RHODE ISLAND
INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

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Coastal Resiliency Plan RFP Question Responses

1. What is the estimated project budget/award amount for this project? Has an itemized budget been established for this project?
    - *The State of Rhode Island has allocated $750,000 towards the completion of the Coastal Resiliency Plan. The budget for the project may not exceed this figure. An itemized budget will be established with the selected contractor(s) for the project.*

2. Can bidders request edits to Exhibit A, Contract Terms at the time of submission of the RFP or if awarded, request edits to the contract?
    - *Requests for edits to Exhibit A should be made at the time of submission*

3. Must bidders have a minimum of seven (7) years' experience in each of the following fields: climate resilience & adaptation, community resiliency, climate change mitigation, water quality, stormwater and best management practice, drainage and civil and/or environmental engineering. or can a bidder have seven (7) years of experience across a combination of those fields?
    - *Respondents are required to have a minimum of seven (7) years' experience in each field as stated under the Requirements section of the RFP.*

4. Given the holidays, could the submission date be pushed a week or two?
    - *The submission deadline has been extended to 4pm on January 24, 2025.*

5. What percentage is the Bank targeting for the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan? How should respondents complete the Total Contract Value and Subcontract Value in the MBE/WBE DBE Participation form?
    - *No target percentage has been identified for MBE/WBE/DBE participation. The MBE/WBE/DBE Form should be completed according to the directions in the Form.*

6. Page 9, item I, items 1 and 2 - ISBE Participation, Since a proposal fee is not requested for the Consultant in the RFP, can the Consultant indicate the qualifications and responsibilities of ISBE firm(s) and our participation goal as an estimated range until the project scope and fee is negotiated per Item V.C. Final Award on Page 12, instead of completing the supplier diversity plan forms in Exhibit B?
    - *Please indicate the identity, qualifications and responsibilities of ISBE firm(s) in the proposal submission and complete Exhibit B with what your proposed MBE/WBE/DBE participation rate at the time of submission.*

7. In Section II, Scope Of Work: The RFP refers to both "Coastal" and "Climate" Resilience and requests respondents "evaluate statewide asset vulnerability to sea level rise, storm surge, intense precipitation events, warming air and water temperatures, and changing biodiversity." Could you confirm the geographic extent of the study? Will the focus be on coastal areas or will it also consider in-land areas statewide that are not subject to coastal hazards?
    - *The geographic extent of the study is the state of Rhode Island, inclusive of each of its five counties. The entirety of the state is deemed coastal by federal designation (NOAA).*

8. Page 4, Task 1 Deliverables, fourth bullet- Prior to completing this task will the Consultant be provided a complete list of contacts listed in the by RIIB and/or RIDEM? Can you estimate how many individuals will be involved in reaching consensus on the final goals?
    - *The Resilience EC4 Subgroup and the RI Resilience Partner groups meeting is on a bimonthly basis and will continue to be convened by RIDEM. The consultant will be brought into these meeting invitations and contact lists. Currently, the Subgroup consists of 14 designees, and the partner group of just over 40 entities. Municipal Resilience Program Core Teams will also be engaged (appx. 2-5 individuals per municipality). If the larger group has difficulty reaching consensus, RIDEM and RIIB will provide advice and direction on moving forward.*

9. Page 4, Task 2, Deliverables, second bullet, Can the Consultant recommend different timeline scenarios from 2025 to 2100 if consistent with applicable federal regulations governing design of new buildings, structures and facilities?
    - *Yes, however, note that the proposed timelines are consistent with RIDOT's recent Resilience Improvement Plan.*

10. Page 4, Task 2, Deliverables, fifth bullet, including public roads that the State and municipalities need to maintain to access private properties could be a large dataset. Please clarify examples of what types of properties are to be assessed for vulnerability.
    - *Asset types to be assessed include those outlined in Resilient Rhody 2018 and Act on Coasts. It is understood that not all of these assets are publicly owned. Private sites to be analyzed will be those for which climate change impacts would place public infrastructure at risk.*

11. Page 5, Task 3, fourth bullet, Will preliminary cost estimates be limited to projects needing to be constructed by 2030 or will longer-term projects need to be provided with preliminary cost estimates?
    - *This will depend on which projects are selected as top priority in the prioritization process.*

12. Page 8, Selection Criteria, you are prioritizing sub-consulting with local & community -based organizations. Can you disclose if any such groups are RIIB and RIDEM stakeholders involved in reviewing the work who would be unable to be subcontracted due to conflict of interest?
    - *There are no known conflicts of interest at this time. If an organization is selected as a sub-consultant as a part of an awarded contract, and this organization currently sits on the RI Resilience Partner Group, they will be asked to proceed forward as consultant rather than Group member for this work.*

