



RISE : NYC, Q&A Stage 1

Questions received through January 24th, 2014

Q: My firm is putting together an energy efficiency / Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project in a 2 million SF office building in NYC. Is this relevant for the RISE : NYC competition? Our main goal is to make them more efficient while reducing their reliance on the grid.

Projects that use technologies to improve efficiency and reduce grid-reliance could be eligible under RISE : NYC. However, in order to qualify, the project would have to demonstrate that the proposed technology is new and innovative and that it directly benefits an eligible small business that was impacted by Hurricane Sandy. More information on eligibility can be found on our website at: <http://rise-nyc.com/applicants/eligibility/>.

Q: I'm the founder of a startup that makes software for supply chain resilience. One of our clients is the NYCEDC. I'm interested in moving our company to New York City and wonder whether this competition is right for us. Is there someone I can connect with to learn more about RISE : NYC?

RISE : NYC is a competition to help small businesses that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy by improving the resiliency of their building systems, energy infrastructure or telecommunications networks through the use of new technologies and solutions. Funding will be awarded for the installation of selected technologies at eligible small business sites. Software is eligible under this competition; however, your project application will have to demonstrate that the software solution is new and innovative and how it will benefit an eligible small business that was impacted by Hurricane Sandy. More information on eligibility can be found on our website at: <http://rise-nyc.com/applicants/eligibility/>

If you have additional questions on eligibility, please send them to info@rise-nyc.com. We are accepting questions until February 14th for Stage 1 of the competition.

Questions received for the week ending January 31st, 2014

Q: Can you confirm if non-profits are eligible for RISE : NYC?

Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply as technology providers, developers, manufacturers or installers. Non-profits can also apply as part of a consortium to assist/facilitate the deployment of a technology or solution to improve the resilience of eligible small businesses, which are defined by the US Small Business Administration (SBA) as business entities that are organized for profit and meet SBA's size standards (see the SBA website [here](#) for additional information on small business size standards). As a result, non-profits are not eligible to be the ultimate beneficiaries of technologies or solutions funded through RISE : NYC.

Additional information on the SBA's definition of small businesses can be found in Section 24, Part 121 of the [Code of Federal Regulations](#). Final eligibility determinations will be based on information provided as part of the Application process and ultimately, eligibility is contingent upon compliance with applicable federal CDBG-DR rules.

Questions received for the week ending February 7th, 2014

Q: Does lowering the CO2 footprint of concrete meet the criteria for this competition?

Lowering the CO2 footprint of concrete has environmental benefits; however, to be eligible under RISE : NYC, the proposed technology/solution must demonstrate that it:

1. Improves flood-resistance or -resilience, enables systems to fail gracefully, expedites recovery or supports the continuation of services during a storm or other similar event; and
2. Improves the resiliency of:
 - Telecommunications networks (wired and wireless communication infrastructure, data centers and platforms);
 - Energy infrastructure (electric power, natural gas, steam and liquid fuels); or
 - Building systems (electrical equipment, HVAC, plumbing, fire protection, etc.).

Q: Are co-ops considered a small business and therefore eligible? If not, would they be if the co-op was a mixed use building?

As per SBA guidelines 13 CFR 121.105, cooperatives can qualify as small businesses, except for small agricultural cooperatives.

Q: At the info session, it was mentioned that you can sign up to be a project supporter. Is this different from applying as a technology/solutions provider or as a project site?

In addition to applying as a technology/solutions provider or a project site, those that are interested in supporting a RISE : NYC project team can register on the [NYCEDC website](#) to be listed as a potential subcontractor or supplier for companies applying to the competition.

Q: Can non-profits that provide business services in impacted areas apply to adopt a technology? More specifically, can organizations that serve Industrial Business Zones be eligible?

Non-profit organizations, such as those that provide business services, are eligible to apply to the program to facilitate the installation of a technology/solution that will benefit eligible small businesses. Non-profit organizations that represent eligible small businesses can apply through the [Adopt a Technology](#) page on the competition website. Please provide additional information on the small businesses represented in the application.

Questions received for the week ending February 14th, 2014

Q: Can we request funding for the costs of materials that comprise a technology, but not the installation costs of that technology, for a building that will ultimately be City-owned?

Funding will be provided for the installation of selected technologies at eligible project sites. Additional information on specific eligible uses of awards funds will be provided in later stages of the competition. NYCEDC will work with selected applicants to determine use of funds that will achieve the competition goals and compliance with federal CDBG-DR rules.

Eligible projects must benefit small businesses, as defined by the US Small Business Administration (SBA); projects in which the City is the ultimate beneficiary are not eligible.

Q: Does the definition of small businesses that are the end recipients of the technologies deployed through this competition include not-for-profits?

