

July 25, 2023
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2313**

ADDENDUM NO. 2

Questions and Answers and Addendum to RFP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
GENERAL SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL EQUITY INVESTMENT

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (Corporation) seeks proposals from one or more qualified firms to (1) draft and implement a statewide broadband infrastructure and digital equity investment and grant program, called ConnectRI; this will consist primarily of drafting and implementing an integrated plan for maximizing the benefits of all relevant federal broadband subsidy programs in Rhode Island; (2) draft and implement all aspects of a Digital Equity Plan; (3) draft and implement all aspects of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan, the BEAD Initial Proposal, and the BEAD Final Proposal, all in service of the ConnectRI investment program; and (4) design and implement a process for supervising grant completion for all recipients of grant funds awarded pursuant to the BEAD, the Digital Equity Act (DEA), and the US Treasury's Capital Projects Fund (CPF) program. All work will be performed in close consultation with and subject to final review and approval by the Corporation.

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

For RFP Task 4 – “Design and Implement a process for supervising grant completion.”

Question #1: Does this task go through the submittal of the BEAD Final Proposal at the end of 2024, Or does it go through program implementation 2027/2028.

Answer #1: Task 4 should include implementation for the potential length of BEAD deployment through 2028.

Question #2: Is this being funded through current DEP and BEAD funds, or through \$108M NTIA funds?

Answer #2: The ConnectRI Initiative is being funded through the state's Capital Projects Fund, BEAD, and DEA allocations. It should be noted that the \$108.7M NTIA funds are the BEAD funds.

Question #3: What are the other sources of funding related the project?

Answer #3: The overall project is funded by BEAD, Capital Projects Fund and Digital Equity Act Planning funds.

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

The deadline for submitting proposals for only Task 4 for the RFP is extended until 11:59 pm on July 31, 2023. This amendment does not in any way affect the deadline for submitting proposals for Tasks 1, 2, and 3.

END OF ADDENDUM