

June 25, 2026

**Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Solicitation Number: **RFP-2612**

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Questions & Answers

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Monitoring and Compliance for BEAD Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Projects
and Grants Platform**

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) seeks bids from qualified vendors to (1) lead monitoring and compliance for the Corporation’s subgrantees throughout the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) infrastructure deployment projects; (2) provide, customize, and maintain functionality of a platform that serves as a centralized digital hub for BEAD program oversight; and (3) support the Corporation’s compliance and monitoring requirements under the BEAD program. All proposals and activities must be consistent with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (“NTIA”) requirements for the BEAD program.

Question 1: Please clarify the required cadence for desk reviews under “Quarterly Subgrantee Virtual Desk Reviews.” Should reviews occur quarterly, as stated in the sub-bullet title, or biannually, as stated in the second sub-bullet, which requires “a minimum of biannual desk reviews”?

Answer: Formal Desk Reviews are required a minimum of twice annually in alternate quarters from technical reviews. The Corporation retains the discretion to request quarterly desk reviews, if needed.

Question 2: Does “Bi-monthly” mean every other month or twice a month?

Answer: Bi-monthly means every other month.

Question 3: Will the Corporation will [sic] be reimbursing Subgrantees based on their submitted invoices and related documents as noted in the Rhode Island Compliance and Monitoring Plan section of the Final Proposal or will the Corporation be disbursing funds according to a fixed amount subaward schedule or a combination? Please provide details on the reimbursement/disbursement method.

Answer: The Corporation will be disbursing funds according to a fixed amount subaward schedule. Subgrantees will need to provide appropriate back-up documentation that will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness prior to disbursement.

Question 4: What is the difference between the Standard Operating Procedures Manual in Task 3(a) and the Monitoring and Compliance Plan in Task 1(a)? Please provide examples of sections for each document.

Answer: The Compliance and Monitoring Plan is a document that articulates the overall goals, strategy, activities, and timeline against which project progress will be reviewed and monitored. The Standard Operating Procedures Manual should provide the step-by-step guidance for subgrantees and the Corporation for implementation consistent with the Compliance and Monitoring Plan.

Question 5: Does this project require the fifteen percent MBE participation as described in this item?

Answer: The 15% ISBE participation is a scoring criterion, not a requirement.

Question 6: Would Rhode Island Commerce consider extending the deadline for submissions one week to allow respondents additional time considering the upcoming holiday?

Answer: The proposal submission deadline is July 8, 2026.

Question 7: The RFP states that proposers may respond to one or more of the three Tasks and that the CommerceRI may award one or more contracts. Can the CommerceRI confirm that a proposer responding only to Task 1 and/or Task 3 will be evaluated independently and will not be disadvantaged for not proposing a Task 2 platform solution?

Answer: Tasks will be evaluated independently.

Question 8: If separate vendors are selected for Task 1 monitoring/compliance and Task 2 platform services, how does the CommerceRI expect responsibilities to be divided between the compliance/monitoring vendor and the platform vendor?

Answer: The Corporation expects responsibilities between vendors to be divided based on the Scope of Work for each task. The Corporation will provide oversight to the vendors, including delineation of responsibilities. Selected vendors are required to work collaboratively to achieve the Corporation's broadband infrastructure deployment goals.

Question 9: If separate vendors are awarded Tasks 1 and 2, will the CommerceRI require the Task 1 vendor to use the selected Task 2 platform, or may the Task 1 vendor maintain its own internal trackers and provide deliverables in CommerceRI-approved formats?

Answer: Separate vendors may have their own internal processes and trackers. However, if different vendors are selected for Tasks 1 and 2, the Task 1 vendor must be able to import data to the selected platform regularly via API or other automated or simple process.

Question 10: For Task 2, is the CommerceRI open to an existing commercial SaaS or grants-management platform provided by a third-party subcontractor, or must the prime proposer directly own and operate the platform?

Answer: The Proposer does not need to directly own and operate the proposed platform.

Question 11: The RFP states that the CommerceRI is seeking a platform that is ready for immediate use and requires minimal customization. Can the CommerceRI clarify what level of configuration or customization would still be considered “minimal”?

Answer: The Corporation anticipates a platform that has been pre-built and requires plug-and-play or minimum bespoke build. The Corporation requires the tool to be available for use within the first quarter after contract execution with limited time and involvement from Corporation staff.

Question 12: Does the CommerceRI currently have preferred systems, repositories, reporting tools, or document-retention platforms that the selected proposer must use or integrate with?

Answer: No. However, the Selected Proposer must comply with all federal and state records-retention requirements and be able to ensure records transfer can be provided to the Corporation as requested in a viewable format.

