

From: [Clithero, Toni H](#)
To: [Hallquist, Christine](#); [Fish, Robert](#); [Herzog, Herryn](#)
Subject: RE: Executive Order
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:59:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

From: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:57 PM
To: Fish, Robert <Robert.Fish@vermont.gov>; Herzog, Herryn <Herryn.Herzog@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Executive Order

Sure, reach out. Don't spend much time on it. I am sure they are aware (assume is the keyword, however it is worth checking). Based on my meeting with SHLB, everyone is confused. Until we are told otherwise, we are going to keep moving.

With warm regards,
Christine Hallquist
Executive Director
christine.hallquist@vermont.gov
(802)636-7853
[Vermont Community Broadband Board](#)



From: Fish, Robert <Robert.Fish@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:31 PM
To: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>; Herzog, Herryn <Herryn.Herzog@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>
Subject: Fw: Executive Order

Should we reach out to our congressional delegation? That including, but not limited to language causes me some heartburn

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From: Teles Fremin <tfremin@ctcnet.us>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:21:51 PM

To: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>

Cc: Matthews, Alissa <Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov>; Monsarrat, Alexei <Alexei.Monsarrat@vermont.gov>; Fish, Robert <Robert.Fish@vermont.gov>

Subject: Executive Order

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Christine,

As you may already know, yesterday the president signed an executive order regarding energy with potential implications for our work. Below is the link and the excerpt of the order below.

The executive order clearly creates a 90-day pause on federal spending and efforts regarding energy programs, including EV programs, under the IIJA and IRA.

While the order is not about broadband, the language excerpted below, if read in isolation, could be used to suggest that spending on BEAD would also be paused. Read in the context of the entire executive order, this is clearly not the case. This may thus be a case of sloppy drafting, with the potential that BEAD is collateral damage or untouched.

This ambiguity creates confusion and, based on what I am hearing this morning, no one at the Department of Commerce has clear direction on what they should be doing, if anything. To my knowledge, no one at Commerce or NTIA has issued any kind of stop work order for broadband efforts.

We are hoping to have more clarity soon but wanted to let you know what we've heard so far. Please let me know if you'd like to schedule a call for the next couple of days to discuss this.

Thanks

Teles

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/unleashing-american-energy/>

Sec. 7. Terminating the Green New Deal.

All agencies shall immediately pause the disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169) or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), including but not limited to funds for electric vehicle charging stations made available through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program, and shall review their processes, policies, and programs for issuing grants, loans, contracts, or any other financial disbursements of such appropriated funds for consistency with the law and the policy outlined in section 2 of this order. Within 90 days of the date of this order, all agency heads shall submit a report to the Director of the NEC and Director of OMB that details the findings of this review, including recommendations to enhance their alignment with the policy set forth in section 2. No funds identified in this subsection (a) shall be disbursed by a given agency until the Director of OMB and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy have determined that such disbursements are consistent with any review recommendations they have chosen to adopt.

When procuring goods and services, making decisions about leases, and making other arrangements that result in disbursements of Federal funds, agencies shall prioritize cost-effectiveness, American workers and businesses, and the sensible use of taxpayer money, to the greatest extent. The Director of OMB shall finalize and circulate guidelines to further implement this subsection.

From: [Hallquist, Christine](#)
To: [Clithero, Toni H](#)
Subject: RE: VCBB - Awarding contract for Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst RFP to Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:15:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

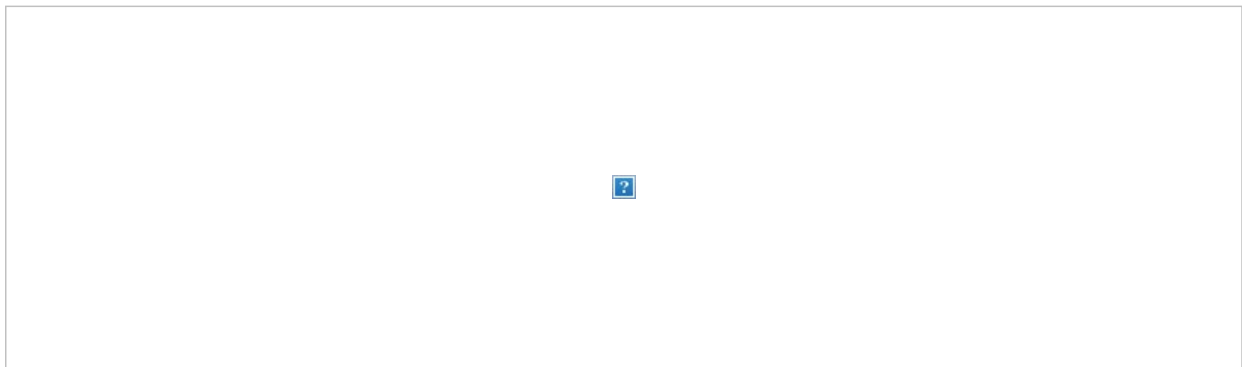
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To: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: VCBB - Awarding contract for Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst RFP to Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)

This is what I am referring to:



From: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:12 PM
To: Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: VCBB - Awarding contract for Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst RFP to Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)

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To: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>
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[REDACTED]

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Please let me know if you would like me to provide this information to Alex.

