ComEd AN EXELON COMPANY | Energy Efficiency

Request for Proposals

Energy Partnership Framework Trusted Messenger Community Resilience Pilot

Issue Date
November 4, 2026

Issued By
The BrightLine Group, on behalf of Commonwealth Edison Company

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Part 1: Overview of Request for Proposals

Event Schedule

The BrightLine team and ComEd plan to follow the schedule outlined below for this RFP:

RFP Activity	Date
RFP issued by BrightLine, on behalf of ComEd	Nov 4th, 2026
Intent to bid due	11:59 pm CT on November 18, 2026
Deadline to submit questions	11:59 pm CT on November 18, 2026
Deadline to indicate interest in having the organization name released by ComEd for a potential partnership on the RFP	11:59 pm CT on November 18, 2026
BrightLine, on behalf of ComEd, releases names of vendors interested in potential partnership on RFP	11:59 pm CT on November 20, 2026
BrightLine, on behalf of ComEd, posts responses to questions	11:59 pm CT on November 30, 2026
RFP submissions deadline	11:59 pm CT on December 9, 2026
Respondents will be notified of the next steps after ComEd and the Customer Innovation Admin team have reviewed submissions	December 2026-January 2027

Overview

The Brightline Group, on behalf of the Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) Community of the Future (COF) team in partnership with the City of Chicago, is seeking proposal submissions to design and implement the Energy Partnership Framework (EPF) Trusted Messenger Community Resilience Pilot, as part of a broader effort to support communities in extreme weather event resilience. Through this pilot, ComEd and the City of Chicago will support the development of neighborhood resilience that includes community-level emergency preparedness, response, and recovery strategies.

This pilot will be implemented in Chicago's Austin neighborhood and will, at a minimum, include multi-language, dispatchable teams to follow up with neighbors in-person and possibly via text or email following a storm or climate event that results in

significant outages or damages. These dispatchable teams will connect community members to the city, neighborhood, and ComEd resources that they may need. Beyond climate emergency response, this pilot will also connect community members to ComEd offerings (e.g., energy efficiency programs, beneficial electrification offerings) that could help make energy more affordable, improve electrical reliability, and improve the community's climate readiness and resilience.

The BrightLine Group, E Source, and Swift Strategy team is the Administrator for the ComEd Customer Innovation initiative (Customer Innovation Admin team). BrightLine is the prime contractor. As BrightLine's subcontractor, E Source's primary responsibility is subcontracting to organizations selected to run pilots. Accordingly, E Source, on behalf of BrightLine and ComEd, will hold the contract with the selected vendor. Terms and Conditions for subcontracts are provided by request.

Objectives

The following are the objectives of this pilot:

Primary Objective

Establish a neighborhood-based emergency preparedness and resilience pilot that builds community capacity to respond to climate emergencies while connecting residents to city and utility resources that benefit the community in preparation for a response to localized emergencies which may result in power disruptions.

Supporting Objectives

- Establish trusted information channels. Develop and test communication pathways (e.g., trusted messengers, buddy systems, multilingual/accessible materials) that reliably reach vulnerable residents before, during, and after climate emergencies.
- Build local emergency response capacity. Train and equip a network of community volunteers to conduct well-being checks, support neighbor-to-neighbor communication, and respond to extreme heat and storm events in the pilot neighborhood (Austin).
- Connect residents to ComEd resources. Use the trust and reach built through emergency preparedness work as an entry point to enroll eligible residents in energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, bill assistance and related programs.
- Increase access to cooling resources. Distribute cooling kits/equipment and improve awareness of and access to public cooling centers (e.g., libraries, community centers) during extreme heat events.
- Improve outcomes for vulnerable residents. Prioritize outreach and well-being checks for identified vulnerable populations (e.g., frail and elderly residents), and

track whether this population sees measurable improvements in preparedness and program enrollment.

- **Identify long-term resilience needs.** Systematically capture community-identified resilience gaps and share them with the city and ComEd to inform future planning and investment.
- **Coordination with other emergency response groups.** Regularly connect and coordinate with other groups who conduct emergency response, which may include ComEd's Emergency Preparedness team, the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, and the City of Chicago's Emergency Management and Communications teams, The American Red Cross, and others.
- **Identify a replicable model and ownership pathway.** Document what worked, what didn't, and costs, so the city and ComEd can decide how to scale and fund the program beyond the pilot period.