Question 13: Can the CommerceRI clarify whether onsite field inspections, construction inspections, network testing, speed testing, or physical verification of broadband infrastructure are excluded from this scope?

Answer: Yes; the Corporation has a separate technical compliance consultant. However, the platform in Task 2 must enable seamless ingestion of reporting data from the Corporation’s technical compliance vendor.

Question 14: The RFP notes that technical network compliance/testing and NEPA/EHP compliance are being handled separately. Can the CommerceRI clarify the expected coordination process between the selected monitoring/compliance vendor and those separate technical and EHP resources?

Answer: The Corporation will provide oversight and coordination among the vendors. All vendors are required to work collaboratively to achieve the state’s broadband infrastructure deployment goals.

Question 15: For Task 1 desk reviews, bi-monthly reviews, and monthly subgrantee reporting, does the CommerceRI expect these activities to be performed virtually/document-based unless otherwise directed?

Answer: These activities will primarily be performed virtually and be document-based, unless requested by the Corporation.

Question 16: Will the CommerceRI provide existing subgrantee agreements, initial risk assessments, reporting templates, approved project milestones, BSL lists, and prior BEAD compliance materials to the selected proposer at project kickoff?

Answer: The Corporation will provide all required documentation to the selected Proposer(s).

Question 17: For project-area and BSL tracking, will the CommerceRI provide a baseline authoritative BSL dataset for each Project Area, including unique identifiers, locations, assigned subgrantee, technology type, and current status?

Answer: Yes.

Question 18: Can the CommerceRI clarify whether the selected proposer is expected to approve subgrantee payment requests directly, or to provide review findings and recommendations to the CommerceRI for final approval?

Answer: The selected proposer (Task 1) is expected to accept responsibility for all findings and recommendations for payment requests; the Corporation will provide final approval.

Question 19: For certified payroll and Rhode Island prevailing wage review, is the selected proposer expected to perform document review only, or also perform independent wage determinations, interviews, or field verification?

Answer: The selected proposer will perform document review and confirm wage determinations, unless otherwise directed by the Corporation.

Question 20: Can the CommerceRI clarify the expected frequency and format of coordination meetings among the CommerceRI, subgrantees, the monitoring/compliance vendor, the platform vendor, the technical compliance vendor, and the EHP/NEPA vendor?

Answer: The Corporation requires all vendors to participate in a weekly Coordination meeting. The meetings with subgrantees should align with the requirements of the RFP and the risk assessments. Additional meetings will be scheduled as required by project needs.

Question 21: For the audit-ready record requirement, does the CommerceRI have a preferred file structure, naming convention, retention period, or document repository that the selected proposer should use?

Answer: The Corporation will provide requirements to the selected proposer(s).

Question 22: If the CommerceRI awards Tasks 1, 2, and 3 to different vendors, will the CommerceRI provide a governance structure or lead integrator role to resolve workflow, data, and responsibility questions among vendors?

Answer: Yes. The Corporation will coordinate responsibilities among vendors.

Question 23: Can the CommerceRI clarify whether strategic advisory under Task 3 is limited to compliance and monitoring matters, or whether it may include broadband program implementation and subgrantee deployment-risk advisory?

Answer: Task 3 is limited to compliance and monitoring.

Question 24: Are in-person meetings expected during the contract period, or may all routine project meetings, desk reviews, reporting reviews, and advisory sessions be conducted virtually?

Answer: It is anticipated that the majority of meetings can be conducted virtually. The Corporation does not anticipate the need for but retains the discretion to require on-site visits based on project needs.

Question 25: What specific compliance responsibilities remain with the selected contractor when findings from Technical Compliance reviews identify deficiencies requiring corrective action?

Answer: The selected Proposer will be responsible for non-technical compliance of subawardees.

Question 26: Will the contractor track corrective actions resulting from network validation, speed testing, technical compliance, or EHP/NEPA findings?

Answer: See answer to Question 14 and Question 25.

Question 27: Is the contractor expected to consolidate reporting outputs from all compliance vendors into a single NTIA-facing package?

Answer: The Corporation will consolidate the reporting outputs for submission.

Question 28: Are annual reassessments expected to produce formal risk scores?

Answer: Yes. The annual assessments should produce formal risk scores and also provide a rationale for any changes to risk scores.

Question 29: Are risk assessment deliverables subject to NTIA review?

Answer: The Corporation provides all documents to NTIA that are requested and required for review.

Question 30: Does the platform require FedRAMP, StateRAMP, SOC 2 Type II, or NIST compliance?

