



Thames River Innovation Place
93 Shennecossett Rd
Groton, CT 06340
(860) 383-5939
<https://thamesriverinnovation.org>

Connecting the region to grow our thriving economy.

Request for Proposals

About Thames River Innovation Place

Thames River Innovation Place is building prosperity in the Thames River region through authentic innovation, collaboration, and diverse partnerships. We are an unprecedented alliance of public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the communities of New London and Groton in Southeastern Connecticut. Major institutions are collaborating to design a blueprint for the future of our communities that integrates existing plans and projects with new ideas that leverage and enhance all that is unique about this place at the mouth of the Thames River. Thames River Innovation, which began in July 2017, is supported by CTNext. <https://thamesriverinnovation.org>

Purpose of the RFP

Thames River Innovation Places (TRIP), as part of CTNext's Innovation Places program, is seeking proposals for year three projects. Proposals will be reviewed, approved and submitted to CTNext by April 30th.

The intent of projects is to develop new initiatives and partnerships that will strengthen the region's ability to:

- Attract and retain top talent
- Create a great environment for companies to start and grow
- Increase access to sources of capital for emerging companies
- Create a more vibrant and cohesive live/work/play community

TRIP will fund up to 50% of the proposal. Proposals must show evidence of matching funds from non-State sources. Funds are distributed quarterly with proof of match.

If selected, proposed projects would begin at the start of TRIP's fiscal year, July 1, 2019. Projects will be required to set milestones that must be reported on quarterly and complete by June 30, 2020.

TRIP's previously funded projects include: Community Concierge, Cultivator Kitchen/ RD86, Ignite, the Naval and Maritime Consortium, and Thames River Reconnection.

NOTE: This RFP is a process. Our committee is making themselves available to meet with applicants to help strengthen the proposals as we move toward final proposal selection. See the timeline below for more details.

Areas to Address and Consider

- How does your project contribute to enhancing the vibrancy of the Thames River region?
- Do you have illustrations / images / concept drawings that can help explain the concept?
- Is this a concept that has been in development for several months or years or is this a new concept? If it's pre existing idea why hasn't it been implemented?
- Where within the Innovation District will this occur?
- How will this project help build the local economy or community?

Content of the RFP

Submission Requirements Proposals shall include the following:

1. Cover Letter
2. Project White Paper: background on the project and why it is important; overview of the project plan; what the impact will be, who will benefit; partners, collaborators and/or stakeholders; timeline; budget narrative and funding request; and summary of key milestones. Narrative should be no more than two pages.
3. Key outcomes and metrics which will be used to measure the success of the program/project; 4-5 milestones.
4. Timeline: Targeted completion dates and quantifiable goals for the overall program/ project.
5. Total project budget: also include amount of funding request and anticipated source(s) of matching funds.
6. Pitch Slide Deck: high level overview of the project. Make a case for why we should chose your project. 5-6 slides.
7. Resumes or CVs of 1-4 key staff members involved in the program .
8. Visual images are welcome, but not required.

Timeline

March 15 - April 1: Letters of interest to submit RFP accepted
April 5: Notification of invitation to submit full proposal

Wednesday, April 10,
8:30 am - 1:00 pm: Proposal Mentoring - by appointment
meetings to review proposals with our committee*

April 12: Notification of invitation to submit RFP

Wednesday, April 17,
4:30 - 6:30 pm: Proposal Pitch Practice —
share your proposal in front of a group and get feedback*

April 24: Proposals reviewed by TRIP Board of Directors
April 30: Approved proposals submitted to CTNext
June 15: Notification of awards by CTNext
July 1: Contracts executed for Year 3 project

About CTNext and its Innovation Places Program

CTNext is a public/private network of entrepreneurs, mentors, service providers and others helping Connecticut's most promising startups succeed and grow. In 2016, CTNext expanded to new initiatives helping key places in the state become magnets for talent, supporting entrepreneurship in higher education, and focusing more on growth-stage companies. The first of these efforts, Innovation Places, launched on July 1, 2017 with Stamford, New Haven, Hartford/East Hartford, and Thames River as its four awardees. It weaves together entrepreneurship support and relationship-building with physical planning and development. <https://ctnext.com>

For questions or to submit a proposal, contact:

Emma Palzere-Rae, Interim Director
director@thamesriverinnovation.org
(860) 383-5939

*Attendance is encouraged but not required.