



Innovation Network Matching Grants Application Materials

Innovation Network Matching Grants program details can be found at:

<https://commerceri.com/incentives/innovation-incentives/>

Innovation Network Matching Grant Application Submission Instructions

Please submit a complete electronic copy of the application by email to Innovation@commerceri.com. The subject line should read "NetworkMatching_[applicantname]," for example: "NetworkMatching_ABCCorp." Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file, saved as "NetworkMatching_[applicantname]".

Questions on the application process may be submitted to Christine Smith at 401-278-9197.

- **Read and review the Rules and Regulations for the Innovation Network Matching Grant Program, including all eligibility requirements, before completing this application. All eligibility requirements must be met for an application to be considered.** Meanings of the defined terms in the Rules and Regulations carry through to all application materials. The rules and regulations are available online at: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/870-20-00-3>.
- This application may be updated from time to time. **Please ensure the most up-to-date version of the application is used for a response.** The up-to-date version is located here: https://commerceri.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-Network-Matching-Grant_Application.pdf
- The Innovation Network Matching Grant application consists of an application form, a set of required attachments, and a certification form. To be considered for an Innovation Network Matching grant, all items must be submitted in a single submission, organized as instructed below. Failure to provide required information could result in a delay in the review of, or rejection of, an application.
- The Commerce Corporation reserves the right to require the submission of additional information in connection with any application or to require the revision of an application.
- Applicants approved for an Innovation Network Matching Grant will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Commerce Corporation in order to receive the grant. The Commerce Corporation may request additional information in the course of negotiating that agreement.
- **Applications are now being accepted in two rounds. The first round closes on August 31, 2021 at 5PM and the second round closes on September 30, 2021 at 5PM.** Applicants that are not selected during the first review period will be automatically deferred and considered with the applicants in the second review period.

Innovation Network Matching Grant Application

1. Applicant Information

Business/Organization Name _____

Trade Name/DBA _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Business Phone _____ Website _____

Federal Tax ID # _____ RI Tax ID # _____

RI House District # _____ RI Senate District # _____

Primary Contact for Application:

Full Name _____

Job Title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone _____ Email _____

2. Network Matching Grant Information

Amount Requested (minimum of \$50,000) _____

Cash Match Amount (if any) _____ Dollar Value of In-Kind Services Match (if any) _____

Anticipated Project Start Date _____ Anticipated Project Completion Date _____

Identify Targeted Industry of the Project (circle as many as apply):

- Advanced industries including but not limited to life sciences, medtech, food and agriculture, cleantech, energy, defense, IT/cyber security, and bluetech.
- Opportunity industries including but not limited to arts, hospitality, travel, and tourism.
- Local-serving industries including but not limited to construction, non-profits, and healthcare.
- Other small and minority-owned businesses, including those disrupted by the rapid pace of technological advances.

Identify Primary Goal(s) of The Project:

- Technical Assistance
- Space on flexible terms Access to capital
- Other: _____

3. Required Attachments

Please attach to the application form responses to the following prompts. Attach these items in the order provided below. Each attachment should have a cover page that identifies the attachment, e.g., "Attachment 1: Project Description."

All applicants are advised that any and all records (documents, correspondence, memoranda, etc.), received or maintained by the Commerce Corporation may be a matter of public record and subject to release upon a request from a member of the public under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act ("APRA"), R.I. Gen. Laws Section 38-2-1 *et seq.* In response to a request, the Commerce Corporation has the right, in its sole discretion, to redact or withhold information which is exempt from disclosure under APRA, including trade secrets and commercial or financial information which is of a privileged or confidential nature. **The Corporation recommends that any portion of any attachment in the application that contains such information be clearly labeled with the legend "Confidential Information."**

Attachment 1: Project Description

Provide a detailed description of the project not to exceed 5 pages in length. The summary should include the following elements, with each element introduced by the corresponding heading (e.g., the first heading should be "Applicant Profile and Organization Competency"):