Non-profit organizations are eligible to apply as technology providers, developers, manufacturers or installers. Non-profits can also apply as part of a consortium to assist/facilitate the deployment of a technology or solution to improve the resilience of eligible small businesses, which are defined by the US Small Business Administration (SBA) as business entities that are organized for profit and meet SBA's size standards (see the SBA website [here](#) for additional

information on small business size standards). As a result, non-profits are not eligible to be the ultimate beneficiaries of technologies or solutions funded through RISE : NYC.

Additional information on the SBA's definition of small businesses can be found in Section 24, Part 121 of the [Code of Federal Regulations](#). Final eligibility determinations will be based on information provided as part of the Application process and ultimately, eligibility is contingent upon compliance with applicable federal CDBG-DR rules.

Q: Will host sites receive funding for provision of their space, staff time and resources?

Funding will be provided for the installation of selected technologies at eligible project sites at no cost to the project site. Additional information on specific eligible uses of awards funds will be provided in later stages of the competition. NYCEDC will work with selected applicants to determine use of funds that will achieve the competition goals and compliance with federal CDBG-DR rules.

Q: For project sites, is there any financial assistance for any design work that may be required for the competition? If not, is pro bono assistance available?

Funding will be provided for the installation of selected technologies at eligible project sites. Funding associated with the design of the technologies and solutions themselves will not be available; all proposed measures must be beyond both the research and development (R&D) and prototype phases. However, funding required for design work associated with the installation of the technologies at eligible project sites may be eligible. Additional information on specific eligible uses of awards funds will be provided in later stages of the competition. NYCEDC will work with selected applicants to determine use of funds that will achieve the competition goals and compliance with federal CDBG-DR rules.

Q: I applied as a merchant's association not as a singular property. Many buildings within the purview of the association were heavily damaged during the storm. Is applying as a representative of our members appropriate?

Merchant's associations are eligible to apply to the program to facilitate the installation of a technology/solution that will benefit eligible small businesses. Merchant's associations that represent eligible small businesses can apply through the [Adopt a Technology](#) page on the competition website. Merchant's associations are encouraged to provide additional information on the small businesses represented in the application such as, for example, the names and addresses of those businesses.

Questions received for the week ending February 21st, 2014

Q: Are non-technology solutions, such as an evacuation plan, eligible for awards?

An evacuation plan is not an eligible solution under the RISE : NYC competition. Eligible projects include the installation of new and innovative technologies and measures that benefit Sandy-impacted small businesses by enhancing the resiliency of their telecommunications networks, energy infrastructure and building systems to extreme weather. Eligible technologies and measures will improve flood-resistance or flood-resilience, enable systems to fail gracefully, expedite recovery or support the continuation of services during a storm or other similar event.

More information on RISE : NYC eligibility is available at <http://rise-nyc.com/applicants/eligibility/>

Traditional flood protection techniques are expected to be funded through the Business Resiliency Investment Program, another program included in the City's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The City is currently completing detailed program design and structuring an office to help implement the program. The program is expected to launch later this year. Additional information on the Business Resiliency Investment Program can be found by going to <http://www.nycedc.com/service/programs-business-recovery-resiliency> or by e-mailing ResiliencyInvest@nycedc.com.

Q: Can a business apply for funding to install City-required backflow prevention devices? Could a business apply as a project site and satisfy the requirement of the backflow prevention devices through the RISE : NYC competition?

City-mandated backflow prevention devices are not eligible for funding under this competition. RISE : NYC will fund the installation of new and innovative resiliency technologies that are not widely used in New York City.

Project sites will receive one or more eligible selected technologies installed for free.

More information on RISE : NYC eligibility is available at <http://rise-nyc.com/applicants/eligibility/>

Traditional flood protection techniques are expected to be funded through the Business Resiliency Investment Program, another program included in the City's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Action Plan. The City is currently completing detailed program design and structuring an office to help implement the program. The program is expected to launch later this year. Additional information on the Business Resiliency Investment Program

can be found by going to <http://www.nycedc.com/service/programs-business-recovery-resiliency> or by e-mailing ResiliencyInvest@nycedc.com.

Questions received for the week ending February 28th, 2014

Q: As a NY resident and exclusive agent for an out-of-state alternative energy company, am I eligible to apply to the RISE : NYC competition? In the event that my application is selected, who would the funds be awarded to, as I would be working on behalf of an out-of-state company?

Representatives of eligible technology developers, manufacturers or providers are welcome to apply for RISE : NYC. If selected, funding will be provided for the installation of proposed technologies at project sites. NYCEDC will work with applicants selected for award to determine the use and flow of funds that will achieve the competition goals and compliance with federal CDBG-DR rules. Prior to receiving any award funds, selected applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with NYCEDC in compliance with City, State and Federal rules.

Please note that while technology developers, manufacturers or providers of technologies may be based in New York City as well as throughout the United States and the world, eligible projects must benefit small businesses (as defined by the US Small Business Administration) in the 'Target Areas' in New York City that were impacted, either directly or indirectly, by Hurricane Sandy.

More information on eligibility can be found on our website at: <http://rise-nyc.com/applicants/eligibility/>.