



New Jersey Economic Development Authority

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (“RFI”)
2020-RFI-OET-Covid19-PPE-107**

for

**Facilitating PPE Readiness for New Jersey Small Businesses and
Non-Profit Organizations**

June 15, 2020

ADDENDUM #1

The following constitutes an Addendum, which can be a Clarification and/or Modification to the above referenced solicitation.

Answers to Respondent’s questions

No.	Questions	Answers
1	NJ DSS allows for the purchase of certain surplus goods by private buyers. Does NJ state law currently allow for direct purchase of PPE from NJEDA or NJ DSS by either designating such materials as “surplus” or another legal mechanism?	<i>This question is deemed inapplicable to this RFI as (i) NJEDA does not currently have plans to be involved in the selling of PPE and (ii) NJ DSS is not a party to this RFI.</i>
2	Does NJEDA have a perspective on whether the state / NJEDA could serve as the PPE procurement agent vs outsourcing the function to a third party?	<i>The RFI is seeking information on non-state government, market-based solutions to the problem described in the RFI and what (if any) support from state government could help accelerate the availability of those market-based solutions. Should the NJEDA decide to launch a program based on the responses to the RFI, it is not contemplated that NJEDA will either serve as the PPE procurement agent or “outsource” PPE procurement to a third party.</i>

3	Has NJEDA considered a dedicated advertising budget or does it have access to funds to build awareness of the PPE procurement agent?	<i>The NJEDA routinely announces and publicly promotes its activities and Authority-based projects and programs. If advertising support would help accelerate the availability and sustainability of a market-based solution, please describe what type of marketing is necessary, to what audiences, an estimated scope/value of the advertising, etc.</i>
4	Does NJEDA have a current perspective on whether customer-facing architecture should be hosted on a state platform or private sector site?	<i>The RFI is seeking information on non-state government, market-based solutions to the problem described in the RFI. Should the NJEDA decide to launch a program to catalyze the delivery of one of those solutions, it is expected that decisions as to the use of technology would be solely the responsibility of the non-State parties involved.</i>
5	Does NJEDA or DSS have a current government run platform / marketplace that can be repurposed or expanded for direct to private sector sales? Does its existing relationship with Municibid or other third-party providers allow for expansion as PPE marketplace? Does NJEDA have 'surplus customer' status/eligibility to access the GSAXcess marketplace?	<i>The RFI is seeking information on non-state government, market-based solutions to the problem described in the RFI. Should it decide to launch a program based on the responses to the RFI, NJEDA would likely not favor solutions that required the use of State-based technology systems.</i>
6	Does NJEDA have a current perspective on whether the PPE purchasing agent structure should be funded by vendors, users, the state, or a combination thereof?	<i>The RFI is seeking information on non-state government, market-based solutions to the problem described in the RFI, including advice on the funding of those solutions and the amount of funding that proposed solutions may require. RFI responses may propose ideas that include some degree of State-funding if that would accelerate the delivery of the solution.</i>
7	Does NJEDA have current authorities to enable mark ups on goods or fees paid by entities seeking PPE that can be used to pay for program administration? If NJEDA does not have this authority, does DSS or other NJ government agencies?	<i>This question is deemed inapplicable to this RFI as (i) NJEDA does not currently have plans to be involved in the selling of PPE and (ii) NJ DSS is not a party to this RFI. Proposed solutions should fit within the current regulatory structures of the state or describe what regulatory or policy changes/supports would be needed to realize the proposed solution.</i>

8	Does NJEDA have the ability to receive, both from a legal perspective and logistics perspective, donations of surplus PPE from third parties, e.g., non-medical grade masks?	<i>The NJEDA does not currently have plans to manage PPE logistics and distribution beyond what is necessary for use of the Authority and its employees. The State of New Jersey currently has the capabilities to accept and handle PPE donations through the Office of Emergency Management. Parties interested in donating PPE can find more information on the State's COVID-19 information hub (https://covid19.nj.gov) and using OEM's online PPE donation form: https://covid19.nj.gov/forms/ppedonations</i>
9	Many federal departments and some state health departments have access to healthcare product price benchmarking database subscription services such as ECRI. Does NJDoH or DSS already subscribe to such services? Does NJEDA have access?	<i>Further investigation is required. Please check back for a second Addendum that will answer this question.</i>
10	In addition to purchasing, NJEDA will face critical questions around logistics management. Does NJEDA intend to facilitate warehousing and distribution of PPE, or does it seek a third-party vendor to enable warehousing and distribution? If NJ intends to maintain control of distribution, does it have access to the warehouse and vehicle infrastructure to support centralized distribution of PPE?	<i>The RFI is seeking information on non-state government market-based solutions to the problem described in the RFI. Should it decide to launch a program based on the responses to the RFI, NJEDA does not intend to have ongoing involvement in logistics management of the potential program.</i>
11	What proposed standards has NJEDA defined for PPE - particularly masks but also other categories of PPE? Is NJEDA willing to accept non-N95 models i.e. KN95s, KN90s, impervious face shields, non-medical grade cloth face masks?	<i>Any proposed solution must meet guidance supplied by federal agencies such as the CDC and state agencies such as the New Jersey Department of Health. Each PPE purchaser is responsible for determining what standard applies to its workplace. The website of the NJ Department of Health contains this information</i>
12	Does NJ government already have reporting structures in place to enable understanding of small business / non-profit PPE inventory, burn rates, and associated demand?	<i>Not at this time.</i>

13	Does NJEDA have specific targets and/or metrics for measuring the success of this or other similar programs in equitably serving the needs of historically disadvantaged organizations and communities?	<i>Should NJEDA decide to launch a program based on the responses to the RFI, it would expect there to be standards to ensure social equity and metrics by which to measure compliance with those expectations. Respondents to the RFI are welcome to propose such targets and/or metrics.</i>
14	Does NJ have existing authorities to incentivize PPE production, e.g., tax credits, grants to build production lines, etc.?	<i>NJEDA has broad authority under its enabling statute to catalyze economic development within the State. The NJEDA does not currently have a specific program to incentivize local PPE production, but it does have some programs that are applicable to local manufacturers. More information on existing NJEDA programs can be found here:</i> https://www.njeda.com/small_midsize_business . <i>In addition, respondents to the RFI are encouraged to make suggestions for how to most effectively address the problems identified in the RFI.</i>
15	Is NJ willing and legally able to allocate items procured from contracts under GSA Schedule to NJEDA?	<i>NJEDA is seeking further clarification on this question. Please check back for a second Addendum that will answer this question.</i>