Answer: The platform must comply with all federal and state compliance requirements. However, this is an NTIA-funded program and not one funded by the Department of War.

Question 31: Are there specific data residency requirements?

Answer: Rhode Island does not have specific data residency requirements above any required federal regulations.

Question 32: Are MFA and SSO required?

Answer: The platform must ensure industry-standard relevant security protocols are met.

Question 33: Will the Corporation provide identity management integration?

Answer: No.

Question 34: What is the required records retention period?

Answer: The Retention Period is defined as the duration of the Period of Performance, which is through 12/31/40 and for four (4) years after the Project Closeout.

Question 35: Does the Corporation require retention beyond NTIA requirements?

Answer: See response to Question 34.

Question 36: Must records be retained after contract expiration?

Answer: See response to Question 34.

Question 37: What export formats are required at closeout?

Answer: The Corporation will share the required export formats with the Selected Proposer(s).

Question 38: Are any positions considered Key Personnel?

Answer: Proposers should identify in their proposals those individuals they consider to be Key Personnel.

Question 39: Will resumes be evaluated as part of the technical score?

Answer: Resumes are required for evaluation and scoring.

Question 40: Are site inspections required?

Answer: See response to Question 24.

Question 41: Are separate risk scores expected for each project area?

Answer: Risk scores are required for vendors, not for each project area. However, the Selected Proposer should identify any projects that are not aligned with the risk score and identify recommendations to address project-specific challenges/concerns.

Question 42: If NTIA extends deployment deadlines, will contract funding be increased proportionally?

Answer: The Corporation cannot commit to increasing contract funding.

Question 43: Is the contract expected to be fixed-price, T&M, or hybrid?

Answer: The contract is expected to be fixed-price, deliverables-based.

Question 44: For Task 2, please provide the expected number of Corporation users, subgrantee users, and any external users who will need access to the platform, so proposers can accurately price the licensing and support.

Answer: The Corporation anticipates 5-7 users internally and an additional 3-6 users for subgrantees. Depending on the platform, an additional 5-7 external vendors may require access.

Question 45: The RFP lists interface with accounting and other software as preferred functionality. Please identify the Corporation's current accounting, grants management, document management, mapping, or reporting systems that

the platform may need to interface with, and whether API integration is expected or merely preferred.

Answer: The Corporation uses Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains for its accounting system and ArcGIS for broadband mapping. The Corporation would prefer integration; it is not required.

Question 46: Please clarify any minimum platform security, privacy, accessibility, hosting, or compliance requirements, or retention standards.

Answer: See responses to Questions 32 and 34.

Question 47: Should proposers include data migration from existing spreadsheets, systems, or records into the platform? If yes, please provide the anticipated volume and format of existing data and documents.

Answer: Proposers should anticipate migrating limited subgrantee information, including all relevant project area information (e.g. eligible broadband serviceable locations (BSLs and high-level network designs)). All information should be entered and maintained in a format compatible with NTIA reporting requirements.

Question 48: What historical data from your current grant management system needs to migrate into the new solution, and in what timeframe?

Answer: The Corporation is not currently using a grants management system for BEAD.

Question 49: Do you use a financial management system or accounting software that the grant solution should integrate with for invoicing/payment tracking?

Answer: See response to Question 45.

Question 50: Are there specific reporting formats or templates that the solution must support?

Answer: The platform must adhere to NTIA compliance, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Question 51: Is there a total budget ceiling for this engagement, or for any of the tasks?

Answer: Proposers should follow the instructions as outlined in the Budget Section of RFP-2612. The Corporation will be evaluating the reasonableness of each proposer's proposed budget.

Question 52: What level of financial review depth does the Corporation expect for bimonthly subgrantee reviews: a programmatic desk review of submitted documentation, or a formal financial audit conducted by a licensed auditor?

Answer: The Corporation expects programmatic desk review of submitted documentation. Any concerns that arise from these reviews should be elevated to the Corporation with recommendations for any additional review/follow-up required.

Question 53: Does the Corporation have an existing grants management or project tracking platform currently in use that the selected vendor would need to integrate with or replace?

Answer: See the response to Question 48.

Question 54: The RFP requires pricing by task. May proposers also include optional bundled pricing across multiple tasks to reflect efficiencies, in addition to the required task-level pricing?

Answer: As stated in the Scope of Work section in RFP-2612, Proposers must indicate if there is a cost savings/reduction in specific task costs, if they bid on more than one Task.

Question 55: Task 1(a) includes quarterly virtual desk reviews. Please clarify whether this scope includes any field-based monitoring or audit activities, or if those efforts will be addressed under separate engagements referenced in the RFP.