From: Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 10:58 AM
To: Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us>; Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov>
Cc: Mike Daly <michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us>; Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>; Raboin, Ginny <Ginny.Raboin@vermont.gov>; VCBB - Info <VCBB.Info@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; daniela.blaise <daniela.blaise@ruralinnovation.us>; Tuxill, Stephanie <Stephanie.Tuxill@vermont.gov>; Meganne Robinson <meganne.robinson@ruralinnovation.us>

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Cc: Mike Daly <michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us>; Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>; Raboin, Ginny <Ginny.Raboin@vermont.gov>; VCB - Info <VCBB.Info@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; daniela.blaise <daniela.blaise@ruralinnovation.us>; Tuxill, Stephanie <Stephanie.Tuxill@vermont.gov>; Meganne Robinson <meganne.robinson@ruralinnovation.us>
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Hi everyone -

Hope everyone is doing okay. This is me not hesitating to reach out with questions....

Will the start of this work be impacted by yesterday's executive order pausing federal spending? In other words, is the funding for this work secured at the state already, or is it part of the federal funding that is being paused?

Thanks,
Alex

On Mon, Jan 13, 2025 at 7:58 AM Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike,

How are you? Happy New Year to you and yours. The contract is in the process of being drafted. Once we have a final draft; we will send it over for your review. As noted, in the Award memo, work cannot begin until there is a fully executed contract (signed by RISI and the State).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
Lucie

Lucie Fortier | Administrative Manager III
Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
112 State Street | 3rd Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802.522.7115
[Vermont Community Broadband Board](#)

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From: Mike Daly <michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:50 PM
To: Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov>
Cc: Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us>; Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H

<Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>; Raboin, Ginny <Ginny.Raboin@vermont.gov>; VCBB - Info <VCBB.Info@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; daniela.blaise <daniela.blaise@ruralinnovation.us>; Tuxill, Stephanie <Stephanie.Tuxill@vermont.gov>; Meganne Robinson <meganne.robinson@ruralinnovation.us>

Subject: Re: VCBB - Awarding contract for Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst RFP to Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)

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Hi Lucie,

Hope your year is off to a great start! To clarify, will the state be sending a contract to us to review?

Regards,

Mike Daly

Controller

Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc

he | him | his

■ 540-204-3679
■ michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us
■ www.ruralinnovation.us
■ 2 Quechee Rd, Hartland, VT

On Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 3:34 PM Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov> wrote:

Thank you!

Lucie Fortier | Administrative Manager III
Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
112 State Street |3rd Floor |Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802.522.7115
[Vermont Community Broadband Board](http://VermontCommunityBroadbandBoard.org)

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From: Mike Daly <michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us>

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:33 AM

To: Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us>

Cc: Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov>; Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>; Raboin, Ginny <Ginny.Raboin@vermont.gov>; VCBB - Info <VCBB.Info@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; daniela.blaise <daniela.blaise@ruralinnovation.us>; Tuxill, Stephanie <Stephanie.Tuxill@vermont.gov>; Meganne Robinson <meganne.robinson@ruralinnovation.us>

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Hi Lucie,

Please see attached COI and W-9 for RISI.

Thank you!

Mike Daly

Controller

Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc

he | him | his

■ 540-204-3679
■ michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us
■ www.ruralinnovation.us
■ 2 Quechee Rd, Hartland, VT

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 5:05 PM Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us> wrote:

Hi Lucie -

Excellent! We are very excited to be working with you all as well.

Our operations team will jump on these W9 and certificate of insurance tomorrow, and we look forward to kicking all of this off as soon as the contractual items are squared away.

Best,
Alex

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 1:59 PM Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kelley,

The State of Vermont, Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) received your proposal October 14, 2024, in response to the "Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst" standard Request for Proposal (RFP) and intends to enter into a contract with Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI) to furnish all labor, materials, and services outlined in the RFP and your bid proposal.

While we intend to enter into a contract, the award is contingent on the successful finalization and execution of the contract, as well as all required internal State approvals.
Until we have a completely executed contract, no work may occur.

To commence the contract process, we require the completed forms and documents listed below. Please email them to VCBB.Info@vermont.gov.

- Current W9 – Submit form with typed form fields, dated within the last twelve (6) months and wet (handwritten in blue or black ink) signed and date.
- A Certificate of Insurance (COI) as stipulated in the RFP.

Congratulations! We look forward to doing business with you.

