



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

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MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee

The Honorable William J. Conley, Jr.
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

From: Jonathan Womer
Director, Office of Management & Budget

Date: July 7, 2020

Subject: Responses to Task Force Questions

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Womer".

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you and shed light on the Administration's efforts to address the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Department offers the below information in response to the outstanding questions asked at the Joint Legislative COVID-19 Emergency Spending Task Force meeting on June 9, 2020. As always, if you require more information or need any clarification on what has been presented below, please feel free to reach out to me and my team.

Budgeting

Please provide a clearer depiction of how much of the federal funds, specifically the Coronavirus Relief Funds COVID-19 funds have been spent or committed for future projects/expenses. This should account for expected match on expenses that FEMA will cover and any other pertinent assumptions about other federal sources. In short, how much of \$1.25 billion has not been committed and is available for budget balancing or other priorities.

We are seeking to optimize federal funding and are allocating expenses to the most appropriate source to fully maximize resources for Rhode Island. Therefore, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have expended and encumbered \$186,406,740 as of May 26, 2020 in federal funds towards the pandemic response. Final allocations between funding streams won't be made for some time and is largely contingent on FEMA approval.

The next update to the [COVID-19 Transparency Portal](#) will be the week of July 13 and will reflect expenditures and encumbrances through the end of June.

MBE Utilization

What is the plan for the administration moving forward regarding procurement, and MBE participation?

During the COVID-19 response efforts, the State had to utilize emergency procurements and waived certain requirements in order to quickly procure critical goods and services. As we begin to stabilize and see a reduction in new cases, agencies will be following the standard procurement processes and the Administration remains committed to utilizing Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) on state procurement activities. We anticipate that the future COVID-19-related solicitations, including the decommissioning of the alternative hospital sites, will follow our normal procurement rules and regulations, including the requirement for MBE participation.

Please note that the State of Rhode Island does not have separate programs for MBEs and WBEs. Rather, per RIGL 37-14.1, the State's MBE program includes WBEs. Firms owned by women are defined as one category of MBEs.

How many contracts have been given to MBE's in other categories, not just construction, and what is the total value? How many contracts have not been awarded but are going to be and the total dollars of the known bid awards? How many Minority Business Enterprises have been used off the MPA? MBE's not Woman owned business?

Please reference the below MBE MPA table we put together that has data through May 31, 2020.

MBE MPA Vendor	Encumbered 5-31-20	Transaction 5-31-20
HIGHWAY TECHNOLOGIES LLC or New England Highway Technologies	\$ 2,108.00	\$ 132,200.00
HORTON INTERPRETING SERVICES INC	\$ -	\$ 1,892.00
INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS INC	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
JMB MECHANICAL INC	\$ -	\$ 2,704.00
LEGACY CLEANING SERVICES LTD	\$ 1,208.12	\$ -
PRESTIGE MANUFACTURING INC	\$ 48,132.16	\$ 34,186.00
WILKEM SCIENTIFIC LTD	\$ 21,801.26	\$ 61,248.00
Total	\$ 75,749.54	\$ 232,030.00

Will there be an effort to increase MBE participation going forward so the participation rate will reach 10% for spending on the Covid-19 response?

The State is committed to maximizing our utilization of MBEs as we continue our COVID-19 recovery efforts and are hopeful to exceed the 10% participation rate in procurement opportunities whenever practicable moving forward.

Hospital Funding

Does the CARES Act allow for the discretion to condition the distribution of funding to hospitals with your own requirements?

The federal government provided broad guidance to the State about funding eligibility for hospitals. The distribution of funds had to fit into an established category, such as business disruption and costs associated with the public health emergency. The State ensured that the COVID-19 Hospital Assistance Partnership Program aligned with this guidance, while being tailored to address the specific needs of hospitals in Rhode Island.

Summer Education

How many children/young adults are expected to be served by each category, in-person programming, menu of classes, and the youth summer job project? Please provide all contracts for each category.

- DLT Summer Jobs Project: 864 students
- In-person Programming: Capacity of 13,688
- Menu of Classes: Capacity of 15,708

As for the contracts, they are currently in process with RIDE and have not yet been fully executed.

Business Grant Opportunities

What grant opportunities are available for businesses that are working on innovations for fighting COVID-19?

The State has not created any grant opportunities specifically for businesses working on innovations to fight COVID-19.

Nursing Homes

How many staff members have died from Covid-19?

Seven staff members at long-term care facilities have died. We do not know whether these individuals contracted COVID-19 at their workplace or elsewhere.

For more information, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) also provides comprehensive testing information here: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/testing/>.

Thank you.

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative COVID-19 Emergency Spending Task Force
Sharon Reynold Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Stephen Whitney, Senate Fiscal Advisor
Brett Smiley, Director of Administration