13. Section III, Requirements, Proposal Requirements: The RFP does not appear to request a technical approach to the scope of work, but the Selection Criteria do evaluate the "approach to achieving the services requested including demonstrating ability to deliver project according to the timetable required." Could you clarify if the proposal should include a technical approach, in addition to the other requirements outlined in Section III?
    - *A Project/Technical Approach, or "Approach to achieving the services requested," should be included in the bid response and should address scope tasks.*

14. Can the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank please clarify the geographic scope of this project? Will the project's focus be on coastal communities only or will it be statewide?
    - *See question 7 above.*

15. Can the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank please provide clarification of the scope of the deliverables due in October and December 2025?
    - *See RFP amendment #1 for revised scope and timetable of deliverables.*

16. On Page 4, there is a reference to the 2024 Resilience Report. Is that report available to review?
    - *This document has been finalized and will be available for review to the consultant prior to beginning the work.*

17. We assume this is a quals-based selection and that the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank does not require a fee at this time. Can the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank please confirm this is the case?
    - *With the budget established by the state for this project, proposals will be scored using the four (4) selection criteria detailed in the RFP under the Selection Criteria.*

18. Page 10 of the RFP states: "See Exhibit B for information and the MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s). Bidders are required to complete, sign, and submit these forms with their overall proposal in a sealed envelope. Please complete separate forms for each MBE, WBE and/or Disability Business Enterprise Subcontractor/Supplier to be utilized on the solicitation." Since this is an electronic submission, should consultants plan to submit any MBE, WBE, and/or Disability Business Enterprise Participation Plan form(s) as a separate attachment to the complete proposal submission? If consultants do not have an MBE/WBE subconsultant on their team, is this form still required?
    - *The Form may be submitted electronically as a separate attachment and must be submitted for all proposals.*

19. Section IV. "Notifications" (pgs 8-11) lists a number of required items that are not listed in Section III "Requirements." Specifically, Section IV items I, K, L, M, and N. Could you please confirm that these items are also required for submittal?
    - *All items under Section IV including I, K, L, M, and N are required with a proposal submission.*

20. The list of Proposal Requirements in Section III does not include a project approach; however "Approach to achieving the services requested.." is listed in the Selection Criteria. Please clarify any guidance that may be missing regarding a Project Approach section.
    - *Please see question 13 above.*

21. Regarding Task 4: Community Engagement in collaboration with RIDEM: can you clarify what technical support the consultant will be responsible for and what RIDEM will be providing (eg interpretation and translation services, will a physical space be provided, etc). Does RIDEM have a preference for in person, virtual, or hybrid events for statewide engagement?
    - *Interpretation and translation services should be provided as a part of the bid package. Physical space for events of up to 50 people can be arranged. Engagement can take place in person, virtually, or hybrid, provided the proposed engagement medium is appropriate for the goals of the event and accessible to attendees.*

22. Is RIDEM supportive of providing community organizations with stipends to participate in the engagement process?
    - *Yes.*

23. Given that the Statewide Coastal Resilience Plan to be delivered to the Governor, RIEC4, and General Assembly on October 1, how does RIDEM plan to utilize deliverables from tasks 3, 5 (due Sept 30), and 6 (due Dec 31) to inform the Plan?
    - *See RFP Amendment #1 for revised timetable for deliverables for Tasks 3 and 5. Task 6 will be completed separately but in coordination with the Plan, in response to Plan findings from Task 1.*

24. Will the meetings with the Resilience EC4 Subgroup, RI Resilience Partner Group, and Municipal and Community Resilience Stakeholders meetings for the various tasks be in person, virtual, or hybrid?
    - *Virtual.*

25. Will the three Task 4 community engagement events be in person, virtual, or hybrid?
    - *See question 21 above.*

26. If a vendor is in the process of being certified in Rhode Island as a MBE, WBE, or DBE at the time the proposal is submitted, can the vendor's planned contribution to the project be counted toward the proposed ISBE Participation Rate?
    - *Only vendors registered with the State of Rhode Island as a MBE/WBE/DBE firm at the time proposals are submitted qualify towards ISBE participation.*

27. Please confirm when the 2024 Resilience Report referenced in Task 1 is anticipated to be released.
    - *January 2025.*

28. Will the state provide the successful bidder with an inventory of state and other governmentally owned assets and sites that will be included in the Task 2 vulnerability assessment?
    - *Inventories of state-owned assets are anticipated to be provided to the consultant by the relevant state agencies.*

