

September 29, 2020
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

ADDENDUM NO. 2
Questions & Answers

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING SERVICES TO
COVID-IMPACTED BUSINESSES

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks proposals from qualified entities, organizations, and firms to provide technical assistance and training services to assist COVID-Impacted Businesses, including assisting such businesses to complete applications for funding under the Restore RI Small Business Grant program.

Question: Under the qualifications, it asks that the proposer have a method for screening businesses for eligibility to receive services. Is the expectation that the proposers are only able to offer technical assistances to businesses that meet certain criteria. Does this mean that we would only be able to help businesses that meet that criteria?

Answer: Yes. Under the guidance provided by the US Treasury, CARES ACT funding must be directed to businesses that have been negatively affected by public health guidelines related to COVID 19.

Question: Do we actually need to mail 3 sets of the proposal to the office?

Answer: In lieu of the mailing requirement, applicants may elect to deliver the required copies to the offices of the RI Commerce Corporation. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An electronic copy must be submitted regardless of the method of delivery of the required physical copies.

Question: Can we include Hardware & Software to assist the businesses in the budget, like touchless pos systems, gps software for remote workers?

Answer: Applicants may only include items in the budget section for costs which are directly accountable to delivery of the technical assistance *during the grant performance* period and are not regularly budgeted costs.

Question: Will info on previous Grant applicants (especially those that were denied) be available for outreach?

Answer: Upon its discretion, the Commerce Corporation may share publicly available information to assist awardees identify businesses eligible for technical assistance services. It is, however, the primary responsibility of the awardee to identify and conduct outreach to businesses eligible for services under this RFP.

***End of Addendum ***