

RISE Solicitation: Support in the Extension of the RISE Sustainability Plan

Posted: November 16, 2021

Responses due by: 5pm EDT, December 1, 2021

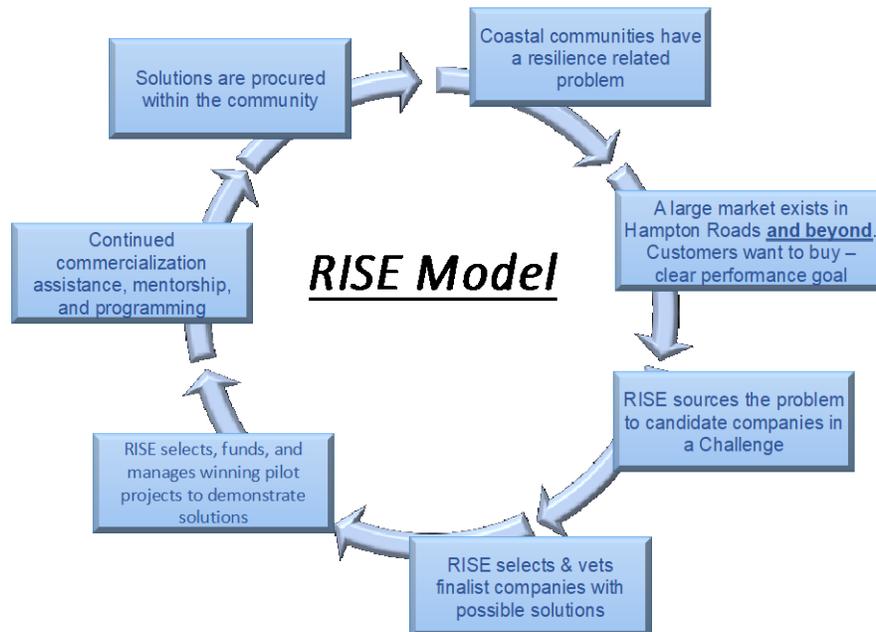
RISE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, economic development organization with a mission to accelerate innovation and business growth around solutions to coastal communities' resilience challenges.

RISE supports the development of a new industry cluster around resilience in the Hampton Roads region. RISE's goal is to position the region as a leading living laboratory/resilience innovation hub for entrepreneurs with innovative resilience-building technologies, products and services to validate, demonstrate and built into viable businesses.

RISE achieves this by:

- Surfacing resilience challenges faced by organizations operating in coastal environments,
- Conducting global competitions for entrepreneurs with innovative solutions,
- Brokering access to the Hampton Roads region's living laboratory to resilience innovators,
- Accelerating the growth of businesses offering innovative solutions to coastal resilience challenges,
- Providing access to funding, pilot sites, infrastructure, key stakeholders, and regulatory guidance.

Our process can be encapsulated in the figure below.





RISE has completed a strategic plan and has been executing on it. Through this process, we have further honed in on our specific point of view, refined our value-add, and crafted a plan for growth that moves us - and our work - forward.

Our next step is to take that plan and extend it to shape, communicate and disseminate this next phase of innovation to position RISE for long-term sustainability. We require a partner who can complete the following tasks:

1) Funder Scan

To move RISE into the next chapter of supporting replicable and scalable resilience solutions, we need to partner with funders who support this vision. Using the information from our strategic refresh, we require a review of potential funders aligned with the type of capital we can attract (grants and/or some venture-level support.) That scan should include a streamlined list of partners who are a natural fit for us, shortening the fundraising cycle by creating more targeted outreach. The scan should also clearly identify the offering from RISE that coordinates the funders' interests and strategic goals with RISE that can be encapsulated in RISE's outreach to the funders.

2) Support the Extension of RISE's Sustainability Plan

The materials and findings from 1 above will be incorporated into RISE's 3-year Sustainability Plan. This Plan will be prepared by RISE with support and guidance from the consultant.

3) Event Plan

Identify year-long (2022) event plan to ensure participation and presence at key conferences and other gatherings.

Submission:

Responses are due by 5pm EDT, December 1, 2021. Please email your proposal and all questions to barbarawalker@riseresilience.org. Responses should include:

- 1) Evidence of respondent's prior relevant experience
- 2) Impact and outcome examples
- 3) Cost descriptions and estimates