Project Budget, Timeline, and Phases

The anticipated project kickoff is Q4 2026 or Q1 2027, with the pilot spanning one year and completing by the end of 2027.

Roughly $150,000 has been allocated for this pilot. Vendors should present a realistic budget and timeline that aligns with their proposed tasks for addressing the pilot objectives, including the assumed number of each type of service budgeted for within this budget. If vendors believe one or more requested service(s) cannot be provided in the assumed budget estimate, these should be identified and priced out separately. Budgets may include optional and/or additional proposed tasks or services above and beyond the stated budget estimate. Budgets should also be as detailed as possible and provide line-item estimates for task subcomponents and key deliverables in the following sections (i.e., cooling kit distribution, buddy system development and management, etc.).

Key Deliverables

The key deliverables for this project are organized by pilot phase below. Vendors are encouraged to recommend additional key deliverables.

Startup / Design Phase

- Messaging framework co-developed with the city and ComEd, built to be adapted by the pilot neighborhood and trusted messengers
- Volunteer recruitment and training curriculum
- Vulnerable population identification methodology and criteria

- Emergency response coordination plan to document existing emergency response efforts in Austin and the broader Chicago area and plans to limit duplication of effort
- Baseline survey/assessment of neighborhood preparedness and ComEd program awareness

Implementation Phase

- Trained and equipped volunteer network
- Distributed preparedness materials (extreme heat/storm guidance, cooling center directory, multilingual/accessible formats)
- Buddy system structure and documentation
- Cooling kits/equipment distributed, with tracking of quantities and recipients
- Well-being check logs (routine and targeted)
- ComEd program referral/enrollment tracking system and reporting
- Monthly check-in calls with the city and ComEd, including call agendas and notes
- Coordination, such as regular calls or meetings, with emergency response teams from ComEd and the City, including call agendas and notes
- Annual progress reports, including activities completed, pilot metrics, challenges encountered, and adjustments made

Transition Phase

- Draft and final report identifying community-identified resilience needs and gaps, pilot successes and lessons learned, cost data, etc.
- Replicability framework for expansion to other neighborhoods and communities across northern Illinois, including guidance for inventorying existing materials, identifying consolidation opportunities, adapting content to local needs, coordinating partner roles, and determining implementation requirements and costs.
- Sustainable funding mechanism proposed model for transition of ownership

Desired Outcomes

The following are key outcomes that ComEd and the city expects from this pilot. Vendors are encouraged to recommend additional ideal outcomes.

1. A trained, active neighborhood volunteer network capable of responding to climate emergencies.
2. Measurable increase in ComEd program enrollment among Austin neighborhood residents.

3. Improved preparedness and reduced risk for the most vulnerable residents
4. Improved communication channels between communities and emergency response groups
5. A validated, replicable model with a clear funding and ownership pathway

Required Tasks

The following is an outline of required tasks for this pilot. Vendors are encouraged to leverage their expertise to propose additional tasks and/or to propose revisions to these tasks.

Task 1: Project Management. Contractor is responsible for managing the project to the contracted scope, budget, and timeline. Any areas of concern should be identified as early as possible and raised to ComEd and ComEd and the Brightline, E Source, Swift team (Customer Innovation Admin team) immediately for discussion.

Task 2: Kick-Off Meeting. Contractor will schedule and host a kick-off meeting with ComEd, the city, the Community of the Future (COF) Admin team, and any other relevant partners to discuss the pilot, expectations, pilot metrics, draft implementation plan, and a detailed task-level timeline. Timeline should include expected draft and final deliverable due dates, with at least one two-week review period for ComEd for each deliverable. In addition, the timeline must account for a two-week marketing review period for all final reports, which must occur prior to the contract end date.

Deliverables: Presentation slides prior to the meeting.

