiracy, or unlawful agreement on the part of the Respondent, its owners, stockholders, members, partners, principals, directors, managers, officers, employees, or agents.

____ 7. The Respondent: (i) is not identified on the General Treasurer's list created pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 37-2.5-3 as a person or entity engaging in investment activities in Iran described in § 37-2.5-2(b); and (ii) is not engaging in any such investment activities in Iran.

____ 8. The Respondent will comply with all of the laws that are incorporated into and/or applicable to any contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation.

Certification details (continue on additional sheet if necessary):

Submission by the Respondent of a response pursuant to this solicitation constitutes an offer to contract with the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation on the terms and conditions contained in this solicitation and the response. The Respondent certifies that: (1) the Respondent has reviewed this solicitation and agrees to comply with its terms and conditions; (2) the response is based on this solicitation; and (3) the information submitted in the response (including this Respondent Certification Cover Form) is accurate and complete. The Respondent acknowledges that the terms and conditions of this solicitation and the response will be incorporated into any contract awarded to the Respondent pursuant to this solicitation and the response. The person signing below represents, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is fully informed regarding the preparation and contents of this response and has been duly authorized to execute and submit this response on behalf of the Respondent.

RESPONDENT

Date: _____

Name of Respondent

Signature in ink

Printed name and title of person signing on behalf of Respondent