
2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Planning Services for the Capitol Region Request for Proposals Addendum #1 December 16, 2021

Questions and Answers

The following is a list of questions received related to the Request for Proposals for the 2021 CEDS Update. The deadline for submitting questions was 2:00pm on December 15, 2021. Responses from CRCOG are noted in red.

We wish to confirm that responses to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy must only be submitted electronically by Dec. 30th at 2 pm EST and that physical hard copies of our proposal are not required.

This is correct. No hard copies are required.

Was a consultant hired to conduct planning for the 2019 CEDS? If so, who was that consultant?

Yes. It was Fourth Economy.

How much progress has been made related to the goals of the 2019 CEDS?

A link to the 2020 annual report has been added to the RFP page. It provides an overview of progress.

The RFP indicates “long-standing issues in the region” Can you elaborate on this?

Slow growth (population and employment), persistent poverty, pockets of high unemployment, etc.

The RFP suggests that an updated demographic analysis can be largely based on existing reports. Does CRCOG have pre- and post-pandemic related data and reports?

This will rely, in part, on the 2019 CEDS report. There has not been much of a change in our demographics since then.

What sources will CRCOG staff use to perform demographic and economic analysis? Will the consultant be expected to perform additional complementary research?

Census data, DOL data, BEA data, etc. If there are specific data analysis techniques or data sources that would be helpful for this project, we encourage respondents to include them in their proposals.

Does CRCOG expert outreach and engagement to take place in-person? Virtually? Or a combination?

At this point we are assuming that outreach will be virtual.

Does CRCOG have up-to-date contact information for key stakeholders in all 37 surrounding communities?

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We have some updated contact information. We have key contacts for elected officials and staff in each of the 38 municipalities. We have contact information for our stakeholders from the 2019 CEDS, though that list has not been updated.

The RFP requests strategies for “inclusive economic growth”. Does the region have any current or planned initiatives related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion?

Every project we undertake is conducted with diversity, equity, and inclusion in mind. There are no discrete diversity, equity, and inclusion projects at this point.

The RFP suggests an estimated project period of 12 months. Would CRCOG be open to expedited planning over a shorter period (6-9 months)?

Yes.

What is the anticipated start date for the project?

As soon as we have a consultant under contract. We anticipate that happening in January or February.

We’ve noted the petition to treat the state’s nine councils of governments as “county equivalents.” Should the petition be approved, how would this impact the CEDS plan, if at all?

This shouldn’t impact the CEDS. In future years Census data will be available at the COG level, though probably not in time for this project.