Task 3: Check-in Meetings. Contractor to schedule and lead regular check-in meetings with ComEd and the COF Admin team at a cadence agreed upon with the team, as well as coordination with emergency response teams within ComEd and the City Contractor to share progress status updates during meetings (comparing progress against the scope for clarity). Frequency and format of these internal status updates should be discussed and agreed upon with ComEd and the Customer Innovation Admin team during the kickoff meeting. Proposals should include plans for how coordination with other emergency response teams will occur, and plans for how this approach will not be duplicative of existing emergency response efforts by these groups.

Deliverables: Meeting agendas at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, call notes and action items sent afterwards.

Task 4. Community and Emergency Scope Definition. Contractor will work with the city and ComEd to define which storm and climate emergency situations (e.g., flooding, significant power outages) this pilot will cover and to identify necessary language translations for the pilot neighborhood (expect Spanish and potentially one additional language).

Deliverables: Documented emergency scope and language/translation plan.

Task 5: Implementation Plan. Contractor will create and deliver an implementation plan outlining detailed tasks including recruitment approaches and pilot impact tracking. This plan should incorporate and be built from community engagement and listening to understand climate resiliency needs and the most effective alert/outreach models (e.g., texting, multilingual translation, in-person outreach, buddy systems).

Deliverables: Draft plan for review and input; final plan.

Task 6. Messaging Development. Contractor will work with the city and ComEd to develop messaging that trusted messengers can interpret and build outreach materials from, covering the full array of ComEd, city, and neighborhood resources. The contractor will inventory and assess relevant existing ComEd, city, community, and emergency-preparedness materials; identify duplication, gaps, and opportunities for consolidation; and recommend how materials can be organized, standardized, or adapted for use through the pilot. The contractor will also develop a practical framework that ComEd and its partners can use to repeat this process and adapt the resulting materials for other communities across northern Illinois.

Deliverables: Existing-materials inventory and consolidation recommendations; base messaging framework and consolidated source materials; and a reusable framework for adapting and implementing the materials in other northern Illinois communities.

Task 7: Messenger Recruitment, Training and Support. Contractor will recruit, train, and support a network of trusted volunteer resiliency messengers. Messengers will engage with the neighborhood within 24–48 hours of a qualifying event, carrying outreach materials (including leave-behinds/doorhangers) covering ComEd, city, and neighborhood resources. Additional outreach strategies may be included. Proposals should include estimates of the number of emergency response events the team estimates they will respond to, within the given budget estimate.

Deliverables: Trained messenger network; outreach materials and leave-behinds.

Task 8: Reporting. Throughout the pilot, Contractor will provide periodic reports on pilot progress, including activities completed, pilot metrics, challenges encountered, and adjustments made. At pilot completion, Contractor will create and deliver a final report summarizing pilot findings and recommendations using the ComEd final report template provided. The report should synthesize learnings across all pilot activities and outline clear, actionable recommendations for ComEd. Contractor will schedule and host a final presentation at the close of the pilot with ComEd, the city, the COF Admin team, and any relevant stakeholders. The final presentation will review the pilot tasks, key pilot findings, and present clear and actionable recommendations to ComEd.

Deliverables: Periodic reports; draft and final written report; draft and final presentation slide deck. Note: Contractor shall submit a draft final report for review at least 6 weeks prior to the last day of the SOW Term. Contractor to submit a final version of the final report and deliver the final presentation before the end of the SOW Term.

Intent to Bid

If your organization is interested in bidding on this RFP, please email CustomerInnovation@BrightLineGroup.com by **11:59 pm CT on November 18, 2026**, the following:

- Any questions about the RFP or process;
- Whether your organization wants its name released to other vendors to facilitate potential partnerships on this RFP and if so, the preferred point of contact; and
- Your organization's intent to bid

In the email subject line, please include 1) your organization's name, and 2) the title of the RFP. The deadline for submitting an intent to bid is **November 18, 2026**.

ComEd strongly encourages that interested vendors allow their organization's name to be released to facilitate potential partnerships on this RFP. Please indicate in your **intent to bid** whether your organization is interested in having its name released by ComEd for potential partnership on the RFP.

