

**April 18, 2025**  
**Rhode Island Commerce Corporation**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2509**  
ADDENDUM NO. 1  
Questions & Answers

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Broadband Geographic Information System Mapping Support**

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks proposals from qualified firms to support the ongoing maintenance and publishing of the Corporation’s statewide broadband availability map in support of the Corporation’s efforts to ensure that all Rhode Island residents and businesses have access to reliable, affordable, and consistent broadband service. The geographic information system (“GIS”) map provides critical support to the Corporation’s ConnectRI Program and supports the Corporation’s efforts to meet requirements of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) program; the Digital Equity Act (“DEA”); the US Treasury’s Capital Projects Fund (“CPF”) program (collectively, “Programs”); as well as State of Rhode Island (“State”) statutory requirements.

**A. 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.**

1. The language under Project Timeline is entirely replaced with the following:  
*April 8, 2025: RFP Posted*  
*April 15, 2025: Deadline for Submitting Questions*  
*April 18, 2025: Questions and Answers Posted*  
*April 29, 2025: Deadline for RFP submissions*

*The successful Proposer will enter into a contract for services with the Corporation. The duration of the contract between the Corporation and the selected Proposer is expected to begin upon the date of contract approval for a duration of one year, with renewals for up to four additional one-year periods. There is no guarantee for services beyond the initial contract period.*

2. Under Budget, the language is entirely replaced with the following:

*Proposers to this RFP shall provide an hourly rate to accomplish the scope items incorporated in the proposal. The Corporation anticipates annual costs for this activity not to exceed \$100,000. Additionally, Proposers shall provide a personnel schedule which includes job title and billing rate for any work which may be undertaken under this contract as well as explain which job titles/billing rates are expected to be applied to which task above. If the Proposer expects billing rates to increase after the initial contract period, any billing rate changes must be included in the proposal. Subcontractors are not eligible to be funded under this contract. If the Proposer contemplates any purchases or pass-through charges during the engagement, any mark-up rate above actual cost shall be identified as a separate line item in the budget. The Corporation reserves the right to adjust both the budget and related services. It is anticipated that the work will not exceed 10 hours per week.*

*In addition to showing how you will meet the requirements outlined above, Proposers should also provide information regarding the following:*

- *Research and Analytics: Provide an overview of how you determine success. What are the analytic tools or services that you use, and what type of information will you be reporting back to the Corporation as it relates to meeting our objectives?*

All other terms and conditions of the RFP shall remain in full force and effect.

## **B. Questions and Answers**

**Question #1:** The GIS system is unspecified. It appears that you are currently using ARCGIS. Would a non-ARCGIS solution be acceptable?

Answer #1: Yes. However, the proposed solution must be able to allow for the migration of all necessary data from ARCGIS to the vendor's preferred solution.

**Question #2:** The duration of the proposed contract appears to be 1 year. Would you be open to support for updating the various data sources beyond 1 year?

Answer #2: Per the RFP, the term of this contract is one year. The Corporation may provide for four one-year extensions of the contract and will evaluate its needs annually.

**Question #3:** For the Okla geolocation data, the public accuracy is approximately 610 X 610 meters. This could confuse proper identifications of households or census blocks. Does the state have higher accuracy data, and what is the resolution of that data.

Answer #3: The Corporation has geolocation data at the IP address level.

**Questions #4:** Would Rhode Island please consider a deadline extension for this RFP response?

Answer #4: The deadline for RFP-2509 is April 29, 2025.

**Question #5:** Under Budget, the RFP states, "Proposers to this RFP shall provide an hourly rate to accomplish the scope items incorporated in the proposal." Can you confirm if Rhode Island is seeking a blended hourly rate for the team proposed for each task in the Scope of Work or a blended hourly rate for the entire project? Can you also confirm that this blended hourly rate (if confirmed) would be in addition to the personnel schedule which includes job title and billing rate for any work which may be undertaken under this contract as well as explain which job titles/billing rates are expected to be applied to which task above?

Answer #5: The Corporation confirms that it is seeking a blended hourly rate to be itemized per Task, which would be in addition to the personnel schedule. See answer to Question #6 for additional information.