29. It appears that text is cut off / missing from the second bullet under Task 6 on page 6 of the RFP. Please confirm.
    - *Please insert "Publicly accessible resilience policy library housed at RI Division of Statewide Planning" for this bullet.*

30. There is a mismatch of deadlines for the Task 1 2025 State Climate Resilience Goals deliverables. The RFP states the draft is due in March and the final in April on page 4, and identifies a deadline of May 30, 2025 for Task 1 on page 6. Please clarify the intended timing / sequence of the Task 1 deliverables.
    - *See RFP Amendment #1 for revised timetable for deliverables.*

31. The selection criteria on pg. 8 of the RFP lists "Approach to achieving the services requested including demonstrating ability to deliver project according to the timetable required." Where should bidders include the project approach in the submittal? Does the state require bidders to provide a schedule?
    - *Please see question 13 above. A timeline/schedule should be provided to most effectively demonstrate the ability to deliver the project according to the timetable required.*

32. Can the RIIB provide a list of the subject matter experts, non-profits, universities, etc. involved in the statewide resilience workgroups referenced in the RFP?
    - *These will be listed in the 2024 Resilience Report, which is expected to be made available in January 2025 on climatechange.ri.gov.*

33. Are you requiring a fee proposal and if so, how is fee weighted in the evaluation criteria?
    - A fee proposal is not required with the submission. Please see question 1 and question 17.

34. The RFP has no mention of a cost/pricing proposal or its format. Can the Bank provide additional details on this requirement? In addition, can the Bank clarify how it will evaluate ISBE percentages in the context of the Selection Criteria list on page 8?
    - *Please see question 1.*
    - *Please see question 5.*

35. Is this an Open Enrollment type RFP, or is a Price Evaluation document required? If the latter, what form of contract is contemplated (e.g., fixed price, time and materials)?
    - *The selected entity(s) will be required to enter into fixed cost agreements with RIIB.*

36. Does the Bank have a target budget in mind for this project?
    - *Please see question 1.*

37. Is this RFP open to offerors without prior contracting experience with the Bank or the State of Rhode Island?
    - *Yes, contractors who have not previously worked with the Infrastructure Bank or State of Rhode Island are welcome to apply to this RFP. Bidders should see the Applicant requirements under III. Requirements, Section A.*

38. Is there a page limit on any of the six components required?
    - *There is no page limit on the six components. RIIB and RIDEM will work with the selected contractor(s) to establish the appropriate length of each section once project work is underway.*

39. Under Task 1, the stated timeframe over which RIDEM will facilitate meetings with stakeholders (January-March 2025) precedes the anticipated award date (early February 2025). Does RIDEM intend to hold meetings prior to the consultant team's onboarding, and if so, what materials (recordings, meeting notes, etc.) will be provided from those meetings to support the consultant's deliverables in Task 1.
    - *Meetings will be held in January 2025 prior to consultant onboarding. These meetings utilize shared working documents and scribes to capture meeting content, which will be shared with the consultant. The January 2025 meetings will be recorded for consultant review.*

40. Task 1 text indicates a March 2025 draft goals statement, with finalization by April 2025. The RFP/Project Timetable indicates this task should be complete by end May 2025. Are these timelines consistent?
    - *See RFP Amendment #1 for revised deliverables timetable.*

41. Does Rhode Island, through RIIB, DCAMM, or other group, have an inventory of state-owned assets that would be available to the consultant to support work under Task 2?
    - *Please see question 28.*

42. Under Task 3, does the Bank have an estimate of the number of priority actions for which preliminary cost estimates would be required (that is, the subset of overall priority actions)? Should the cost estimates to be developed be characterized as "planning level" or should they consider site- or project-specific contexts?
    - *Approximately 10-15 actions are anticipated to be priced, depending on the scope of the actions deemed top priority. Cost estimates are expected to consider site and project specific contexts when possible.*

43. Under Task 4, are the statewide events envisioned as virtual, in-person, or hybrid?
    - *Please see question 21.*

44. Which types of community stakeholders are the Bank and RIDEM seeking to engage through Task 4? I.e., are you looking for engagement of individual residents, community-based organizations that work with residents, anchor institutions (e.g., established businesses, academic institutions, hospitals), or a different category?
    - *Each of these listed groups are appropriate and should be included. Community stakeholders should include those connected to Rhode Island and its resilience through geographic location, interest, affiliation, and/or identify. Those engaged should go beyond our state and municipal leadership & staff, statewide nonprofit organizations, universities, and subject matter experts, focusing on residents, community-based organizations, businesses, and additional local entities. We expect coordination with our statewide Health Equity Zones as a part of this process.*

45. Are there target populations the Bank and RIDEM want to engage?
    - *Please see question 44.*