

State of Connecticut – Request for Proposals
Uniform Chart of Accounts / Benchmarks
Questions and Answers

Question 1:

The RFP requests the proposer “develop an overall approach to meet the State’s benchmarking objectives.” Have the State’s benchmarking objectives been defined and documented? If so, please provide the benchmarking data/analysis requirements at a detailed level. Additionally, do the benchmarking objectives of the State include all funds of the municipality or just the general fund?

Answer 1:

The request for proposal states that, “The system developed will provide a mechanism for obtaining detailed and uniform reporting of financial information of municipalities and local boards of educations, including regional school districts. Such information will allow the state, its municipalities and regional school districts to analyze and compare costs for service delivery across jurisdictions and provide an effective benchmarking tool”. It is anticipated that benchmarking objectives will be developed in detail once the State and its contractor have met with the stakeholders identified in the RFP and have begun the work outlined in Phase 1, Scope of Services of the RFP. It is anticipated that the benchmarking objectives will include the general fund as well as other funds outside of the general fund. At this time it is not known whether all funds of the municipal entity would be included.

Question 2:

The RFP states, “As part of the implementation program, strategies need to be developed for the UCOA.” Is it the intent of this language that the respondent may provide multiple implementation strategies as part of it’s response?

Answer 2:

Either one or a limited number of options / strategies may be recommended by the contractor for implementing the UCOA after research and discussion with stakeholders. It is anticipated however, that the options / strategies developed shall provide specific guidance and procedures as to implementation of a UCOA.

Question 3:

Based on Phase I, Question 7, please provide an inventory of the data collections currently made by the State of Connecticut for both the city/town government as well as the Board of Education (BOE).

Answer 3:

The firm or individual awarded the contractor shall obtain an inventory of data currently collected by the State after meeting with various state agencies and representatives of local governments, including boards of education.

Question 4:

Does the State of Connecticut have a data warehouse software standard? If so, please provide this information.

Answer 4:

Please see the list of Products and Standards as published by the Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology located at:

http://www.ct.gov/doitservices/lib/doitservices/Data_Management_Domain.pdf

Question 5:

Pub. Act 12-116, Sect. 15 calls for inclusion of charter schools in the UCOA. The RFP does not refer to charter schools. Is it intended that charter schools be included in the scope of this project?

Answer 5:

Yes, it was intended that charter schools be included.

Question 6:

Are products or technologies that are not on the State of Connecticut's "Products and Standards" spreadsheet located here http://www.ct.gov/best/lib/best/Product_Technical_Standards_Summary_%2801-2012%29.xlsx able to be incorporated into the proposed solution? What rationale is required to support such a recommendation?

Answer 6:

The State will entertain technology products and standards which are not listed in this matrix, however, each will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Please refer to the link for the PDF document indicated in Answer 4.

Question 7:

What capabilities exist to support the sending of data from the municipalities and BOE to a centralized data warehouse managed by the State? Would all these entities have access to the State's Virtual Private Network (VPN) system as described here: <http://www.ct.gov/best/cwp/view.asp?a=2516&q=320888?>

Is there an alternative secure file transfer protocol (FTP) or other approach that should be assumed as part of the solution?

Answer 7:

The system design and technical architecture including such things as connectivity to systems will be completed during the Design and Implementation phases of the project.

Question 8:

Who, beyond the State, will need access to the benchmarking and analysis tools?

Answer 8:

This determination will be made subsequent to the start of the contract.

Question 9:

Does the State have a secure data center that this solution will run in or is the State looking to have this solution hosted by the solution provider or a partner thereof?

Answer 9:

Yes, the State does have a secure data center which may be used to host the system, however, vendors are encouraged to provide the most cost effective, flexible solution. The State will entertain options of hosted solutions external to the State data center.

Question 10:

Does the technical development of the data warehouse and analytic solution need to take place on State networks with State equipment (hardware/software) or can it be done at the vendor's offices with vendor-owned equipment with the deployment of the solution taking place in either a State-owned/operated environment or a separately hosted one (per Question 9)

Answer 10:

Please see answer to question number 9.

Question 11:

How frequent are the data collections from the municipalities and BOEs? Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly?

Answer 11:

The frequency of the collecting the data has not been determined at this time. Determination will occur subsequent to the start of the contract.

Question 12:

What are the system uptime requirements with respect to fault tolerance, recoverability, etc.?

Answer 12:

This will be determined at a later date.

Question 13:

Do all users of the benchmarking and analysis tool have a unique set of credentials managed through Active Directory or a similar technology? If so, what is it? If not, is it expected that an authentication and authorization platform unique to the system be incorporated into this solution?

Answer 13:

Further information on credentials will be provided once users of the benchmarking and analysis tools have been determined. It is anticipated that role based authentication and authorization will be an architectural component to the system design.

Question 14:

As this is a benchmarking and analytic solution, the expectation is that there is really only one level of security and that is read-only. Certainly, a system administrator role will exist, but from a functional perspective the system only needs to provide read access. That said, should all users be able to see all data or does there need to be the ability to segregate access so that someone from one municipality can't see the data from another municipality?

Answer 14:

Such a determination will be made subsequent to the start of the contract, however, it is anticipated that role based authentication and authorization will be an architectural component to the system design.