

Small Business and Community Assistance RFQ Questions and Answers - 4/16/2021

1. In terms of marketing costs, such as paying for ads and media, who will be responsible for the cost?

Any proposed marketing costs will be the responsibility of the consultant. The Core Team will be able to assist with getting the word out, but the responsibility for marketing will be on the consultant.

2. Will this be considered a subaward or a (sub)contract? Please clarify.

This will be considered a subcontract, not a subaward.

3. Due to the limited funding, is it anticipated that the technical assistance will be primarily training?

The technical assistance format is up to the discretion of the respondent. The Core Team will assess each proposal in terms of how impactful it will be in addressing the economic impacts of COVID-19.

4. Is there a number of hours of consulting, training necessary to satisfy contract?

There is no set number and it will depend on the project approach. The technical assistance format is up to the discretion of the respondent. The Core Team will assess each proposal in terms of how impactful it will be in addressing the economic impacts of COVID-19.

5. How many small businesses does the Commission anticipate providing technical assistance under this solicitation? Do they need to be startups, existing businesses, or both?

There is no target number that we have identified. It depends on the consultant's approach and the time spent with each business or community is also a factor we will consider. Any existing business can be served, provided they have 25 employees or fewer. It does not have to be a startup.

6. Can all technical assistance be performed remotely?

This is a possibility depending on the consultant's approach. However, one of our goals is to provide technical assistance across our region, which includes many rural places. Some of the communities and businesses in our region may not have broadband access which could make remote delivery of services problematic.

7. Is the \$40,000 a reimbursement of direct costs?

The \$40,000 is the amount of money available for all costs incurred for the consultant, direct and indirect. Any direct expenses must be made in accordance with applicable federal regulations outlined in 2 CFR 200.