

## **Frequently Asked Questions: RFP # DHCD-918-95-10-27-2022**

Please contact Cole McAndrew ([cole.mcandrew@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:cole.mcandrew@dhcd.virginia.gov)) for questions regarding this FAQ or the RFP in general.

1. Can DHCD confirm that the intent is for the contractor to also support development of the implementation strategy requirements of the State Digital Equity/Opportunity Plan as identified in the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity?
  - a. The scope of work outlined in the RFP concerns the stakeholder engagement and data gathering activities to inform the development of Virginia's implementation strategy. DHCD does not currently plan to involve the contractor in the development of the implementation strategy.
2. Does DHCD intend to utilize the community outreach performed under this RFP to inform BEAD implementation as well?
  - a. DHCD is currently developing plans and programs under the BEAD program. The information gathered under this RFP process may inform BEAD implementation, to the extent that BEAD funds are devoted to non-deployment activities in Virginia.
3. Does DHCD intend to share a copy of the state's Digital Equity Act - Planning Grant Program application submitted to NTIA with prospective bidders?
  - a. At this time, DHCD has not shared this application.
4. Will bidding on the Digital Equity project preclude us from bidding on the BEAD program?
  - a. No, it will not.
5. Is there a general idea of who the stakeholders will be?
  - a. Stakeholders will be identified through the regional digital opportunity planning process and will include members, or representatives of, Covered Populations as identified in the Digital Equity Act Notice of Funding Opportunity. Additionally, DHCD will leverage its relationships to bring stakeholders into the process.
6. Will the regions be aligned with existing regions such as PDCs or GoVA regions? If not, how will the regions be determined?
  - a. No; regions will be identified through the regional plan application process. The deadline for regional plan applications is January 6<sup>th</sup>; the alignment of the regions will occur after this deadline.
7. Can you provide more detail on "understanding of the assignment" in the evaluation criteria?
  - a. Understanding of the assignment will be scored based on how the proposal addresses the requirements addressed in the scope of services and generally how the proposal meets the Department's needs with respect to this engagement.
8. The RFP states on p. 4 that "The selected Contractor shall report to the Digital Opportunity Coordinator." Has the Digital Opportunity Coordinator been hired yet?
  - a. The intent is for the Digital Opportunity Coordinator to be on-boarded in Q1 of the next calendar year.
9. If a sub has a "pending recertification" as SWaM but the recertification is still processing will that be considered sufficient?
  - a. SWaM certification is required for the referenced RFP section. Please contact Christopher Mattox ([christopher.mattox@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:christopher.mattox@dhcd.virginia.gov)) at DHCD for SWaM issues or questions.