

**Allegheny County**  
**Department of Human Services**  
**Request for Qualifications Q&A**  
RFQ for Participation in a University/Government Research Partnership

**August 29, 2018**

**1. What time of hours commitment is typically required? Per week v. per month? What is the appropriate time measure here?**

This partnership is a new initiative for us, so we can't say what is typical. The amount of time will depend on the specific projects that staff from your institution are involved in. The minimum commitment will be to attend quarterly steering committee meetings.

**2. If there are a group of colleagues that are interested, should we go in as an institution or individually? Do teams for the projects select individuals or an institutional cohort? We like each other but also see great value in meeting and working with others in a brain trust.**

While we will accept applications from individual researchers or teams, we encourage Applicants from the same institution to consider submitting a single, joint application (or to explain why they didn't feel a joint application was appropriate). It will still certainly be possible for individuals from the same institution to work on different projects as part of this partnership.

**3. How many projects may span the three years? Does it depend on need? For example, if there is a smaller project, do our names return to the qualified pool until needed again?**

We will qualify institutions to serve on the steering committee for three years, and work collaboratively to identify individual resources (such as faculty) for project-based work. We expect to have projects of varying lengths, but working on one project would not disqualify you from working on another.

**4. Our team has quantitative and qualitative capacities – are you looking for all of these skills?**

Yes, both.

**5. Will we be able to publish together too based on the data that is accessible?**

Yes. We expect that DHS and participating institutions will publish findings collaboratively, and that organizations may publish individually as appropriate.

**September 5, 2018**

**6. Is a non-profit organization eligible to apply to this RFQ? If a specific applicant from the non-profit organization has a research lab and an adjunct faculty appointment with a university, is the applicant eligible for the RFA?**

Applicants should have a relationship with an accredited university or college. A non-profit would need to have a relationship with a university or college. A specific applicant from the non-profit organization

with a research lab and an adjunct faculty appointment with a university would be eligible to apply to this RFQ.

**7. The RFQ explains some of the process of evaluating and selecting partners. Could you explain what would happen afterwards – more specifically when project teams are identified and project needs informed? Will there be opportunity to negotiate the MOUs and efforts on all sides?**

The first step of the process is to identify core members of the steering committee. We will work out MOUs, composition of project teams/effort in later phases. All steps will be negotiated.

**8. Does the County have examples of the types of projects that have been completed with this type of collaborative structure?**

No. While DHS has collaborated with individual faculty on numerous projects, this is the first time we have entered this type of collaboration.

**9. Does the County have examples of the types of research questions that are of potential interest?**

Not at this time. Examples of the work we do, both programmatically and analytically, can be found on our websites: <http://allegHENYcounty.us/human-services/index.aspx> and <https://www.allegHENYcountyanalytics.us/>.

**10. Could partnerships result in the pursuit of outside grant/foundation funding? For example, if there are identified experts via the RFQ, would the project teams then come together to apply for outside funding?**

We hope that DHS and partner organizations identified through this RFQ will be able to apply jointly for funding opportunities.

**11. Do you have an idea of whether the academic partners will be called upon for more research planning and consultation, or also the execution of analysis? Perhaps all of the above, depending on the project?**

Yes, it will depend on the project.

**12. At what point in the process would we have to supply our CV's and biosketches?**

These materials are not required as part of the RFQ process.

September 14, 2018
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**13. In page 5 of your RFQ you state, "Ideal Applicants will be aligned with our mission and will bring resources and techniques that complement and enhance our own. We expect Qualified Applicants to contribute in kind resources as well as financial support for projects, where appropriate." What type of financial support are we looking at? Would it be in-kind services? Can you share examples?**

We are asking all Applicants to take an active role in this partnership and provide resources to help meet its goals. We will consider Applicants' circumstances and strengths when requesting resource contributions. Applicants may contribute money or in-kind services, where appropriate.

**14. In page 7 of your RFQ you state, "Bring additional resources, besides staffing, including funding when appropriate." What type of funding are we looking at? Can you share examples?**

See question 10 and 13.