

**Request for Action
By
Board of Commissioners**

**Approval of Engagement of Training and Technical Assistance Providers
for Homeless Response System in Rhode Island**

A. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

This Request for Action (“RFA”) is for approval to engage Housing Innovations and Cloudburst Group to provide technical assistance and training to stakeholders in the Rhode Island Homeless Response System. The selected vendors will design tools and products that support these stakeholders in implementing their projects in accordance with best practices. These activities will enhance homeless service providers’ knowledge and ability to implement effective homeless service programs.

B. DISCUSSION

RIHousing serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Statewide Continuum of Care in Rhode Island (RiCoC). In 2024, RIHousing designed a Homeless Response System Training Program, which operated during calendar year 2025 and provided numerous introductory and foundational training opportunities for both new and existing staff in homeless services provider agencies across Rhode Island on various topics, including case management best practices, grant management topics, and system orientations and strategies. In recent months, RIHousing and the RiCoC have collaborated to design a 2026 program, which will be funded with federal CoC Planning proceeds already contracted, building upon the work completed in 2025 and furthering training in specific areas.

Therefore, RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) on November 10, 2025, for qualified firms to provide technical assistance and training services to enhance the capacity and technical expertise of stakeholders within Rhode Island’s Homeless Response System. The RFP highlighted multiple capacity and technical assistance activities to enhance program implementation and service delivery, specifically:

- 1) Designing and conducting a comprehensive case management training course for homeless service providers
- 2) Technical assistance for homeless service providers
- 3) Development of products and tools to support the implementation of homeless programs

The RFP was posted on the RIHousing website, the State of Rhode Island Division of Purchasing website, social media, and sent to RIHousing’s RFP notification list via an email announcement. RIHousing received 13 proposals in response. A committee of RIHousing Executive Division staff conducted a review of the proposals in accordance with the ranking criteria set forth in the RFP. Proposals were evaluated on the submitting agency’s capacity to complete the scope of work, the completeness of the proposal submitted, the fee structure proposed, the submitting agency’s ability to perform the scope within time and budget constraints, the agency’s previous similar work experience, and the strength and detail of the agency’s plan to complete the tasks and deliverables in the scope of

work. Applicants were permitted to apply to conduct one, two, or three of the activities highlighted in the RFP. After reviewing the proposals, the committee is recommending engaging a total of two consulting firms. We are recommending one firm for activity 1, one firm for activity 3, and both firms for activity 2.

The committee is recommending approval to contract with the following firms for the activity and budget amount listed in the chart below:

Firm	Activities	Budget not to exceed
Housing Innovations	Design and Implement a Case Management Training Course for Homeless Service Providers & Technical Assistance for Homeless Service Providers	\$100,000
Cloudburst Group	Technical Assistance for Homeless Service Providers & Development of Products and Tools to Support the Implementation of Homeless Programs	\$100,000
Total		\$200,000

RIHousing anticipates contracting with Housing Innovations and Cloudburst Group separately to commence work on their deliverables during February 2026. Staff anticipate that both technical assistance providers would be expected to complete their relevant scope of work within 12-14 months, or by May 2027.

C. RECOMMENDATION

The attached resolution authorizing RIHousing to engage Housing Innovations and Cloudburst Group is recommended for approval.

D. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of RIHousing

Attachment A

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation

WHEREAS: Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation's ("RIHousing") enabling act provides it with all the power and authority to make and execute contracts necessary to exercise the powers and functions provided to it under the act (R.I. Gen. Laws §42-55-5(6)); and

WHEREAS: Staff of RIHousing has identified a need for a qualified firm(s) to provide services that will enhance program implementation and service delivery within the Homeless Response System in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS: RIHousing has solicited proposals pursuant to an open competitive process for vendors to provide technical assistance training to providers and stakeholders within Rhode Island's Homeless Response System, and who are able to substantially meet the requirements associated with this set of functions; and

WHEREAS: RIHousing received 13 proposals, 2 of which were deemed satisfactory, eligible for selection, and received the highest scores, pursuant to the criteria set forth in the Request for Proposals.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED: that RIHousing be and hereby is authorized to enter into contracts with Housing Innovations and Cloudburst Group, subject to any administrative adjustments as the Executive Director determines to be in the best interest of RIHousing, to complete the activities outlined in the RFP.

RESOLVED: that such engagements shall be for terms ranging between 12-14 months and costs not to exceed:

- Housing Innovations (\$100,000)
- Cloudburst Group (\$100,000)

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, and the Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships, each acting singly, be and hereby is authorized and empowered to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing resolutions, including without limitation the authority to negotiate the terms and fees of the engagement as he or she may determine are in the best interests of RIHousing, and to execute any and all agreements or documents as he or she deems necessary to carry out the foregoing and to take such further actions as he or she deems necessary to carry out the forgoing resolutions.