

November 4, 2024
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2341**
ADDENDUM NO. 1
Questions & Answers

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RI REBOUNDS – PLACEMAKING PHASE 2 GRANTS INITIATIVE

As the State’s tourism, hospitality, and events industries continue to face the lingering challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks to support them through a Placemaking Phase 2 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 initiatives and events and capital improvements projects occurring between December 1, 2024, and October 31, 2025, with grants of up to \$75,000 for events projects to \$200,000 for capital improvement projects. In responding to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”), Proposers are encouraged to create, design, and offer programs, activities, public space capital improvements, and events that aid the tourism and hospitality industries that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in communities across Rhode Island.

Question #1: my predecessor, [REDACTED] submitted a grant proposal for the Placemaking Initiative last year. I believe her proposal was for Phase 1. Her application was declined. Does her submission prohibit me from applying for a different project?

Answer #1: No. This is new phase of Placemaking that is separate and distinct from Phase 1. Any eligible entity pursuant to this RFP may apply.

Question #2: Can a proposer also act as a fiscal agent on another proposal?

Answer #2: No. A proposer’s employee, independent contractor, or agent is not permitted to act as a fiscal agent for another proposer. This is prohibited to prevent collusive RFP/RFQ responses.

Question #3: What is the estimated timeline for contracting and reimbursement?

Answer #3: Contracting and reimbursement must occur by October 31, 2025. Any contracting or request for reimbursements related to an awarded proposal after this date will not be allowed unless expressly permitted by the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation for good cause.

Question #4: Will the rubric favor outdoor projects?

Answer #4: While the rubric does not favor outdoor projects, please refer to the *Placemaking, Capital Improvements, and Events* section of the RFP for eligible projects. Please refer to the rubric contained in the RFP for the scoring methodology.

Question #5: Just curious, can entities submit multiple requests? For us, wondering if we could submit a programming request at a max of \$75k and a capital request capped at \$200k?

Answer #5: Yes. Entities can submit multiple responses to this RFP. Each response should specify whether the proposal is for event programming or a capital improvements project. An individual response cannot seek funding for both event programming and capital improvements.

Question #6: I was just hoping to clarify a point regarding the RI Rebounds grant. Is there a specific format we should be submitting for the narrative, application and budget? I cannot seem to find specific forms save for the ones attached to the RFP.

Answer #6: The required components of the application as described in the RFP do not require a specific format. This is left to the discretion of Proposers. However, please ensure that the RFP/RFQ Response Certification Cover Form attached to the RFP is also completed and included with your response.

Question #7: Is Food a reimbursable expense?

Answer #7: Yes. Food is a reimbursable expense for event programming so long as said food expense(s) are directly related to a proposal.

Question #8: Can a community submit a capital improvement proposal and an event proposal? Should it come from two different departments if it is allowed?

Answer #8: Yes. Entities can submit multiple responses to this RFP. Each response should specify whether the proposal is for event programming or a capital improvements project. An individual response cannot seek funding for both event programming and capital improvements. Further, multiple responses from the same entity do not need to come from different departments.

Question #9: What expenses are not allowed under the grant?

Answer #9: Expenses not directly related to supporting proposals are ineligible for payment under this RFP. Further, direct administrative costs in excess of ten percent (10%) of the total cost of proposals are not permitted.

Question #10: Is there a municipal match required?

Answer #10: No. A municipal match is not required.

Question #11: Does this RFP prioritize projects initiated through previous RI Commerce placemaking support vs new initiatives?

Answer #11: No. This RFP does not prioritize projects initiated through previous RI Commerce placemaking support compared to new initiatives.

Question #12: For the Placemaking Initiative grants, can the capital improvement projects be standalone grants for the building and not be related to supporting outdoor and public space initiatives?

Answer #12: No. Capital improvement projects under this RFP must be related to outdoor and public spaces. Examples of eligible capital improvement projects include but are not limited to upgrading public or co-shared outdoor dining space, maintenance/improvements to public parks/plazas/recreational areas, main street improvements, and outdoor performance/event venues.

***End of Addendum ***