

**April 5, 2024**  
**Rhode Island Commerce Corporation**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2334**  
ADDENDUM NO. 1

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RI REBOUNDS –SUMMER EVENTS PLACEMAKING MINI GRANTS INITIATIVE**

As the State continues to combat and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the tourism, hospitality, and events industries in Rhode Island continue to face significant challenges, including those related to variants of the novel coronavirus. The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks to support these industries in the State as they continue to navigate through this challenging time through a Summer Events Placemaking Mini Grants Initiative (“Placemaking Initiative”). As such, the Corporation seeks proposals from eligible proposers (“Proposers”) to receive grants under the Placemaking Initiative to assist the tourism, hospitality, and events industries. The Placemaking Initiative will support outdoor and public space event programming that takes place during the summer months with grants between \$25,000 to \$50,000. The Placemaking Initiative will focus on developing safe place-based event programming. In responding to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”), Proposers are encouraged to create, design, and offer programs, activities, and events that aid the tourism and hospitality industries that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in communities across Rhode Island.

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

**I. Revisions**

**A. Revisions to the introductory paragraph**

The introductory paragraph of the RFP is revised to add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:

*The Corporation will prioritize proposals that support geographic areas in the state affected by the Washington Bridge closure.*

**B. Revisions to Proposal Requirements**

The Proposal Requirements section of the RFP is revised to add a new subsection 8 as follows:

*8. If applicable, include a description of how this proposal would support geographic areas affected by the Washington Bridge closure.*

## C. Revisions to Placemaking and Events

The text under the Placemaking and Events section of the RFP is deleted in its entirety and is replaced with the following:

*Eligible activities are those that support place-based initiatives and events for businesses in the tourism, event, and hospitality industries. These initiatives and events can include placemaking, attraction development, and event programming designed to draw visitors to impacted districts and support businesses in the tourism, and hospitality industries. Proposals that support catalytic events, COVID-safe programming, and geographic areas affected by the Washington Bridge closure held during the summer months of 2024 will be prioritized. Examples include, but are not limited to, outdoor performances, outdoor food festivals, and art and lighting installations.*

*The Corporation seeks to utilize available funding to engage, support, or solicit Proposers in carrying out the above-referenced eligible activities. Proposers are encouraged to describe in detail any activity that will accomplish, further, or advance the tourism, event, and hospitality industries.*

### II. **Answers to Questions**

**Question 1:** In order to best respond to the RFP, we are looking for information about the areas that the state would consider more disadvantaged by the impact of COVID - there is reference to preferred 'Census Tract Areas'. Where are these areas located? Can we get a list?

**Answer 1:** Census Tract Areas (QCTs) are identified by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and can be found at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html>

**Question 2:** Can you define what you mean by "business cooperatives" under the Eligible Proposers section?

**Answer 2:** "Business cooperatives" are businesses owned and democratically controlled by their member-owners. Each member owner gets a voice in how the business is run. Services or goods provided by the co-op benefit and serve the member owners.

**Question 3:** "Safe place-based event planning" - What do they mean by safe?

**Answer 3:** "Safe" means abiding by current CDC COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

**Question 4:** What is the preferred timeline for the "Summer" tourism funding, does September count in this?

**Answer 4:** The preferred timeline for the summer events Placemaking initiative begins on May 1, 2024 and ends on or before October 31, 2024.

**Question 5:** Can the project go to October or does all of the funding have to be paid out by October 31st?

**Answer 5:** The project and dissemination of all funds must be completed on or before October 31, 2024.

**Question 6:** What will they need from their primary contact?

**Answer 6:** The primary point of contact will be responsible for maintaining communication with the Corporation and will further be responsible for providing the Corporation with all required and requested information and documentation related to the proposed project.

**Question 7:** What does the certificate of availability mean?

**Answer 7:** "Certificate of Availability" means written documentation that demonstrates that the individuals listed in the proposal will carry out the work contained in the submitted proposal.

**Question 8:** Can we still use the first 2 weekends of October?

**Answer 8:** See answer to question 5 above.

**Question 9:** When would we find out if we would be receiving the funding from the RFP?

**Answer 9:** The Corporation anticipates notifying proposers of award decisions in mid- to late-June 2024.

**Question 10:** When do you anticipate notifying proposers of award decisions?

**Answer 10:** See answer to question 9 above.

**Question 11:** Can these funds support enhancement of an annual, planned for, event?

**Answer 11:** Grant funds can be used to support enhancement of an annual, planned for event so long as the proposal fits within the parameters of this RFP.

**Question 12:** Do you have an anticipated timeline of notification of awards for the summer placemaking minigrant?

**Answer 12:** See answer to question 9 above.

**Question 13:** When will grant notification be sent?

**Answer 13:** See answer to question 9 above.

**Question 14:** When will funding be available?

**Answer 14:** Recipients will be able to submit documentation to request payment after the grant agreement has been executed.

**Question 15:** When can events start?

**Answer 15:** The timeline for summer events is between May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.

**Question 16:** What expenses are eligible and ineligible?

**Answer 16:** Eligible expenses are expenses that support outdoor and public space event programming that takes place during the summer months and fit within the eligible activities described in the Placemaking and Events section of the RFP..

**Question 17:** Are capital expenses for furniture and equipment for outdoor events eligible?

**Answer 17:** Capital expenses that support outdoor and public space event programming that takes place during the summer months and fit within the RFP parameters may be eligible.

All other portions of the above-described RFP shall remain in place.

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