

Questions and Responses
Request for Proposals:
Procurement Consultant for City Accelerator on Inclusive Procurement

- 1. Question:** The Citi Foundation and Living Cities selected the City of Philadelphia, as one of ten cities, to join the sixth City Accelerator cohort on Inclusive Procurement. Technical assistance for the inclusive procurement initiative is being provided by Griffin & Strong, a law and public policy consulting firm specializing in disparity research and supplier diversity for government entities and private corporations. As part of its work to build a system that is more equitable and increases both contracting access and opportunity for diverse business owners, the City of Philadelphia issued an RFP to engage a consultant to conduct targeted research on critical organizational barriers that may limit response rates to city contracting opportunities and recommend strategies to target specific challenges.

Can Griffin & Strong, as the technical assistance provider for the City Accelerator on Inclusive Procurement, submit a response to be engaged as a consultant on this RFP opportunity, which consulting opportunity also arises out of the City Accelerator initiative?

Response: Griffin & Strong is a firm with experience in this area. However, because the firm has additional insight as a technical assistance provider through the Living Cities City Accelerator, the Mayor's Fund for Philadelphia and the City of Philadelphia do not want to jeopardize the integrity of the RFP process nor to allow for an actual or perceived unfair advantage as part of this RFP process. It is both the City's and the Fund's position that Griffin & Strong will be ineligible to apply for the Inclusive Procurement opportunity due to the firm's existing working relationship with the City as part of the City Accelerator opportunity.