

October 31, 2023

**Rhode Island Commerce Corporation**

**Project Name: RI Minority Business Accelerator Intermediary-Based Initiative for Food & Beverage, Child-Care, and Construction Industries**

**Solicitation Number: RFP-2323**

**Addendum No. 1**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RI MINORITY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR INTERMEDIARY-BASED INITIATIVE FOR FOOD & BEVERAGE, CHILD-CARE, AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES**

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks proposals from eligible entities, including Rhode Island non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, trade associations, chambers of commerce, institutions of higher education, and/or co-working space operators, to receive funding for an Intermediary-Based Initiative of the Minority Business Accelerator Program (“Program”). The Program is a collection of initiatives aimed at enhancing the growth of minority business enterprises as defined in the Minority Business Enterprise Act (R.I Gen. Laws 37-14.1-1 et seq.) (“MBEs”).

The funding made available through this RFP is for the Program’s Intermediary-Based Initiative for the Food & Beverage, Child-Care and Construction Industries (“Targeted Industries”). This initiative will support a range of assistance and programming to MBEs in the Targeted Industries, including (i) technical assistance; (ii) entrepreneurship and business start-up training; (iii) mentorship programming and networking opportunities; (iv) assistance accessing “next stage” manufacturing, R&D facilities and or shared commercial kitchen spaces; (v) assisting small food retail grocers or corner stores in areas with low access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and healthier food options to bring in more fresh and less processed foods; (vi) assistance and education relating to new market channels and wholesale readiness; (vii) assistance and education relating to access to capital, licensing, and registering a business; (viii) Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (“DEDI”) registration preparedness; and (ix) government contracting and translation services.

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

The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended to 11:59 pm, November 8, 2023.

\*\*\*End of Addendum \*\*\*