**Question #6:** Can you please confirm if this contract will be compensated on hours worked (time and materials)?

Answer #6: Proposals should reflect both hourly rates as well as anticipated total amounts for Tasks 1 and 5. The contract will be compensated based on time worked; however, annual arrangements are not to exceed \$100,000.

**Question #7:** Is it Rhode Island's intention to use the blended hourly rate proposed or the personnel schedule to evaluate the best value (budget approach/cost effectiveness) or does it seek a cost estimate for the entire project?

Answer #7: The Corporation will review the budget approach and cost effectiveness based on both the hourly rate and the total cost for the project, as well as the individual Tasks. Consideration will also be made for hourly rate discounts. Please see answers to Questions #5 and #6 for additional information.

**Question #8:** Can you please confirm the parameters of the RFP language, "Subcontractors are not eligible to be funded under this contract?" Under the Evaluation Criteria, the MBE/WBE/DisBE Participation is listed as additional potential points. There is also the MBE, WBE, AND/OR Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan Form bidders are required to complete, sign and submit with their overall proposal. We understand this form is intended to capture commitments between the prime contractor/vendor and MBE/WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers. Any clarification you can provide to ensure our proposal is responsive and compliant in regard to subcontractors, would be greatly appreciated.

Answer #8: RFP-2509 does not allow for sub-contractors. The MBE/WBE/DisBE will be allocated based on the primary applicant.

**Question #9:** The RFP states, “the selected Proposer will be provided with the data architecture, data dictionary, and current GIS layers of the Rhode Island Broadband Map for updating and expanding. It is expected that the selected Proposer will maintain and build off this underlying and present-day map in GIS.” The language in Task 1 indicates a new “updatable, public-facing, multi-layered map that displays location (based on FCC’s National Broadband Map fabric and the current Rhode Island Broadband map)” is to be built. Can you please confirm if this is a new map viewer and is not a change to the existing Rhode Island Broadband Map?

Answer #9: The Corporation anticipates that the public-facing RI Broadband Map will remain largely the same and should be used as the baseline by the selected Proposer. The selected Proposer will be required to conduct all efforts needed to ensure the continuity of the map, including, but not limited to, the updating of data on the public-facing map and the data on the backend.

**Question #10:** Can you please confirm if this will be developed and maintained within Rhode Island’s ESRI online environment/account?

Answer #10: The Rhode Island Broadband Map will ultimately reside in the State’s ESRI account and online environment (Task 5), but it is not required to be hosted there during the duration of this contract.

**Question #11:** Scope of Work, Task #2, Bullet 2: Can you provide details of what is being assessed for accuracy? For example, is it the project status, funding, or both?

Answer#11: It is both.

**Question #12:** Is Task 3 support limited to GIS tasks only? For example, would communication with the subgrantee be performed by Rhode Island or would the contractor provide this related support as well?

Answer #12: The Corporation is the point of contact with subgrantees. However, there may be some instances in which troubleshooting or alignment would benefit by the selected proposer(s) communicating directly with a subgrantee. In those instances, the Corporation will facilitate and coordinate those communications.

**Question #13:** Task 1 asks for an updatable, public-facing, multi-layered map. Is it expected the proposer will further develop the existing map application

<https://ri.broadbandnavigator.com/map?zoom=10&center=-7970596%2C5095821> or is there interest in leveraging enterprise Esri apps?

Answer #13: See answer to Question #9.

**Question #14:** Does the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation have access to an Esri ArcGIS Enterprise or ArcGIS Online Environment in which to build the new map and manage the data?

Answer #14: Yes, the Corporation has access to the ArcGIS online environment.

**Question #15:** Is there an incumbent.

Answer #15: Yes, there is currently a vendor supporting the Corporation's broadband mapping work.

**Question #16:** In the instructions, item 9 links to an RFP Response Certification Cover Form. When I follow this link as of 4/15, the form is not found. Can a new link be provided.

Answer #16: The RFP/RFQ Response Certification Cover Form is the final 3 pages of RFP-2509 or via this link:

[https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/rhodeisland/RFP\\_RESPONSE\\_CERTIFICATION\\_COVER\\_FORM\\_88d2b6a2-2798-4d0f-81b8-cedbe5692088.pdf](https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/rhodeisland/RFP_RESPONSE_CERTIFICATION_COVER_FORM_88d2b6a2-2798-4d0f-81b8-cedbe5692088.pdf). This form must be completed, printed, signed and included with your submission.