Sincerely,
Lucie

Lucie Fortier | Administrative Manager III
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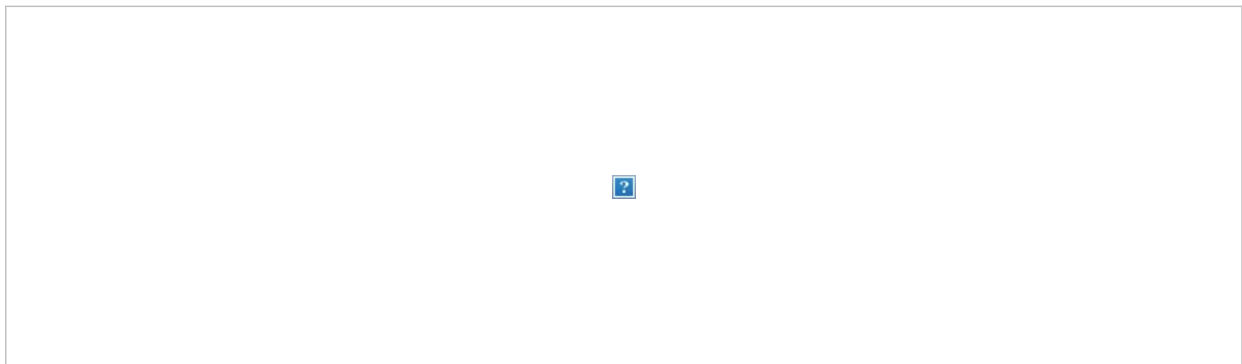
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Understood. Would you mind if I responded to Alex noting that we are awaiting confirmation from NTIA that the grant is subject to the temporary pause (no need to provide the reasoning re obligated or disbursed), confirming your email as to the permanent concern?

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On Mon, Jan 13, 2025 at 7:58 AM Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike,

How are you? Happy New Year to you and yours. The contract is in the process of being drafted. Once we have a final draft; we will send it over for your review. As noted, in the Award memo, work cannot begin until there is a fully executed contract (signed by RISI and the State).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
Lucie

Lucie Fortier | Administrative Manager III
Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
112 State Street | 3rd Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-2601
802.522.7115
[Vermont Community Broadband Board](#)

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From: Mike Daly <michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:50 PM
To: Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov>
Cc: Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us>; Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H

<Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>; Raboin, Ginny <Ginny.Raboin@vermont.gov>; VCBB - Info <VCBB.Info@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; daniela.blaise <daniela.blaise@ruralinnovation.us>; Tuxill, Stephanie <Stephanie.Tuxill@vermont.gov>; Meganne Robinson <meganne.robinson@ruralinnovation.us>

Subject: Re: VCBB - Awarding contract for Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst RFP to Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Lucie,

Hope your year is off to a great start! To clarify, will the state be sending a contract to us to review?

Regards,

Mike Daly

Controller

Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc

he | him | his

■ 540-204-3679
■ michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us
■ www.ruralinnovation.us
■ 2 Quechee Rd, Hartland, VT

On Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 3:34 PM Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov> wrote:

Thank you!

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From: Mike Daly <michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us>

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 9:33 AM

To: Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us>

Cc: Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov>; Hallquist, Christine <Christine.Hallquist@vermont.gov>; Clithero, Toni H <Toni.Clithero@vermont.gov>; Raboin, Ginny <Ginny.Raboin@vermont.gov>; VCBB - Info <VCBB.Info@vermont.gov>; Watson, Britaney <Britaney.Watson@vermont.gov>; daniela.blaise <daniela.blaise@ruralinnovation.us>; Tuxill, Stephanie <Stephanie.Tuxill@vermont.gov>; Meganne Robinson <meganne.robinson@ruralinnovation.us>

Subject: Re: VCBB - Awarding contract for Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst RFP to Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hi Lucie,

Please see attached COI and W-9 for RISI.

Thank you!

Mike Daly

Controller

Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc

he | him | his

■ 540-204-3679
■ michael.daly@ruralinnovation.us
■ www.ruralinnovation.us
■ 2 Quechee Rd, Hartland, VT

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 5:05 PM Alex Kelley <alex.kelley@ruralinnovation.us> wrote:

Hi Lucie -

Excellent! We are very excited to be working with you all as well.

Our operations team will jump on these W9 and certificate of insurance tomorrow, and we look forward to kicking all of this off as soon as the contractual items are squared away.

Best,
Alex

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 1:59 PM Fortier, Lucie <Lucie.Fortier@vermont.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Kelley,

The State of Vermont, Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) received your proposal October 14, 2024, in response to the "Digital Equity Research and Data Analyst" standard Request for Proposal (RFP) and intends to enter into a contract with Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI) to furnish all labor, materials, and services outlined in the RFP and your bid proposal.

While we intend to enter into a contract, the award is contingent on the successful finalization and execution of the contract, as well as all required internal State approvals.
Until we have a completely executed contract, no work may occur.

To commence the contract process, we require the completed forms and documents listed below. Please email them to VCBB.Info@vermont.gov.

- Current W9 – Submit form with typed form fields, dated within the last twelve (6) months and wet (handwritten in blue or black ink) signed and date.
- A Certificate of Insurance (COI) as stipulated in the RFP.

Congratulations! We look forward to doing business with you.

Sincerely,
Lucie

Lucie Fortier | Administrative Manager III
Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
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