



## Request for Proposals

### Background on the Regional Prosperity Initiative

A consortium of public, private, and nonprofit organizations in the six-county Prosperity Region 9 (Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, and Washtenaw Counties), were awarded grant funds from the State of Michigan's Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI). These funds will help to build relationships among geographies that have not worked together extensively, and to establish a prosperity vision and five-year strategy for how regional partners will work together to enhance economic prosperity in the region.

In the effort's first year (2014), partners made great progress on increasing collaboration. Working in four functional teams (talent council, workforce, adult education, and transportation), partners developed a five-year prosperity strategy that identifies goals, objectives, and strategies for:

- Growing and attracting talent to meet industry needs
- Advancing a high-quality and diverse regional transportation system to support industry growth and community vitality

Prosperity Region 9 received additional state funds for the RPI effort's second year, and partners would like to build on these functional teams' collaboration as we move forward with implementing the strategy.

### Challenge Grant Scope

The Prosperity Region 9 management team is soliciting proposals for a challenge grant program that will help support the functional teams' efforts to implement strongly supported and timely strategies included in the five-year strategy. Any proposal submitted for consideration should:

- Help catalyze and/or provide necessary support to complete one or more of the strategies identified in the [Region 9 Prosperity Strategy](#)
- Have a regional (not just county-level) focus and impact
- Clearly define the project's expected outcomes
- Include a 1:1 match of RPI grant funds in order to leverage other available dollars and broaden RPI partners' financial commitment
- Be submitted on behalf, or with the written support of, one of the four existing Region 9 RPI functional teams (contact the RPI Coordinator, Shanna Draheim, for a list of functional team contacts if needed)
- Be submitted by a nonprofit, public or private educational, or governmental entity

Proposals should be no more than five pages long (minimum 11-point font and one-inch margins) and describe the purpose, the prosperity plan goal(s) and objective(s) the project addresses, the scope of work, the proposed budget (including match funds), and a timeline for completing the project. Applicants should also attach letters of support from partner stakeholders (not included in the five-page limit).

## Timeline

**Release date:** June 10, 2015

**Due date and time:** Proposals will be accepted until September 1, 2015.

**Delivery method:** E-mail responses to RPI Coordinator Shanna Draheim at [sdraheim@pscinc.com](mailto:sdraheim@pscinc.com). Please write “RPI Challenge Grant Proposal” in the subject line.

Questions can be directed to Ms. Draheim at the above e-mail as well. Please write “RPI Challenge Grant RFP Inquiry” in the subject line of those e-mails.

## Proposal Review Criteria

Criteria	Relative weight
Project has a regional focus and impact	25%
Addresses specific goals, objectives, and proposed strategies identified in the Region 9 Prosperity Strategy	25%
Includes participation/engagement of a broad range of regional stakeholders, including private sector partners	25%
Clearly describes the proposed scope of work and expected outcomes	15%
Budget is clear, reasonable, and includes 1:1 match of RPI dollars	10%