



## Statewide Racial Justice Housing Initiative RFP: Responses to Questions

10/7/2021

1. Is the \$45,000 budget inclusive of only Phase 1 or inclusive of both Phase 1 and 2?
  - The budget of up to \$45,000 is intended for Phase 1 of the initiative. Phase 2 of the initiative will be addressed in a future RFP which will lay out the scope of work, period of performance, and funding available.
2. Are the Steering Committee members a key part of the audience for the Speaker Series? Stated another way: is the education or information-sharing component intended for those on the Steering Committee in addition to the public?
  - Yes, the audience for the speaker series includes members of the Steering Committee, members of nonprofit affordable housing organizations, and the public.
3. How will Steering Committee member candidates be identified and who will make the final decision about membership?
  - Respondents to the RFP are encouraged to address how Steering Committee members will be identified and selected in the proposal. The Steering Committee must include representatives from the selection committee, including two representatives of NeighborWorks Alliance, and one representative from VHCB, NeighborWorks America, and VHFA. Outside of those designees, the goal is to assemble a Steering Committee in consultation and coordination with the selection committee that is inclusive of BIPOC Vermonters and other stakeholders with a vested interest in examining racial inequities throughout Vermont's housing network.
4. Will there be honoraria for Steering Committee members who represent residential communities and are not there in the capacity of a paid position? If yes, will that honoraria come from the \$45,000 budget?
  - We will rely on respondents to include this in their proposal if this is a component to assembling the Steering Committee inclusive of residential communities. As noted in the RFP, there is a budget of up to \$45,000 available for the project and there may be some flexibility in the overall budget dependent on quality of proposals received.

5. To what extent is VHCB looking to the consultants to find steering committee applicants at the community-based level?
  - We expect that the consultant(s) will take the lead on assembling the Steering Committee, this includes outreach in the community to find members for the committee. Ultimately, the goal is for the Steering Committee to be comprised of organizational representation (Alliance, VHCB, VHFA, NeighborWorks) and representation from BIPOC Vermonters.
6. Does VHCB have a preference for in-person v. remote seminars?
  - We do not have a preference but anticipate that sessions will take place in accordance with public health recommendations. We anticipate that this may mean that sessions will need to be offered remotely for the time being. As public health recommendations may change in the upcoming months, we expect that the consultant(s) will maintain a level of flexibility regarding how speaker series and roundtable discussions are delivered.
7. Who is the target audience for seminars and round tables? Is it just network staff, or could it also include residents, community partners, etc.?
  - The speaker series is intended to be open to the public, with priority registration provided to employees and tenants of non-profit affordable housing organizations, and open more broadly to the public as space/capacity allows. The roundtable discussions are intended for housing practitioners. The consultant would work with the Steering Committee and VHCB throughout the design process to identify if speaker series and roundtable discussions should be inclusive of a wider audience in order to meet the initiative's overall goal: expanding access to affordable housing for all Vermonters.
8. Would VHCB have any objection to the consultant seeking additional funds through sponsorship should the need arise?
  - We are open to the consultant(s) seeking additional funding for the projects. The consultant(s) would need to receive prior-approval from VHCB before engaging with potential funding partners.