

Request for Information (RFI)

Public Engagement & Visioning Services: Repurposing of Penn State New Kensington

Issuing Organization: Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland

Date Issued: January 23, 2026

Responses Due: February 20, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Primary Contact (Submissions and Questions): Jason Rigone, WCIDC Executive Director, jrigone@westmorelandcountypa.gov

Secondary Contact (Project Partner): James Smith, EGCW CEO and President, jsmith@egcw.org

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued for the purpose of identifying and shortlisting qualified firms. It is not a request for cost proposals and does not constitute a commitment to procure services. All RFI responses and questions should be directed to the Primary Contact listed above.

1. Project Overview

Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland (EGCW) is seeking information from qualified firms regarding their interest and qualifications to support a comprehensive public engagement and visioning process related to the adaptive reuse and redevelopment of the Penn State New Kensington campus, located at 3550 7th Street Rd, New Kensington, PA 15068.

The goal of this process is to gather inclusive, actionable community feedback to inform the future Master Plan/Development RFP for the site. We are seeking a partner who can facilitate a dialogue that balances community aspirations with market feasibility. Information received through this RFI will be used to identify a short list of firms that may be invited to respond to a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP).

2. Background & Context

The closure of the Penn State New Kensington campus represents a significant institutional and emotional transition for the surrounding communities and the Alle-Kiski Valley. The engagement process is expected to involve a wide range of stakeholders and perspectives, including residents, alumni, employers, educators, and elected officials.

- **History:** This property has served as a satellite campus of Penn State University since 1966.

- **Current Status:** Currently occupied. The campus is scheduled for closure after the Spring 2027 semester.
- **Physical Site Description:** The site consists of 73.67 acres and includes 15 buildings with approximately 162,000 SF under roof.

3. Firm Qualifications, Relevant Experience and Strategic Fit

EGCW is seeking information that will help identify firms with the **experience, judgment, and capacity** to support a sensitive and complex public engagement and visioning effort related to the potential reuse of the Penn State New Kensington campus.

Interested firms should submit concise but substantive information addressing the following:

Firm Overview

Provide a brief overview of your firm, including:

- Firm size and approximate number of staff engaged in public engagement/visioning work
- Office locations and primary markets served
- Core practice areas relevant to public engagement, community planning, and adaptive reuse
- Experience working with public-sector or quasi-public clients in Pennsylvania or similar regions

Relevant Project Experience

Describe up to **three (3) representative projects** that demonstrate experience with one or more of the following:

- Public engagement for adaptive reuse of institutional, educational, or large-scale legacy sites
- Community visioning processes conducted in the context of economic transition, institutional closure, or community disruption
- Engagement efforts intended to directly inform a subsequent master planning or developer solicitation process

For each example, briefly note:

- Client and location
- Project purpose and scope
- Your firm's role
- Key engagement methods used
- How the results were ultimately applied by the client

Team Experience and Facilitation Approach

Identify the key personnel who would likely be involved in this assignment and summarize:

- Their roles and areas of expertise
- Experience facilitating complex or emotionally charged public discussions
- Experience working in communities experiencing institutional closure, economic transition, or population change

- Experience working with elected officials, boards, or multi-partner project sponsors

Detailed resumes are not required at this stage; short bios or summaries are sufficient.

Perspective on Fit for This Assignment

In no more than two (2) pages, describe:

- Why your firm is well-suited for this specific engagement effort
- How your experience positions you to balance community aspirations with real-world feasibility considerations
- Any aspects of this assignment that you believe warrant special attention, based on your professional experience

Firms may also comment on any anticipated availability constraints or timing considerations that could affect an early 2026 project start.

EGCW may request follow-up clarification from one or more firms.

Firms are **not** expected to submit a detailed methodology, work plan, or cost proposal in response to this RFI.

4. Anticipated Next Steps

Following review of RFI responses, EGCW anticipates inviting approximately three (3) firms to respond to the subsequent RFP. EGCW is eager to move expeditiously following completion of the RFP process and would ideally seek to have a consultant under contract and able to begin work as early as March 2026. While this timing is aspirational and subject to refinement through the RFP process, firms' general availability and ability to mobilize in early 2026 will be considered as part of overall project fit.

A preliminary project schedule will be included in that RFP.

5. Submission Instructions

Responses to this RFI should be submitted electronically to the Primary Contact in PDF format and should not exceed **eight (8) pages total**, excluding cover letter.

Firms should organize their response in a manner consistent with Section 3 of this RFI.

Cost proposals, detailed work plans, and formal methodologies are **not requested** and should not be included.

Include a **one-page cover sheet** with:

- Primary contact
- Office location(s)
- Anticipated project lead
- Approximate availability window
- Confirmation of general availability to begin work in early 2026 (even if specific dates are TBD)

Each project example should follow this mini-template:

- Client/Location
- Year
- Your role
- Deliverables produced
- Outcome / how used

Questions may be submitted by email to the Primary Contact listed above no later than Feb. 4, 2026, at 4 p.m. Responses may be shared with all invited firms.

6. Use of Information and Disclaimer

This RFI is issued solely for information-gathering and planning purposes. Responses will not be scored. EGCW reserves the right to invite, or not invite, any firm to participate in a subsequent RFP. Submission of a response to this RFI does not create any right to be invited to the subsequent RFP.