



**Solicitation Information
February 13, 2013**

Addendum #1

RFP # 7459279

**TITLE: ARRA – COMMUNICATIONS & CONSULTATION – RACE TO THE
TOP – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE GRANT**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2013 AT 11:00 AM (EST)

ATTACHED ARE VENDOR QUESTIONS WITH STATE RESPONSES.

NO FURTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED.

**Gail Walsh
Chief Buyer**

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1. Will there be a preference for Rhode Island based firms?

This was not indicated in the RFP. A review team will process all applications and recommend a vendor based on applicant's adherence to the instructions, the quality and completion of responses to the timelines, tasks and scope of work, and qualifications of the bidder.

2. The project schedule outlined in the RFP shows deadlines in February. Will the timeline be flexible to account for the RFP process?

Yes

3. Do you anticipate significant teacher union opposition and a media campaign against these changes?

No, a vast majority of the early childhood programs and providers are not unionized.

4. Given the RFP due date, and anticipated time for the decision and execution of the contract, is there some flexibility in the dates on Tasks 1&2 (p.6)?

Yes

5. How have the key stakeholders been communicating with one another to date? For example, via email, in-person meetings, etc.

Currently the key platforms used for communicating to early childhood providers and early childhood stakeholders include; the Early Learning RI website, Rhode Island Early Learning Council Subcommittee meetings, focus groups and forums designed to generate stakeholder input into on proposed activities, policies and standards. Historically information has been disseminated through traditional mail outs to early childhood providers.

6. Does Rhode Island have a current website in which it is communicating Race to the top information?

The current website used for disseminating information for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant is the Early Learning RI website. This website is currently managed Kids Count. The URL address is www.earlylearningri.org

7. Does the state have a preference or policy regarding hosting a website internally vs. externally?

Externally

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8. What is the anticipated decision date and start date for the contract?

RIDE anticipates making a recommendation of a vendor within 2-4 weeks of the bid opening date. The start date of the contract will be contingent on the selected vendor complying with all of the terms and conditions of the tentative award and issuance of the state purchase order. We anticipate work may begin in April 2013.

9. Are there specific communication or social media policies the contractor must adhere to? If so, where can these be located?

All communications must adhere to requirements outlined in the original Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge RFP, Section XI Program Requirements and for the purposes of this Communication RFP paragraph (i).
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/applicant.html>

10. Must the budget cover all the costs of implementing the communications plan? For example, if the plan calls for radio spots, would the budget have to cover the costs of production and airtime for these?

Yes

11. Has the State engaged with a communications firm previously for Race to the Top-ELC?

No