

## Request for Proposals for BEAD Challenge Process Support Services

(No.2024-MBI-04)

Questions and Answers

April 12, 2024

|    | Question   | Answer   |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Section 1: What is the anticipated contract start date and end date for this scope of work?  | The anticipated contract period is:<br>Start Date: May 1, 2024<br>End Date: November 31, 2024  |
| 2. | Section 2.3: The RFP states successful respondent "will provide administrative support to MBI to review challenges submitted by residents and Eligible Entities to confirm compliance with BEAD Challenge Process requirements. This task will be authorized separately by MBI, if such services are deemed necessary by MBI." Will MBI staff be the main reviewers of challenges submitted?   | If authorized by MBI, the Support Services awardee will provide additional capacity to the MBI to review Challenge evidence submitted by residents and by Eligible Entities. This review of evidence will happen during the 30-day Challenge window and does not apply to the Final Review and Adjudication phase.   |
| 3. | Section 2.2: The RFP states "Residents cannot directly file a challenge with MBI. However, residents can file challenges through their unit of local government or a nonprofit via an online portal maintained by MBI ("challenge portal")." Will these local units of government or non-profits be considered authorized challengers? Are local units of government primed for this role or will the successful respondent be responsible for recruiting local units of government or non-profits to collect resident challenges? | Non-profits and local government are considered authorized challengers (also known as Eligible Entities) under the Federal rules established by NTIA. MBI will offer webinars and technical assistance to all Eligible Entities. The selected Support Services awardee will work with MBI to do outreach to stakeholders, including residents and Eligible Entities, to provide technical assistance as well as other support related to the BEAD Challenge Process. MBI issued this RFP in recognition of the fact that some organizations, including local governments, may have limited capacity to participate in the Challenge Process. |
| 4. | Section 2.3: The RFP states the successful respondent will "serve as an authorized challenger and submit resident challenges that pass the threshold review and are authorized for submission by the relevant  | Pursuant to NTIA rules, MBI will designate authorized challengers based on their status as a non-profit organization, unit of local government, tribal government or internet service provider.  |

|    | Question   | Answer   |    |                              |           |    |   |           |
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|    | Eligible Entity." What are MBI's criteria for designating authorized challengers? What metrics are included in the threshold review? Will resident challenges be reviewed for threshold metrics by MBI or the successful respondent? | <p>Final determination of acceptable evidence will align with the Massachusetts BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I, as approved by NTIA.</p> <p>The selected Support Services awardee will work with MBI to perform the threshold review of resident challenges and submitting challenges that pass the threshold review.</p>  |    |                              |           |    |   |           |
| 5. | Section 3.2: What platform does the MBI Challenge Process portal use?  | MBI is still determining the Challenge Portal platform.  |    |                              |           |    |   |           |
| 6. | Section 3.1: Is the respondent required to be a non-profit organization providing services to MA residents?  | No.  |    |                              |           |    |   |           |
| 7. | Attachment C. Budget Template: Will MBI accept an hourly rate structure that is market-based and inclusive of overhead and profit?   | <p>Yes. The respondent will note this in their budget proposal and adjust line-item numbers 23 &amp; 55 to zero since these percentages add to the salaries portion of fringe and overhead.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="850 1062 1448 1169"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="850 1062 919 1104">23</td> <td data-bbox="919 1062 1300 1104">II. Direct Labor Fringe Cost</td> <td data-bbox="1300 1062 1448 1104">Rate (%):</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="850 1104 919 1169">55</td> <td data-bbox="919 1104 1300 1169">VI. General &amp; Administrative Expense/Overhead</td> <td data-bbox="1300 1104 1448 1169">Rate (%):</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | 23 | II. Direct Labor Fringe Cost | Rate (%): | 55 | VI. General & Administrative Expense/Overhead | Rate (%): |
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