

Regional Economic Disaster Recovery Specialist

Request for Proposal – DM-2020-1

Questions and Answers – September 18, 2020

1. What fund sources are committed? **Economic Development Administration (EDA)**
2. What is the amount of funds committed? **\$400,000 EDA CARES Act Grant for the entire Disaster Recovery Initiative.**
3. What is the expected timeline to completion for the scope of work? **It is anticipated that the end of the work for this role will be June 30, 2022.**
4. What is the expected physical presence in the geographic area? **Frequently.**
5. What meetings coordination meetings are held regularly within the regional commission and are the meetings currently virtual or in person? **All of our current GMRC Council meetings are being held virtually through the end of 2020. However, smaller meetings regarding grant or planning projects are frequently being held in person.**
6. In Number 3, Section D, what is meant by “assessments on medical facilities and local economies?” Are these separate assessments or a single assessment on linkages between the two? What is the anticipated deliverable and associated data? **The goal for this element is to get as deep a dive as possible into the pandemic’s affects on the local medical care facilities and how to be more prepared for a similar event in the future. What’s envisioned is a survey of area hospitals, urgent care clinics, and public health departments talking about their realities during the pandemic. How did it impact supplies, staffing, procedures, finances, etc.? What would they do differently next time? What would they advise to the government and others could be done to improve preparedness and prevention of the next pandemic? So procedurally the subcontractor, GMRC, and select stakeholders would collaborate on developing the survey and identify information to be collected, the sub would then conduct the survey (probably both online and direct contact), present a summary of results back to the medical community and see if that inspires more/ new discussion, and then ultimately summarize the results with a discussion about how each facility could become more resilient in the future. Emphasis made on**

recommendations for improving pandemic response strategies and communications in the future, and how each community could be more proactive in protecting their business operations. (The last part dovetails with the next element.)

7. In Number 3, Section D, what is the goal of the Pandemic Transmission Assessment and what portion in the scope of work is it tied to? Is this designed to determine mitigation needs and vulnerabilities in businesses? **The goal here is to essentially identify hot spots for viral transmission. Which businesses are at risk due to high customer turnover? Which businesses are at risk due to conditions for, and concentration of, employees? What practices can be employed to minimize health risks while also minimizing impact on operations?**

Similar to above this will likely involve development of a survey for area employers and some direct contact through groups like Chambers of Commerce or industry associations. We'll want to hear from major employers directly about their experiences and how things could be improved for future resiliency, and essentially come away with a profile that says if and when something like this happens again these are the places most at risk and here are the resources and protocols that should be enacted to minimize the damage. Much of this might be stuff that businesses have already done, but what we want to do is share lessons learned, formalize preparedness, and identify ways the governments and other stakeholders can help be mindful of their roles and abilities to help communicate with and support area businesses.

8. Will the Pandemic Transmission Assessment be used to determine grant funding? **No.**