

Statement from the Ion  
5/9/2022

**FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022**

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR TECH TRAINING AT THE ION**

*\$2 million in funding available for training and placing underrepresented Houstonians into high-growth, tech and tech-enabled jobs.*

Rice Management Company and the Ion are issuing a request for proposals to partner with a best-in-class tech workforce training provider to deliver cost-effective, tech-focused job training for under and unemployed Houstonians. Taking place at the Ion, the training should focus on training individuals from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in tech jobs including, but not limited to those who identify as Black, Hispanic and/or women.

RMC and the Ion will provide an investment of \$2 million in grants and in-kind donations to support the job training over three years at the Ion. **Interested workforce development providers are encouraged to apply by Thursday, June 30, 2022. For more information on this opportunity and submission requirements, please visit [here](#).**

### **The Opportunity**

The Ion, located at the center of a burgeoning district, has emerged as the epicenter for Houston's innovation ecosystem because it is an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant, and dense hub that draws talent and fosters collaborations amongst entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations, academics, and the Houston community. The impossible-to-replicate size and location of the District presents an unmatched opportunity for next-generation workforce development situated at the center of the City's innovation premier innovation district.

The Ion's programming is focused on activating and accelerating Houston's innovation ecosystem through partnerships, pathways, and programs. Together these create opportunities to advance and sustain resilient economic growth in Houston. The Ion collaborates with local business owners, mid and large-scale companies, global Fortune 500 companies, as well as startups and entrepreneurs.

**RMC and the Ion team view workforce development as an integral piece of developing Houston's tech ecosystem and are seeking a partner that they can work with to improve and diversify the tech talent pipeline in Houston.** Through conversations with local and regional employers, including the Ion's partners and major employers across Houston, there is a clear need for qualified tech and tech-adjacent talent at all levels that are not being fulfilled. There remains a tremendous opportunity to address this opportunity gap and to diversify the tech sector in Houston, and the Ion seeks a partner to help support this work.

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In addition to funding, the Ion provides an immense opportunity providing access to employer partners, educational partners, and access to classroom and event space. **For more information on this opportunity and submission requirements please visit [here](#).**

### **About the Ion**

The Ion anchors a 16-acre innovation district, the epicenter for Houston's innovation ecosystem, as an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant, and dense hub focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations, academics, and the Houston community. The 266,000-square-foot building accommodates multiple uses, including class-A office space, shared workspace, prototyping and maker resources, event space, classrooms, food and beverage offerings, as well as indoor/outdoor communal areas with shared amenities. For more information, please visit <https://ionhouston.com/>

### **About Rice Management Company**

Rice Management Company (RMC) is responsible for the stewardship of Rice University's endowment. The endowment plays a vital role for Rice. The distributions generated provide approximately 40% of the University's operating revenues, which makes it the single largest revenue source to the operating budget. The RMC team brings decades of investment management expertise across diversified industries and financial specialties. Through disciplined research and due diligence, we assess and pursue investment strategies that are aligned with the long-term risk/reward profile of the endowment. For more information, please visit [investments.rice.edu](https://investments.rice.edu)