



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Project Title: Technical Consulting Services for The Technical and Business Education Fund
Date: September 7, 2022
To: Prospective Respondents
From: Department of Economic Development and Commerce of Puerto Rico

ID	Question	Answer
1	What is the source of funding for the “21st century Technical and Business and Education Fund”? Are these CDBG, FEMA, ARPA fund or some other Federally sourced funds?	No, these are local funds identified and allocated for this specific initiative. The 20-21 Certified Fiscal Plan allocated this budget.
2	Will all fees as proposed by the selected respondent be paid from the “21st century Technical and Business Education Fund”?	Yes.
3	Given the short notice of this RFP as well as the nature and complexity of the services associated with it, is there any chance the response / proposal submittal date can be extended for an additional 30 days?	It will be extended 7 additional days until September 23 rd , 2022.
4	Is there a federal grant associated with the implementation of the workforce assessment / development plan initiative?	There is no Federal grant.
5	If there is a federal grant what is the size (\$ value) of the grant?	There is no Federal grant.
6	Does participating on this RFP for a workforce assessment and strategic development plan preclude us in any way from bidding on a future grant administration opportunity related to this project initiative? Our read is that the selected proponent would not be able to serve as Grant Administrator given the following language in the RFP scope of work: “Assist the DEDC in the development of a competitive procurement process to select an organization as the administrator of these funds (“Grant Administrator”).”	Yes, it would preclude you.

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7	Have there been previous efforts or full engagements in the past to understand future labor demand and to close gap with education offer? Are those documented? Will proponents have access to the documents?	Yes, there have been, but not to the extent of what is pursued through this RFP. The selected consultant will have access to all information available.
8	Are key government and non-government stakeholders “aware” of this request for proposal (i.e., Department of Education, University of Puerto Rico)? Will they have a role in the governance of the engagement?	They are aware, but they will not have an active role in the governance of the project.
9	Considering the 2022 Fiscal Plan included a \$50 million for a 21st century Technical and Business Education Fund, what role will the Fiscal Management and Oversight Board (FOMB) play in this Engagement?	They have an oversight role, and they need to approve the use of funds.
10	What ongoing projects does the DEDC, or other government entities currently have aligned with these topics?	Multiple. Workforce development has become one of the main priorities for Puerto Rico's competitiveness. The detail of each initiative can be provided as part of the engagement.
11	When we speak about a Skills Assessment, in addition to the technical skills, will the scope include any other related soft skills such as but not limited to Problem Solving, Communication, Teamwork etc.?	The focus is on technical skills, however if as part of the engagement, the consultant finds other skills that should be a priority, then yes.
12	Will the technical academic offering assessment include Kindergarten -Twelve Grade (12) components?	It should be focused on 9-14 and anything after that.
13	The RFP mentions benchmarking, is that to be done solely on what is included in the RFP or what other metrics should scope include?	Mainly on what's mentioned on the RFP, however if the consultant selected recommends including others, then more could be included.
14	What DEDC resources are expected to be involved during the engagement? What will their role be? Who will serve as a single point of contact?	Personnel from the Workforce Development Office as well as a person from the Secretary's office. The proponent should propose an approach for the engagement, including cadence of progress reports, data requests, etc.

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15	How is the engagement expected to “interact” with DEDC RFP “IT Sector Analysis and Strategic Plan”?	Consultants are expected to share information as it may be relevant. The IT Sector Analysis is a broader sector and industry analysis, while this RFP is focused on the skills gap and the offering to fill the gap.
16	How is the engagement expected to “interact” with DEDC Proposal for Mapping of Bioscience Product Discovery and Research and Development (R&D) Landscape in Puerto Rico?	As needed. The RFPs are separate projects, but consultants will interact as needed, and as DEDC finds it necessary.
17	How is the engagement expected to “interact” with DDEC Proposal for Workforce Procurement Services under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)?	A person from the Workforce Development office will be one of the main POCs.
18	When does the DEDC expect the selected proponent to start the engagement (approximate)?	It is our intention to begin the engagement 1-2 months from the day the award is announced.
19	Should we include our pricing in a specific section of the RFP? Or in a separate document?	There is no preferred way. There should clarity on how the proponents will price the proposal (hours, deliverables, team size, etc.).
20	Does DDEC have an approximate budget for this work that is able to be shared?	As the RFP details, the assigned budget is \$500K. If proposals were to be received at a higher amount, it would require approval of FOMB.
21	Page 7, Physical Address for receipt: Clarifying whether the address is 355 F.D. Roosevelt Ave 4th Floor, Hato Rey, P.R. 00918? The street address is not noted on this page, but the footer also lists a PO Box.	Please use PO Box 362350, San Juan, PR 00936-2350
22	Physical Address for receipt: Are hard-copy materials required to be received at the physical address by September 16th? Or simply placed in the mail by that date?	Placed by mail date is fine.
23	Can you clarify which types of internal data will be available to the project team on Day 1 of the project? For example, internal Puerto Rico education contacts, any data not freely available publicly?	DDEC can provide contacts in all major universities, organizations, Education Department, etc.

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24	Is there a target population (e.g., unemployed Puerto Ricans, youth) that is priority for this project?	That is part of what we expect the proponent to help us identify. We should be able to understand the gaps that exist in Puerto Rico, in terms of these skills. That could include those that don't attend a 4-year college as well as those that are underemployed.
25	How was the list of industries / technical skills generated on page 10 of the RFP?	Through benchmarking and getting input from priority industries in Puerto Rico.
26	If we give these consulting services now, will this disqualify us for the execution of future educational programs that may come up from the strategy given in these consulting services?	Yes, it may.
27	Is there an ideal timeline where you visualize these services being provided?	Yes, it is our intention to begin the engagement 1-2 months from the day the award is announced.