**Question #17:** In the Technical Proposal Elements, item 3 asks for certification of availability of individuals in the proposal. Is there a particular way you would like this certification?

Answer #17: The Corporation does not have a specified format for this certification.

**Question #18:** Can you confirm the current hosting environment for the Rhode Island Broadband Map (e.g., ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Enterprise, or a custom platform)?

Answer #18: The current map is built on ArcGIS with certain proprietary layers.

**Question #19:** Will access be granted to the full current data architecture, including schema, geodatabases, and relevant scripts or APIs?

Answer #19: The selected Proposer will have access to the current available data architecture.

**Question #20:** Are versioned/historical datasets or backups available for auditing and update tracking?

**Answer #20:** Existing historic datasets that are managed by RICC will be available to the selected Proposer, as allowed and available. Once the selected Proposer begins the project, historic datasets should be maintained by the selected Proposer.

**Question #21:** Is the speed test data currently limited to Ookla, or are there plans to integrate data from other providers (e.g., M-Lab)?

**Answer #21:** The current speed test data is limited to Ookla.

**Question #22:** Is there an automated ETL (extract, transform, load) process currently in place for ingesting FCC, NTIA, or vendor data into the Broadband Map?

**Answer #22:** The vendor would be responsible for developing its own process for ingesting data into the RI Broadband Map.

**Question #23:** Will the contractor be expected to host any components of the broadband map or services, or will all work occur within a pre-established state-hosted environment?

**Answer #23:** The RI Broadband Map may be hosted by the contractor or within the state-hosted environment for the duration of the contract. However, it will ultimately reside in the State's ESRI account and online environment (Task 5). See Question #10

**Question #24:** Are there specific cloud technologies or data storage platforms that must be used (e.g., AWS, Azure, or a Rhode Island-specific GIS infrastructure)?

**Answer #24:** There are no specific requirements.

**Question #25:** Are there any open APIs or services currently exposed to the public from the broadband mapping system?

**Answer #25:** No.

**Question #26:** Are standardized formats/templates available for BEAD or CPF GIS reporting deliverables, or is the contractor expected to design them?

**Answer #26:** There are standardized and required reporting formats and templates that will be provided by the Corporation.

**Question #27:** Will the selected contractor be provided direct access to broadband infrastructure deployment vendor submissions (e.g., shapefiles, address lists)?

Answer #27: Yes.

**Question #28:** For speed test and quality-of-service data, does the Corporation define the analytical methodology or is the contractor expected to propose it?

Answer #28: The Corporation will provide this.

**Question #29:** Will the contractor have direct communication with broadband vendors for validation or technical follow-up?

Answer #29: The Corporation will facilitate communication between the contractor and the broadband vendors.

**Question #30:** Will there be a need for contractor staff to present mapping progress to the Governor's Office, General Assembly, or public stakeholder meetings?

Answer #30: The Corporation does not anticipate that the contractor will present directly to constituents.

**Question #31:** Will onsite work or travel to Rhode Island be required at any point during the contract?

Answer #31: It is not anticipated that on-site work or travel will be required.

**Question #32:** If NTIA or CPF program guidance materially changes during the contract period, will there be an opportunity to revisit contract terms or budget?

Answer #32: The Corporation does not anticipate that federal program guidance will materially impact the requirements of this agreement.

**Question #33:** Are there specific data security, privacy, or compliance requirements related to broadband serviceable location data or public map deployment? If so, please identify what they are.

Answer #33: All applicable state and federal data security, privacy, and compliance requirements must be followed.

**Question #34:** Are we expected to implement any user authentication or role-based access controls for maintaining map data or interfaces?

Answer #34: The Corporation anticipates that access to the underlying map data and interfaces will be limited. The Corporation expects the selected Proposer to adhere to strong, industry-standard access control protocols.

**Question #35:** For the Transition Plan, should the final documentation include technical SOPs, metadata standards, and/or code walkthroughs?

Answer #35: Yes. All of the above should be included.

**Question #36:** Will source code and scripts created during the engagement need to be delivered in full or just the resulting products (e.g., maps, services, datasets)?

Answer #36: All data required for a seamless management transition of the RI Broadband Map to the Corporation must be delivered at the end of the engagement.

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