



Questions and Answers

Related to the RFP for the Needs Assessment of Alaska's Birth to Age Five Mixed Delivery System of Early Childhood Care and Education 6/26/19

The following questions were asked by interested vendors.

Are appendices outside the 20-page limit?

Yes. The appendices can be in addition to the 20-page core proposal. The core proposal should stand on its own, but additional resources and information like resumes can be included in appendices.

What types of data have been collected thus far?

Can you provide information on the types of state agency data sets that the vendor would be able to obtain for the analysis of availability, affordability and quality?

Can you provide information on the types of state agency data sets – e.g., data from a workforce registry - that the vendor would be able to obtain data for the analysis of the early childhood workforce?

AASB has compiled a very large list of data sources collected for the needs assessment which we will be turning over to the vendor who is awarded the contract. Included are many reports, survey results and other existing needs assessments (Head Start, MIECHV, Title V MCH and others). A technical assistance provider has been helping to organize this list of sources.

There is an "ECE Master Data Spreadsheet" compiled at the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) which addresses availability and quality, currently defined by licensing or Learn & Grow, Alaska's QRIS housed at thread. Many different early care and learning documents were used as data sources for the spreadsheet to show where programs and services are/are not in every community and much more information.

Affordability data is only available at this point for child care and is included in the report "Economic Impact of Early Care and Learning in Alaska" which is currently being revised for the fourth time for the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council.

There is some information on the early childhood workforce on the master data spreadsheet mentioned above which includes data from SEED (Alaska's System for Early Education Development) and some labor and workforce statistics. There is also more information on the workforce in the economic report mentioned above and for the first time the upcoming fourth revision will include a workforce profile study.

The "EC Report" being done now for the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership is a baseline scan of broader data and includes such things as health and behavioral health. It is due on a similar timeline. PDG is able to access that information and has already used some of it in the master data spreadsheet. More is available.

The EC Joint Task Force (JTF) is also a prime source of information. The JTF leadership team meets weekly to align work on three similar grants that will use the PDG needs assessment and strategic plan. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Child Care Program Office is working on EC governance models and ideas through its Impact Project; Southcentral Foundation with Indigenous Project LAUNCH is looking in their region at very young children and also parent engagement. The full task force has more than 40 members most working in or on behalf of ECE programs and services, some are also PDG grantees, some are parents, and more rural and /or tribal members are being added. Members of the Joint Task Force are collaborators, advisors and stakeholders in the PDG process, and input has and will be collected from this group and the leadership team guiding it.

How much stakeholder input is needed?

AASB will work with vendors to determine if additional stakeholder input is appropriate for the needs assessment. Vendor ideas and suggestions about additional stakeholder engagement are welcome as the needs assessment is developed.

What should the data dashboard look like? Who is it for?

It needs to be useful to communities and school districts to get a sense of their early childhood landscape. It is for a lay audience and should be user-friendly. AASB's School Climate and Connectedness Survey dashboard may be a good model to look at.

The dashboard or whatever kind of data platform is created should be formatted so that data can be updated at least annually.

Is it possible for vendors to partner?

Yes. A proposal could include more than one vendor or a sub-contractor. Perhaps another organization could create the dashboard, for example.

What are the plans for outreach or a communication platform to reach people with the information gained and drive participation?

Alaska is a big small state. We have quite a few networks already in place like the EC Joint Task Force, AASB member school districts and others. We will use our relationships with those networks to reach their constituents. We expect outreach to be a bigger component of the strategic plan and process. However, ideas for a communication plan would also be welcome in a proposal for the needs assessment work.

What is the timeline for the strategic plan?

It will likely be slightly behind the needs assessment so the needs assessment can be the basis of the planning, but will start while the needs assessment is taking place. An RFP for the strategic plan will be going out fairly soon, although there is no set date for issuing that RFP yet.

Can you confirm the contract type – e.g., fixed price, time and materials?

The contract type is fixed price based on the amount AASB was awarded by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Is it correct that your preference is to receive only an electronic copy by email, and if submitted in that format, no hard copies need to be submitted?

Yes. Submitting your proposal in either format or both is fine, but electronic submissions make it easy to send proposals out to reviewers, which is why that is preferred. You do not have to submit both ways, but if you want to, that's okay too.