

**November 8, 2024**  
**Rhode Island Commerce**  
**Corporation**  
**Solicitation Number 2342**

**Addendum 1**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**For: Broadband Infrastructure Projects**

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”), in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, seeks proposals from Eligible Entities to receive funding to design and build broadband infrastructure projects (“Projects”) in Project Areas in alignment with the US Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) Guidance for the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (“CPF”) and Rhode Island’s Broadband Infrastructure Projects Program Plan (“Plan”). Proposers should familiarize themselves with the Treasury Guidance and the Plan.

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

**A. Revisions to Exhibit B: Eligible Locations**

The link to the Eligible Locations for the RFP is deleted and replaced with the following:

<https://commerceri.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Rhode-Island-Commerce-Corporation-CPF-RFP-BSLs-by-Project-Area-2024-09-30.csv>

**B. Questions Received and Answers**

**Question 1: Is there a recording of the Broadband Infrastructure Projects Pre-Bid Webinar RFP #: RFP-2342?**

Answer 1: The recording of the pre-bid webinar is accessible at:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/JysmUVreDftG02iY-G7AGmJyBe7ZFjKr1S6UUG8FtMG9bwPnzcvgwObhZwPMFEfo.O1LBZu3zsGCBgTaw>.  
The Passcode 5^fmhMV& must be used.

**Question 2: Is there a service provider list for this RFP and if so, will it be posted with the addendum or provided via email by request?**

Answer 2: There is no service provider list for this RFP.

**Question 3: The majority of locations in the project areas are currently served with HFC technology and will show as served in the next update of the FCC map. Can an ISP submit a proposal to serve the remaining un or underserved locations with HFC at minimal additional cost, or should an ISP propose a fiber overbuild instead?**

Answer 3: ISPs are not eligible to submit proposed changes to the eligible BSLs listed in the Project Areas.

**Question 4: Is it required for an ISP to submit a certification from a professional engineer (PE) for the project design as part of this proposal, or will it be required upon award?**

Answer 4: Project design certifications will be required upon award.

**Question 5: Please confirm that the Funding Request scoring criterion (see RFP at 20-21) is based on a Proposer's CPF funding request for a Project and not the total projected cost of a Project.**

Answer 6: Confirmed.

**Question 6: If a Proposer believes it has information that qualifies for protection under the exclusion in the RI Access to Public Records statute, RIGL 38-2, for trade secrets and other confidential information obtained from a party, how should that information be labeled? What other action, if any, should the Proposer take to obtain confidential treatment of such information?**

Answer 6: Confidential information should be clearly indicated as such by Proposers using highlights, brackets, underlines, or other mechanisms that clearly indicate which information is believed to be confidential.

**Question 7: If an ISP provides a monthly discount for signing up for paper-free billing and Auto Pay (using a bank account, debit card or specified credit card), can the ISP meet the \$53.09 price requirement based on the discounted price or does the price need to be \$53.09 without the discount?**

Answer 7: Yes, if an ISP provides a monthly discount for signing up for paper-free billing and Auto Pay, the ISP can meet the \$53.09 price requirement based on that discounted price as long as that discount is available to all customers and is not temporary, Promotional, or time-bound.

**Question 8:** Please confirm that the annual inflation adjustments in Submittal Requirement #2 apply to the \$53.09-per-month price commitment in Submittal Requirement #3.

Answer 8: Confirmed.

**Question 9:** Please confirm that all awards will be considered a fixed-amount subaward pursuant to the SLFRF and CPF Supplementary Broadband Guidance published by Treasury on May 17, 2023. See <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-and-CPF-Supplementary-Broadband-Guidance.pdf>.

Answer 9: Confirmed.

**Question 10:** If a provider constructs fiber network facilities to a point in the public right-of-way from which a customer location may be served upon receipt of an order for service without application of construction charges and with nothing more than a standard installation fee, is that considered building “the network all the way to the customer’s premises?”

Answer 10: Yes.

**Question 11:** Does the term “customer premise equipment” mean the (1) optical network terminal, (2) broadband home router, or (3) both? There is often a charge for the broadband home router because customers are not required to purchase or rent it from their provider (they can self-provide the broadband home router).

Answer 11: The term “customer premise equipment” means both the (1) optical network terminal and (2) the broadband home router.

**Question 12:** Are Projects subject to the requirements of Rhode Island’s state prevailing wage law (e.g., requirements of the Rhode Island General Law 37-13)?

Answer 12: Yes, Projects are subject to the requirements of the Rhode Island Prevailing Wage laws.

**Question 13:** Will the Corporation be releasing the required prevailing wage tables for the project area so that all bidders have the same labor rates for use in bidding?

Answer 13: Required prevailing wage tables are available at: <https://dlt.ri.gov/regulation-and-safety/prevailing-wage>.

**Question 14: Under Rhode Island law, the prevailing wage rates to be applied are those that are effective as of the date of the awarding of the contract to the general contractor. What is the process for increasing the award amount due to increases in prevailing wage rates, if any, occurring between the date of bid submission and the date of contract award?**

Answer 14: Proposers may not adjust their budgets after the submission of bids.

**Question 15: Under Rhode Island law, Contractors must also adjust employees' hourly wage rates (if applicable) every July 1st in accordance with any updated Davis Bacon Wage Determination rates. What is the process for increasing the award amount during the term of the agreement due to annual increases in prevailing wage rates?**

Answer 15: The award(s) will be made as fixed amount subawards. See Question 9 as well.

**Question 16: If a proposer identifies locations that it cannot match to a valid address, can the proposer remove those locations from its proposal bid and have that proposal still be considered for subsidy consideration?**

Answer 16: ISPs are not eligible to submit proposed changes to the eligible BSLs listed in the Project Areas.

**Question 17: If for particular target locations an ISP already offers broadband service that meets the requirements in the RFP's Scope of Work, can the ISP submit a list of such locations and have them removed from the relevant Project Area(s)?**

Answer 17: ISPs are not eligible to submit proposed changes to the eligible BSLs listed in the Project Areas.

**Question 18: Will an applicant be permitted to use letters of support from partners obtained for Round 1 in Round 2? Or will we need to get new or updated letters?**

Answer 18: Relevant letters of support acquired from Round 1 may be submitted.

End of Addendum