- **Applicant Profile and Organization Competency.** A description of the applicant's philosophy, mission, and approach to assisting small businesses or non-profits to innovate and grow.
- **Statement of Work.** A detailed description of the proposed project and its objectives, including (i) services to be provided to Rhode Island small businesses or non-profits, with an explanation of the specific ways the project will increase small business innovation capacity; (ii) the project's approach/methodology; (iii) businesses to be served by growth stage, industry, and geography; (iv) anticipated outcomes and deliverables; and (v) the outreach and marketing approach to reach the intended audience. In addition, address whether the project fills a gap in the Rhode Island innovation ecosystem by, for example, reaching underserved or high impact sectors or offering services that are difficult to obtain. Include a project timeline and identify project milestones.
- **Project Impact.** A detailed description of how the applicant will monitor the effectiveness and impact of the project.
- **Future Steps.** A description of a plan for sustaining and/or growing the program after the exhaustion of the grant and match.
- **Project Summary.** A 2-3 sentence summary of the project easily understood by a lay person for use in public documents.

Attachment 2: Project Match

A description of the in-kind resources and/or funds that will be dedicated to support the project. For a match of in-kind services, include a valuation of the services to be provided together with a detailed explanation of the valuation method, and evidence appropriate to substantiate such valuation.

Attachment 3: Qualifications of Project Personnel

For the project lead at the business/organization and for each member of the core project team, provide names, titles, and a narrative description of the key qualifications with regards to conducting the proposed project.

Attachment 4: Partnering Institutions

A description of any external organizations that the applicant intends to partner with on the project, including a description of the role the partner will play in the proposed project.

Attachment 5: Site Control

If the project requires acquisition of a new location, identify the location and provide documentary evidence of existing or anticipated control over such location(s), such as proof of ownership, a purchase and sale agreement, a lease, or a letter of intent. If not applicable, indicate "N/A."

Attachment 6: Other Incentives

List all federal, state, and local incentives, grants, tax credits, or other aid that will or may be received or requested for the project, and the status of the application for each.

Attachment 7: Previous Outcomes

Provide a description of the applicant's previous outcomes and effectiveness in endeavors similar to the project, which may include third-party evaluation; information tracked by the applicant; testimonials; press clippings; grants, awards, or special recognitions received; and any other relevant information.

Attachment 8: Disclosures

Provide (1) the full name and address of each individual who is an owner, partner, or investor or otherwise holds an interest in an applicant either individually or through one or more other entities (except that individuals having an interest in an applicant by virtue solely of ownership in a publicly traded corporation need not be listed); (2) a complete list of each entity holding an interest in the applicant; and (3) a complete list of each officer, director, or manager of the applicant.

Attachment 8: Budget and Justification Narrative

Use the included template to provide a line item budget for the project. Attach a budget justification sheet explaining each expense.

Budget Template

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET		FUNDING SOURCE		BUDGET NARRATIVE
Budget Expense Category	Project Expenses	Network Matching Grant Funds	Leveraged Resources (Cash & In-Kind Support)	Narrative description of each expense with calculation assumptions. Describe type of leveraged resources.
Professional Personnel (list)				
1.				
2.				
3.				
Fringe Benefits				
Administrative Personnel (list)				
1.				
2.				
3.				
Fringe Benefits				
Operating Costs				
Materials/supplies				
Equipment				
Travel				
Conference/Symposiums				
Recruitment activities				
Facilities				
Other				
TOTALS				

4. Applicant Certification

The undersigned is an authorized representative of the Applicant listed below with the authority to bind the company for the proposed Innovation Network Matching Grant Program.

I certify that:

- All statements made in this Application in its entirety including all attachments, appendices, etc. are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- The Applicant is neither a person subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics nor a person within the scope of R.I.G.L. § 36-14-5(h).
- The Applicant has not been convicted of bribery or attempting to bribe a public official or employee of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or of the State, has not been disqualified from an awarded contract with Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State, and has never defaulted on work awarded by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation or the State.

Authorized Representative:

Title:

Signature:

Date Signed:
