

In connection with the **Request for Expression of Interest** for the operation of the **NYCHA Maritime Career Readiness Program**, released by NYCEDC on August 6, 2026, the questions from potential Respondents and answers provided by NYCEDC are below.

I. General Questions

Q: The Seafarer's are federally mandated to drug test. Would NYCEDC disallow any organization from receiving funds if they require drug testing?

A: NYCEDC does not intend to disqualify an organization from consideration solely because it requires drug testing where such testing is necessary to comply with applicable federal requirements or the requirements of specific maritime occupations, credentials, or career pathways. Respondents should clearly identify any drug-testing requirements associated with their proposed program model or targeted career pathways and describe how those requirements would be incorporated into participant preparation and program delivery

Q: How much funding will be available?

A: The currently anticipated funding level for this program is approximately \$1 million over a four-year period. However, funding levels may be adjusted based on insights received through the RFEI process. NYCEDC welcomes respondents' input on service requirements and anticipated costs to help assess the resources necessary for successful program delivery.

Q: Will funding be considered for a multiyear contract?

A: Yes. This project is currently contemplated to be delivered over multiple years.

Q: Does a potential applicant to the RFP need to submit a response to the RFEI?

A: No. Responding to the RFEI is not a prerequisite for eligibility to apply for any future RFP that may result from this effort. Additionally, this RFEI is for information gathering purposes only, and no awards will be made through this process.

Q: Is it anticipated that one award will be made after the RFP process?

A: Yes. Following a competitive RFP process, it is currently contemplated that only one award will be made, to either a consortium of providers or a single lead operator.

Q: Are for-profit firms eligible to respond as the lead organization if program delivery is carried out with nonprofit, training, and labor partners?

A: Yes. NYCEDC does not currently place restrictions on the type of entity that may serve as the lead Respondent to this RFEI. For-profit firms may respond as the lead organization and may propose partnerships with nonprofit organizations, training providers, labor organizations, or other entities as appropriate to support their proposed program model.

Q: Should partner roles be documented with letters of intent or support at the RFEI stage, or is a description of the proposed partnership sufficient?

A: NYCEDC recommends that Respondents provide Letters of Intent or other documentation demonstrating proposed partners' anticipated roles and commitment to the program. Where such documentation is not available at the RFEI stage, Respondents should clearly describe the proposed partnership, including each partner's anticipated role and responsibilities.

Q: How long is the anticipated grant term for this initiative? Has the support for the entire term been secured?

A: NYCEDC currently anticipates a program term of approximately four years; however, the final term will be determined as part of the future RFP process and may be informed by responses to this RFEI and other programmatic considerations. Preliminary funding has been identified to support this initiative, but the final funding amount, availability, and duration remain subject to applicable approvals, future budget considerations, and NYCEDC priorities.

Q: Should the Respondent's submitted Budget reflect only NYCEDC's funding, or will matching funds be required?

A: Matching funds are not required as part of this RFEI. However, Respondents are encouraged to present a budget that reflects the full range of funding sources anticipated to support implementation of the proposed program, including NYCEDC funding, as well as any other committed or anticipated sources of funding.

II. Target Population & Participant Requirements

Q: What is considered a "NYCHA resident"?

A: "NYCHA" is meant to mean the New York City Housing Authority. For the purposes of this procurement, a "NYCHA resident" is understood to mean any New York City resident with a permanent domicile in a development owned and managed by NYCHA.

Q: What is the age demographic we are seeking with this program with the 4 identified NYCHA communities?

A: The target age range for this program is currently anticipated to be young adults ages 16 to 24. However, a primary objective of this RFEI is to solicit feedback that will help inform the scope of services for a future RFP. Accordingly, NYCEDC welcomes proposals that serve participants outside of this age range, provided Respondents present a compelling rationale for how doing so would advance the program's goals and objectives.

Q: How many participants are [Respondents] expected to serve?

A: NYCEDC does not intend to place a minimum threshold of participants for Respondents to serve. We encourage Respondents to consider the current and future landscape of the maritime sector and utilize resources such as NYCEDC's workforce report [*NYC's Working Waterfront: A Blueprint for Blue Highways*](#) to inform your planning and anticipated impact. Additionally, where appropriate and as feasible, Respondents are encouraged to also consider their proposed program's scalability.

Q: Is the population served exclusive to NYCHA residents?

A: The RFEI is intended to prioritize and meaningfully serve NYCHA residents. Respondents may propose programming that also serves individuals who are not NYCHA residents (e.g., Section 8

voucher recipients, low-income New Yorkers, etc.), provided the approach clearly demonstrates how NYCHA residents will remain a primary focus of the program and receive meaningful access to the proposed services and career pathways.

Q: Recognizing this initiative is designed to primarily serve Red Hook and Gowanus residents of NYCHA housing, can EDC resources be used to serve young adults from NYCHA developments or communities outside of the ones specifically listed in the RFEI?

A: The RFEI is intended to prioritize and meaningfully serve NYCHA residents. Respondents may propose programming that also serves individuals outside of the communities specifically listed in the RFEI (e.g., Section 8 voucher recipients, low-income New Yorkers, etc.), provided the approach clearly demonstrates how NYCHA residents will remain a primary focus of the program and receive meaningful access to the proposed services and career pathways.

Q: Will EDC consider proposals that serve NYCHA residents and also serve other local residents?

A: The RFEI is intended to prioritize and meaningfully serve NYCHA residents. Respondents may propose programming that also serves individuals who are not NYCHA residents (e.g., Section 8 voucher recipients, low-income New Yorkers, etc.), provided the approach clearly demonstrates how NYCHA residents will remain a primary focus of the program and receive meaningful access to the proposed services and career pathways.

Q: Is this exclusive for NYCHA residents or a blend?

A: The RFEI is intended to prioritize and meaningfully serve NYCHA residents. Respondents may propose programming that also serves individuals who are not NYCHA residents (e.g., Section 8 voucher recipients, low-income New Yorkers, etc.), provided the approach clearly demonstrates how NYCHA residents will remain a primary focus of the program and receive meaningful access to the proposed services and career pathways.

Q: Can you define age further than "young adult"? Can you provide ages?

A: For purposes of this RFEI, NYCEDC considers young adults to be individuals ages 16 to 24. However, a primary objective of this RFEI is to solicit feedback that will help inform the scope of services for a future RFP. Accordingly, NYCEDC welcomes proposals that serve participants outside of this age range, provided Respondents present a compelling rationale for how doing so would advance the program's goals and objectives.

III. Program Scope, Design & Delivery

Q: Will EDC consider RFEI responses that do not address every pillar? For example, if jobs available do not require swimming instruction, is it still imperative that this is part of the proposal?

A: NYCEDC will consider responses that do not explicitly address every program pillar. Respondents should propose an approach that reflects the needs of the populations they intend to serve and the requirements of the career pathways they seek to support. Where a particular pillar, such as swimming instruction, is not relevant to the proposed career pathways, Respondents should provide a clear rationale for its exclusion and demonstrate how the overall program design meaningfully and comprehensively supports NYCHA residents in pursuing careers with opportunities for upward economic mobility.

Q: Does EDC have any pre-existing resources that can be leveraged for the purposes of maritime industrial education? If so, will RFEI applicants be provided information about these resources?

A: NYCEDC has limited pre-existing materials related to maritime industrial education; however, these materials are not available for distribution to RFEI applicants. Following a competitive RFP process and selection of a vendor, NYCEDC may be able to share relevant materials, information, and institutional knowledge from its existing waterfront-related programming, as appropriate, to support program development and implementation.

Q: Can you share any data on the number/type of employers and number/type of roles needed for the marine terminal?

A: NYCEDC recommends that respondents review its New York City-focused maritime workforce report, NYC's Working Waterfront: A Blueprint for Blue Highways. The report provides relevant context on the city's maritime workforce, including key employment figures and information on occupations across the sector, which may help inform Respondents' understanding of the types of employers, roles, and workforce needs associated with New York City's maritime industry.

Q: Will the Program Operator RFP planned for 2027 allow an operator to include a technology partner or subcontractor, and is technology (for example, a career advising or tracking platform) an allowable budget line?

A: Yes. While only one award will be made, it is currently anticipated that the future RFP will allow respondents to submit proposals as an individual entity, as a lead contractor with one or more subcontractors, or as a consortium (e.g., joint venture or similar arrangement). Respondents may also propose a technology partner or subcontractor as part of their team. Technology-related costs, including tools that support career advising, participant tracking, or program administration, may also be proposed as part of the program budget, provided they are reasonable, clearly tied to the proposed program design, and consistent with the requirements of the program.

Q: Will NYCEDC or NYCHA require a specific data or case-management system for participant tracking and outcome reporting, or will the operator select its own?

A: NYCEDC does not currently anticipate requiring a specific data or case-management system for participant tracking and outcome reporting. Respondents may propose the system or approach that best supports their program model. However, all Respondents should identify a clear and reliable method for tracking participant progress and outcomes, as the selected operator will be expected to provide regular reporting to NYCEDC in accordance with requirements established through the forthcoming RFP.

Q: Will RFEI responses that address only one component of the program, such as career planning, individual advising, and connections to employment delivered through a technology platform, be considered alongside full program models?

A: NYCEDC is seeking responses that propose a comprehensive and integrated program model rather than a standalone service or individual program component. While Respondents are not expected to address every program pillar where a particular element is not relevant to their proposed career pathways, responses should demonstrate how the overall program design meaningfully addresses the needs of NYCHA residents across the career readiness and employment continuum. Accordingly, responses focused solely on a single component, such as a technology platform for career planning, individual advising, or connections to employment, would not be responsive to the broader objectives of this RFEI.

Q: CDL Licenses are among the listed examples of credentials under this initiative. Are roles in the Transportation sector - which require a CDL license - included in the list of priority occupations under this initiative?

A: The NYCHA Maritime Career Readiness Program is primarily focused on preparing NYCHA residents for accessible career pathways connected to the maritime industry and New York City's working waterfront. While transportation occupations are not explicitly identified as priority occupations under this initiative, Respondents may propose transportation-related roles where they can demonstrate a clear connection to the maritime or working waterfront economy and alignment with the broader goals of the program. Accordingly, CDL training and related credentials may be appropriate where they support relevant career pathways.

IV. Site Access & Program Logistics

Q: Is NYCHA providing space on-site?

A: NYCEDC cannot guarantee NYCHA will provide space on-site; however, all efforts will be made from NYCEDC's project team to ensure close coordination with the relevant staff at NYCHA in delivering this project.

Q: Will EDC coordinate access to the Port terminal?

A: NYCEDC cannot guarantee access to the Port Terminal at this time. However, the NYCEDC project team will coordinate with the appropriate parties to support opportunities for Port Terminal access where feasible and appropriate as part of the program.

V. RFEI Submission, Formatting, & Process Questions

Q: Is a recording, slide deck, or attendee summary from the August 18 virtual information session available?

A: Yes. Materials from the August 18 virtual information session are available on NYCEDC's [NYCHA Maritime Career Readiness Program RFEI webpage](#).

Q: Is there a page limit, required response template, or required cost format for the response, and are any PASSPort or Doing Business forms required at the RFEI stage?

A: No. There is no page limit, required response template, or required cost format for submissions to this RFEI. Respondents should provide the information necessary to clearly communicate their proposed approach in accordance with the RFEI submission requirements. No additional PASSPort or Doing Business forms are required as part of the RFEI response.

Q: If NYCEDC follows up with respondents for interviews or presentations, may those be held virtually by video or phone?

A: Yes. If NYCEDC elects to conduct follow-up interviews or presentations as part of the RFEI process, virtual participation by video will be acceptable. NYCEDC will provide additional details regarding the format and logistics of any follow-up discussions directly to the applicable Respondents.

Q: The Proposal Checklist includes a “Budget and Timeline”. Can you provide a detailed template for both the budget and the project timeline?

A: Respondents may use their preferred format to present the budget and project timeline, as NYCEDC will not provide a prescribed template for either component. Submissions should clearly communicate the anticipated costs, funding sources, key activities, and proposed timeline for implementation as detailed in Section IV of the RFEI.

Q: Please clarify what specific information EDC is looking for here: “Share of staff time dedicated to this effort for each team member of the Respondent Team.” Should respondents estimate the number of hours each respondent team dedicated to completing the RFEI, or estimate a proportion of FTEs that would in the future be dedicated to the proposed initiative, or something else?

A: Respondents should provide an estimate of the staff resources that would be dedicated to the proposed program if selected as the Program Operator. This information may be expressed as a percentage of each team member’s overall workload, the anticipated number of staff hours dedicated to the program or a specific service, and/or the estimated number of FTEs supporting the program. Please note that Respondents are not being asked to report the staff time dedicated to preparing the RFEI response.