

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

BELOW ARE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELATED TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

### **Question**

What staff will be involved from New York State including the Empire State Development Corporation, what will be their specific roles and functions, and how much time will they be able to commit?

### **Answer**

*Christina Orsi, Regional Director, ESD, Western Region and Executive Director, WNY Regional Council will serve as the Project Manager and day to day coordinator on behalf of the State for this project. She will also serve as liaison and coordinator with the other key partners including WNY Regional Economic Development Council, Brookings Institution and UBRI. This is a key project for ESD and the Governor's office and as such will be the primary responsibility for this position during the planning process.*

*Irene Baker, Executive Vice President & Director of Regional Councils, will serve as lead liaison with Governor Cuomo on the project and ensure coordination with the Governor's office. She is accessible as needed and will participate in weekly project meetings as needed.*

### **Question**

What role do you envision for local public agencies including the Buffalo Mayor's Office with relation to this project?

### **Answer**

*The City of Buffalo is a key partner in this initiative. The Mayor serves on an "Executive Committee" along with the Erie County Executive, ESD, Governor's Office and Regional Council Co-Chairs as the lead advisors on this project. In addition, the City's Planning and Development Team are members of the "working group" we have formed on the ground to participate with research, analytics and community outreach.*

### **Question**

May Offerors use MWBE firms that are not yet certified by the State, but would otherwise meet the qualification requirements to meet its goals for MWBE participation and are in the process of being

certified, but have not submitted their application, so long as that application for certification is submitted prior to Orals in May?

**Answer**

*ESD would consider MWBE firms that are in the process of being certified. However, the bidder bears the ultimate responsibility in the event that the MWBE is not certified.*