Answer: Technical field-based monitoring will be a separate engagement. The selected proposer is required to review and confirm that the audit information is sufficient for Corporation approval.

Question 56: The RFP references review and confirmation of subgrantee reporting. Please clarify the division of responsibilities between Commerce staff and the selected proposer regarding approval of subgrantee reports and monitoring outputs.

Answer: The selected proposer is expected to review all submitted reports, identify any issues of concern, and make company-backed recommendations to the Corporation for final documents. The Corporation will provide final approval and submission of all subgrantee reports. See also answer to Question 61.

Question 57: Will all subgrant agreements be executed prior to contract start? If not, what is the anticipated timing relative to project kickoff?

Answer: Subaward agreements are anticipated to be signed prior to the start of this contract.

Question 58: The Scope of Work references review of Rhode Island Certified Payroll Reports. Please confirm how and when the selected proposer will be granted access to these reports.

Answer: The Corporation adheres to Rhode Island Prevailing Wage Requirements, which includes the subgrantees' submission of certified payroll reports, provided as part of quarterly reporting. Selected proposers should anticipate reviewing certified payroll reports during quarterly and bimonthly reviews and invoice reviews.

Question 59: Please clarify the anticipated subaward structure (e.g., reimbursement-based, fixed amount subawards, or other), and how this should inform the level of invoice and expenditure review under Task 1.

Answer: See response to Question 3.

Question 60: The RFP specifies a 99% platform uptime requirement. Please confirm whether this excludes scheduled maintenance or planned downtime.

Answer: The Corporation will negotiate scheduled maintenance and planned downtime, which is required to be minimally disruptive.

Question 61: RFP seeks bids to “lead monitoring and compliance for the Corporation’s subgrantees throughout [...] BEAD infrastructure deployment projects.

- a. Is the Corporation seeking compliance support and guidance services to the three subgrantees, or does the Corporation intend for the selected contractor to assume all liability for projects deemed to be non-compliant? We assume the former [sic].
- b. This proposer will perform these tasks as, effectively, staff augmentation and project management services to RICC. Proposer will document, guide sub-awardees, and recommend actions (with context) to RICC,, but all final decisions will be RICC’s.
- c. Limitations on liability – will be incorporated into contract between RICC and selected proposer.
- d. Which sections of Rhode Island law ([The State of Rhode Island General Laws](#)) cover these provisions?

Answer: Although the Corporation will retain final decision-making authority, the selected proposer is required to accept responsibility for monitoring and compliance activities required under the contract and for its recommendations. The selected proposer’s contract will address liability. The Corporation cannot provide additional guidance regarding Rhode Island law. Proposers should familiarize themselves with the applicable provisions.

Question 62: Number of BEAD contracts – The RFP names the 14 project area units spread among the three named BEAD awardees.

- a. Is it valid to conclude that there will be only three (3) BEAD contracts, one with each of the sub-awardees? Can you confirm?

Answer: Yes.

Question 63: Regarding the “digital hub” platform outlined in Task 2, does the Corporation currently utilize Microsoft SharePoint or an equivalent and common web-based file sharing and collaboration platform?

- a. **If yes, will RICC consider hosting a structures for BEAD sub-awardees on their internal SharePoint (or equivalent)?**
- b. **Or will the site managed by the Contractor with appropriate permissions?**
- c. **Does Corporation have a preference on vision of operation?**
- d. **All BEAD data will be property of RICC, of course.**

Answer: The Corporation utilizes Microsoft SharePoint and is open to evaluating the appropriate sharing mechanisms with the selected proposer. It is anticipated that the selected proposer’s platform (Task 2) will also be utilized for this purpose. All BEAD data will remain the property of the Corporation.

Question 64: The preferred functionality of the digital platform, as outlined in Task 2(a) in the Scope of Work includes the “ability to interface with other relevant software (e.g., accounting software)”.

- a. **This proposer suggests that include only extracts of transactions from general ledger and, perhaps, from accounts payable? Budget, actuals, and forecasts for each of the BEAD projects? All transactions will be managed and executed by the sub-awardee. Can you confirm that vision of operation?**
- b. **Can you define the minimum set of possible required interactions?**
- c. **Does the selected contractor have the ability to specify the formats of extracts and to provide templates to the three BEAD sub-awardees?**

Answer: See Response to Question 45. Also, the Corporation will determine acceptable file extract formats but anticipates that the Selected Proposer will provide templates to the three BEAD subawardees. There is no minimum set of possible required interactions.

***End of Addendum ***