



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
Innovation Hub (iHub) – Small Business Support & Ecosystem Development
Omaha Inland Port Authority (OIPA)
North Omaha | OIPA Boundary

1. PURPOSE & STRATEGIC INTENT

The Omaha Inland Port Authority (OIPA) is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify qualified Innovation Hub (iHub) operators to deliver comprehensive, place-based small business support services within the OIPA boundary.

This effort aligns with Nebraska’s statewide iHub ecosystem while positioning North Omaha as a leading innovation district and economic engine within the region.

OIPA prioritizes measurable outcomes including:

- business formation,
- job creation,
- access to capital, and
- long-term wealth creation.

2. OIPA ROLE & STATE ALIGNMENT

OIPA serves as a place-based economic development authority focused on inclusive growth, land activation, and infrastructure alignment.

OIPA will act as a local implementation partner aligned with Nebraska’s iHub ecosystem.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment and expand—not duplicate—existing services.

3. GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: OIPA BOUNDARY

The OIPA boundary includes approximately 3,000 acres centered around Eppley Airfield and includes key North Omaha corridors.

Proposals must demonstrate service delivery within this geography and strong community engagement.

4. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen entrepreneurship pipelines
- Support startup formation and growth
- Scale existing businesses
- Expand access to capital
- Create jobs and career pathways
- Build local ownership and wealth

5. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Nonprofits, educational institutions, and public-private partnerships with demonstrated capacity and experience currently recognized as an iHub through a state or federal program.

6. SCOPE OF WORK

Programs may include incubation, acceleration, technical assistance, capital readiness, and workforce alignment.

In-person engagement and ecosystem collaboration are required.

7. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

Businesses supported, jobs created, capital deployed, participation rates, and revenue growth.

Final KPIs will be included in the Grant Agreement.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY & REPORTING

All funding is performance-based.

Quarterly reporting is required.

Grantees must execute a Grant Agreement.

OIPA retains audit rights and may enforce clawbacks for non-performance.

9. ELIGIBILITY & GOOD STANDING

Applicants must provide proof of prior performance and good standing with iHub or related programs.

10. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline: April 20, 2026.

Include how the funds will be used which shall include a program plan, budget, KPIs, qualifications, and contact information.

Max 5–7 pages (excluding attachments).

11. FUNDING PARAMETERS

Board discretion. Not to exceed \$500,000 per fiscal year.

Funding OIPA reserves the right to award less than requested based on program demand, available funding, and evaluation of impact. Funding will be disbursed according to milestone and will be phased.

Please send Submissions to: myah.lanoux@omahaipa.com by April 20th, 2026

Applicants may be required to present proposals to OIPA Board of Directors on May 7th, 2026 for final approval.