

January 31, 2024
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2329**

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Change to Criteria for Selection Section and Questions & Answers

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BEAD STATE CHALLENGE PROCESS ASSISTANCE

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (Corporation) seeks proposals from qualified non-profit entities to assist units of local government and/or tribal governments in participating in the state challenge process pertaining to the availability of broadband services. The Corporation will be administering a state challenge process as required by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program to ensure the accuracy of the Rhode Island Broadband Map prior to deploying the infrastructure investment program. As part of this process, the Corporation has built a challenge portal, which units of local government, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) may use to submit location challenges and rebuttals. The selected non-profit entity(ies) will support the units of local government and/or tribal governments in this process by reviewing, aggregating, and submitting broadband serviceable location challenges and challenges pertaining to the identity and eligibility of Community Anchor Institutions.

Prospective Proposers and all concerned are hereby notified of the following change to the Criteria for Selection section of the above-described RFP and of the questions and answers. The change to the Criteria for Selection and the questions and answers shall be incorporated in and shall become an integral part of the RFP documents.

Revisions to Criteria for Selection Section

The following sentence on the top of page 5 of the RFP is deleted in its entirety:

"The Corporation reserves the right to consider such other relevant factors as it deems appropriate in order to obtain the best value."

Questions and Answers

Question #1: Will the mapping vendor / Corporation ensure that all challenges and evidence be submitted and housed centrally / solely within the portal to review by the selected vendor?

Answer #1: The Corporation will work with its mapping vendor to ensure that all challenges and

evidence submitted during the state challenge process will be located within the state challenge portal. Personally Identifiable Information and other confidential information will be protected.

Question #2: Does the Corporation expect outreach, education, or community engagement activities from the selected vendor(s) to promote challenge participation or will tasks be solely focused on the three tasks detailed in the Scope of Work on page 3?

Answer #2: The Corporation, in coordination with other vendors, will conduct outreach, education, and community engagement activities. The Corporation expects the selected entity(ies) to participate in these activities, but not lead or coordinate them.

Question #3: Is there a requirement for vendors to have a percent of work conducted by a qualifying state MBE or is it solely discretionary in order to receive up to an additional 6 points under the evaluation criteria?

Answer #3: If a Proposer has MBE participation, it may fill out the ISBE Participation Form in order to receive additional points during the RFP scoring process.