Project application for the tracking file and folder.

Arnold N. Robinson, AICP
Director

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-----Original Message-----
From: webmaster@rwu.edu [mailto:webmaster@rwu.edu] On Behalf Of Roger Williams University
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:04 PM
To: Robinson, Arnold N.
Subject: Form submission from: Apply For CPC Project Support Online

Submitted on March 31st, 2015

Submitted values are:

--Section 1: Organization Information--
 Name of Organization: Grow Smart RI
 Mailing Address: 235 Promenade St Suite 550, Providence, RI 02903
 Name of Project Contact Person(s):
 Chris Hannifan
 Scott Wolf
 Maia Farish (alternate)
 Phone: 401-749-8749
 E-mail: channifan@verizon.net
 Type of Organization: Private (citizen, non-profit)
 If Other:
 Description of Organization and Mission: Grow Smart RI provides statewide leadership for diverse public and private interests seeking sustainable and equitable economic growth. We promote such growth by advocating for compact development in revitalized urban, town, and village centers balanced with responsible stewardship of our region's natural assets-farmland, forests, the coastline, and the bay. We inform leaders, decision makers, and concerned citizens about the many benefits of compact development and asset stewardship and provide research and training on proven smart growth strategies. We convene broad coalitions that advocate policy reforms and specific projects designed to build communities where all people and businesses can thrive.
 On average, how many individuals does your organization serve per year?
 We are not, technically, a service provider.
How did you hear about the CPC? Maia Farish

--Section 2: Project Description--
Title of the Project: Research to support advocacy for Rhode Island Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit
Project Location (Address, City, State, and Zip): work will be proofread at our office or at a convenient site for the team.
General Project Description (you may attach a longer narrative if necessary): Gathering data that answers specific questions posed by the Fiscal Advisor to the House Finance Committee of the RI General Assembly.
Potential Scope of Work/Tasks for RWU CPC:
Task 1
prepare inventory of potential projects that could use RI Historic Tax Credits (HTC) in the future possible data sources for this include
list of properties on National Register of Historic Places that have not undergone rehabilitation
list of blighted properties from local planners, economic development officials and municipal leaders

Task 2
research existing applicants to RI division of taxation and state preservation commission in order to understand the latent demand for use of the unallocated tax credits from the 2013 HTC program.
Potential data sources for this include:
-RIHPHC files-part two text for applications
- RI division of taxation
- Contacting developers directly to find out if they wish to use credits, the size of their projects, and their feasibility of moving forward.

What will be the final product output for this project? (survey, website, design plans, drawings, etc.): Written documentation that can be distributed to elected officials and their staff, other stakeholders, and uploadable to the Grow Smart RI website
Proposed Project Schedule (when the tasks/project needs to be completed): This is a time sensitive project because the state budget will begin to be reviewed in several weeks.

Please provide the names and contact information for any staff members or volunteers who will be playing a primary role in the proposed CPC project:
Chris Hannifan 401-749-8749
Scot Wolf 401-273-5711
(Alternate Maia Farish 401-533-8084

What resources/previous work would the CPC be building upon that you already have completed? (Please select all items that are applicable):
- Strategic Plan
- Marketing & Communication Plans
- Additional organizational documents
- Preliminary photos of the site/project
- Maps
- Previous research

Survey results
- Architectural or building plans
  What active support would your organization be able to contribute should your project be selected? Staff time

--Section 3: Project Outcomes--
Please describe how this project will benefit your organization and the advancement of your mission: This research will allow Grow Smart to fulfill its mission of providing statewide leadership and policy advice to advance economic growth. Please describe how this project might benefit the overall community, including specific groups that could benefit from this project (i.e. target populations, neighborhoods, specific town/city/region):

The entire state of RI will benefit from an immediate positive net fiscal impact from the HTC program for the following reasons:

-Tax receipts through construction and other jobs generated by HTC projects will create a positive fiscal impact to state revenues.
-Job creation and increased employment taxes are derived years in advance of any outlay of state funding because HTC are not released for any enrolled project until the project is completed.
-Sales tax revenues resulting from construction materials purchased for HTC projects also benefit the state in advance of outlay.
-Rhode Island's fiscally stressed communities also benefit from HTC through increased property assessments.
-A 2007 study for Grow Smart RI concluded that each $1 million of HTC's leverages $5.35 million in total economic output.

Please explain why you have chosen to seek assistance from the RWU CPC with your project request, instead of undertaking the project using fee-for-services from a paid professional: Grow Smart is a nonprofit entity without the resources to retain paid consultants to undertake crucial data gathering and research that advance our advocacy work.

Please describe how this project will benefit RWU students:
Benefits to students to learn about:
-The National Register of Historic Places database and how to access it and extract data and information from it.
-How to interact with and request specific information from public officials and developers.
-The workings of state government agencies, specifically, the division of taxation and historic preservation commission and how they administer the historic tax credit program.
-Learning about the historic tax credit as both an economic driver and a tool for reviving blighted communities.
-The crucial role advocacy plays in creating sound public policy.

--Section 4: Financial Information--
What is your organization’s annual operating budget? Please
include a copy of your most recent budget with the application in Section 6.: see attached
What are your major sources of funding?
Private and corporate donations.
Training programs.
Foundations.
How much funding from your annual operating budget is set aside for this project (if any)? We can provide support with incidental expenses (travel, food, supplies, etc)

--Section 5: Private Sector Involvement--
Have you or your organization discussed the project with practicing professionals (e.g. architect, engineer, planner, consultants, etc.)? : No
If no, please explain why: We can not afford to retain a paid consultant.

--Section 6: Supporting Documents--
Budget for the current fiscal year:
https://rwu.edu/sites/default/files/webform/gsri_budget.docx
List of current Board members:
Copies of supporting resources identified in section 2 as needed to support your application:
Additional File Upload:
Additional File Upload 2:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
https://rwu.edu/node/113561/submission/615161