The list of organizations who opted to have their organization's name and primary contact information released will be shared with the full list of organizations that submit an intent to bid. This list is intended solely to support voluntary teaming discussions among prospective bidders. Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement and is not required to submit a proposal.

Entities who plan to submit a written proposal must follow the format outlined in Part 2 of this RFP.

Submittal and Review Process

Submittal Schedule. Submissions will be accepted until **11:59 pm CT on December 9, 2026**. It is the sole responsibility of respondents to ensure their submission is sent to CustomerInnovation@BrightLineGroup.com before the due date and time. In the email subject line, please include 1) your organization's name, and 2) the title of the RFP.

Point of Contact. For any questions or concerns regarding this solicitation, please email CustomerInnovation@BrightLineGroup.com, along with your intent to bid. In the email subject line, please include 1) your organization's name, and 2) the title of the RFP.

All questions submitted by **11:59 pm CT on November 18, 2026** will be responded to by **11:59pm CT on November 30, 2026**.

Review Process. ComEd staff and the Customer Innovation Admin team will review submissions and may follow up with respondents to gain clarification as needed.

Additional Details

Submissions are limited to 15 pages total for the Scope. Submissions should use simple language with minimal jargon and avoid the use of elaborate marketing material beyond that necessary to provide a complete, accurate, and reliable submission.

Submissions should be valid for 60 days.

Confidential material: All the submissions will become the property of ComEd. Submitting entities should not include proprietary or confidential information in their submission, unless required to clearly convey the proposed technology solution. Financial, commercial or technical information that is considered confidential should be clearly indicated in the submission.

Note: The BrightLine Group, E Source, and Swift Strategy team is the Administrator for the ComEd Customer Innovation initiative. BrightLine is the Prime contractor. As BrightLine's subcontractor, E Source's primary responsibility is subcontracting to organizations selected to run pilots. Accordingly, E Source, on behalf of BrightLine and ComEd, will hold the contract with the selected vendor. Terms and Conditions for subcontracts are provided by request.

Part 2: Required Format for Proposals

Project Team Overview

Include the following information about the project team, including prime and any subcontractors (does not count towards your 15-page limit):

- Provide organization name(s), relevant location(s), parent organizations and organization type.
- Summarize relevant reputation and experience related to the RFP topic.
- Provide an organizational chart with names, titles, certifications and professional licensing.

Project History

Include as a Microsoft Excel file (does not count towards your 15-page limit). Provide a table of relevant studies/projects executed by your organization or key members of your organization within the past five years using the guidance table below. For project timeline, include information such as contract signed, launching date, monitoring period, and final reporting date as applicable/available.

Project Name	Summary of Work & Role	Client/ Participant	Location (City, State)	Brief Project Summary	Project Timeline	Project Highlights

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Scope

Include as part of your 15-page submission. Based on the project guidelines above, provide a description of your proposed strategy to fulfill the RFP. Summarize the approach for each phase of development with an estimated timeline and budget, assuming a budget based on time and materials. Bidders may recommend any set of activities designed to meet the project objectives defined above.

Include as part of your 15-page submission. Details about the requests (e.g., contact information, program data) and support (e.g., recruitment, interview coordination) that your project team might request from ComEd and/or the Customer Innovation Admin team in order to successfully deliver your proposed scope. Please indicate the priority of these potential requests/support. In addition, describe how your team will adapt if ComEd or the Customer Innovation Admin team cannot support some or all these requests.

Include as part of your 15-page submission. Provide a table (example below) that indicates which proposed activities will help address the core pilot objectives and questions.

Task	Pilot Objective #1	Pilot Objective #2	Pilot Objective #3
Task 1			
Task 2			
Task 3			

Supplemental Information

Include as Appendix material (does not count towards your 15-page limit). Please provide only relevant supplemental information that will help reviewers clarify your qualifications that are very specific to this RFP and refrain from including any extraneous sales material or attachments. ComEd will review what is deemed relevant. Note that including items in the Appendix does not ensure review.

Terms and conditions apply. Offers are subject to change.
Actual savings will vary by customer's energy usage and rate.
ã Commonwealth Edison Company, 2026
The ComEd Energy Efficiency Program is funded in compliance with state law.