RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

Title of Rule: Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program

Rule Identifier: 830-RICR-10-30-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Adoption

Important Dates:
Date of Public Notice: March 3, 2022
Hearing Date: March 16, 2022
End of Public Comment: April 3, 2022

Rulemaking Authority:
R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-11.4-4

R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-12.2-4

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The MunicipalInfrastructure Grant Program ("MIGP") is a competitive grant program providingcapital funds for municipalities, and other public entities, to makeimprovement to public infrastructure. The overall goal is to support projectsthat can achieve economic development and growth by accelerating housingproduction, spurring private development, and creating jobs across RhodeIsland.
Any city ortown, acting by and through its municipal officers or by and through any agencydesignated by the municipal officers to act on their behalf, may apply to theprogram for a grant in a specific amount to fund a specified project. Two (2)or more municipalities may apply jointly, with one municipality acting as fiscalagent.
A proposedproject must be for improvements to land and/or infrastructure that iscurrently publicly owned or can be acquired through public leasehold,right-of-way or easement in timely manner. Applicants may request funding forpredevelopment activities (such as due diligence and preparation of engineeringdocuments) and/or for direct construction work. Program investments will betargeted to projects that support job creation and expansion, housingdevelopment and rehabilitation, community development projects in areas ordistricts that communities have determined are best suited to efficientlyaccommodate future growth or redevelopment.
Grants can befor design, construction, building, land acquisition, rehabilitation, repair,and other improvements to publicly owned infrastructure including, but notlimited to, sewers, utility extensions, streets, roads, curb-cuts, parking,water-treatment systems, telecommunications systems, transit improvements, andpedestrian ways.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until April 3, 2022 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Kimberly Korioth
Infrastructure Bank
RI Infrastructure Bank
235 Promenade Street, Suite 119
Providence, RI 02908
kkorioth@riib.org

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: March 16, 2022

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Location: RI Infrastructure Bank
235 Promenade Street
Suite 119
Providence, RI, 02908

The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and, therefore, the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-453-4430 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Impact to Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank

As the administrator of the Program, the Bankwill sustain direct costs in relation to staff time. The amount of staff timeto be dedicated to the MIGP is highly dependent on the number of applicationsreceived and grant awards made. For estimating purposes, the costs are dividedinto three categories, the application phase, the grant agreement phase, andthe reporting & requisition phase. All costs will be occurred as directstaff time.

Anticipated benefits of these thoroughprogrammatic processes for RIIB include assurance that projects are ready atthe beginning of the award period, assurance of applicant commitment andproject success, assurance that projects will achieve a wide variety ofco-benefits,assurance that the project will be maintained, confirmation of the project'scompletion as initially described, and confirmation that all costs applied tothe Action Grant award are eligible.

Impact to Other State Agencies

The Bank will rely on the partnershipof additional state agencies for reviewof MIGP applications and requisitions. The review team for applications will consistof the Bank, RI Division of Statewide Planning, and potentiallyother state agencies. For review of requisitions, the Bank partners with adesignated Technical Review Advisor from a state agency to ensure that allcosts submitted by grantees are program eligible.

Costs to each of these state agencies for theApplication Phase include staff time for review of application documents, aswell as a meeting to collaboratively review applications .

There are strong benefits to the Bank, theapplicants, and the review partners themselves in having these review partnersinvolved. Primarily, these partners help to create a more informed review ofproject proposals, lending their expertise to the evaluation of project need,potential benefits, and potential success. Further, through conducting an external,governmental review of project costs drawing upon the Technical ReviewAdvisor's expertise, the Bank can assure both themselves and the state thatprojects are being completed as initially described and that desired projectoutcomes have been / will be accomplished.

StatewideImpact

Acrossthe state, MIGP will have a variety of fiscal benefits, including:

- Efficientadministration of a grant program which provides funding for improvingpublic infrastructure;
- Projects that addressstatewide economic development priorities; and
- Create jobopportunities for Rhode Island residents.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.