Solicitation Reference Section	Solicitation Page Number	Questions	Answer
I.M.5	6	The term "5. Cost Proposal (submitted separately from the other items)" seems to indicate that the cost proposal should be submitted separately. But the section I.G states that the technical proposal and cost proposal should be in one pdf file and they should be just separated into different sections of the one proposal document. Should the technical proposal and cost proposal be in one pdf file and not submitted separately?	The Technical Proposal and Cost Proposal can be submitted as one .pdf as separate sections. The language is intended to indicate that any costs should not be included directly in the Technical Proposal.
III.F.3.d.	10	Can the umbrella/excess liability insurance be waived if each per-occurrence limit is equal to or greater than $1 million on our insurances including Workers' Compensation, Commercial General Liability, and Automobile Liability? If not, can the requirement be postponed to the time of the Intent of Award?	~~The answer to this question is pending additional review by the NDE General Counsel. This document will be updated when the response is available.~~ **Revised: The expectation for liability insurance is expected at the time of Intent to Award.**
III.FF	15	There is a clause for the penalty in section III.CC and retainage in section III.DD. Is a performance bond still needed? If yes, please specify it.	~~The answer to this question is pending additional review by the NDE General Counsel. This document will be updated when the response is available.~~ **Revised: Specifics regarding the performance bond will be shared at the time of Intent to Award.**
III.QQ	18	Do you want us to put proprietary information in one file marked PROPRIETARY and only refer to the relevant proprietary information from the proposal, but not include the proprietary information in the proposal file? Just want to confirm.	That is correct. All information considered proprietary should be included in one file marked PROPRIETARY, separate from the proposal. Data contained in the proposal and all documentation provided therein, become the property of the State of Nebraska and the data becomes public information upon opening the proposal.

IV.A	24	On Use Case #1, does the State have or will have a system/function that can assign a universal unique ID to a specific child across all early childhood programs, or will child records be matched across programs using an algorithm? If the records have to be matched across programs using an algorithm, do you already have an algorithm or do you want to work with the vendor to devise one? Do all the programs track child records with SSN, gender, race, date of birth, county, type of disability, and family income besides child name? How might the data/report in the ECIDS answer the question in Use Case #2: to what extent does the current funding environment ensure fully funded, equal access?	Following the structure of a federated/hybrid system, the child records will be matched using an algorithm. No algorithm currently exists to match child records so we are looking to work with the vendor to develop one. The specific data elements tracked by each program varies and is not standardized across programs. The questions included in Use Case #2 serve as examples and were identified as important by stakeholders. Over the course of the project, the example questions may be modified based on the availability of data to answer them.
IV.E.7	37	Please describe the total number of training sessions and the type and number of users that need to be trained. Can the online training be performed via Zoom in combination with classroom training?	There are not a specific amount of required training sessions. We expect a sufficient number of sessions to adequately train users to the system. The trainees will be primarily admin users and will likely be no more than 10 individuals. Training can be completed virtually.
A.2.1.a - Requirement Matrix	P2	Please elaborate on "a hybrid model where identity data linkages are maintained but the source data elements do not persist past the immediate use."	Under a hybrid model, the information needed to match individual records across databases is maintained in order to aid in processing speed the next time the same match needs to be made. The associated data elements, however, are not maintained in ECIDS past the need for that specific query.

A.2.1.d - Requirement Matrix	P2	Please explain and give some examples on the statement: "The proposed solution shall leverage existing systems to the maximum extent."	The state agencies and community organizations who will be participating in ECIDS each maintain their own databases and information technology systems. The ideal solution will interact with these systems to meet the identified requirements without requiring major modifications and/or migrations to each respective system.
A.2.1.f - Requirement Matrix	P2	What are names, hosted agencies, platforms (SQL Server, Oracle, etc.), data exchange method (web service, data import/export with plain text file, etc.) of the large State level databases? How many smaller and local level data sources that need to be integrated? What are the hosted agencies, data source platform, and available data exchange methods?	NDE currently uses on-prem SQL servers for its data which are hosted in the state's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) data centers. NDE is planning to move all of the data into Azure SQL which will be in NDE's Azure tenant. DHHS uses various data technologies across its programs and prefers REST APIs for data exchange but all utilize SFTP of flat files, Azure Data Factory, Snowflake Secure Data and others. More specifics about the agency data technologies will be shared during contract negotiation and the Requirements Refinement phase of the work as outlined in outlined in RFP Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.

A.2.2.b - Requirement Matrix	P3	Re: The proposed solution shall store any data used for matching in a separately secured database that will not be directly accessible to any users, except the system administrators. Does this mean the proposed solution will have 2 databases with one to store personal identifiable information (PII) for matching purpose by system administrator users and another database (de-identified data warehouse) with de-identified data?	Yes, the solution will require 2 databases.
A.2.2.d - Requirement Matrix	P3	Can you give some examples on Common ID? Do you consider SSN, or universal unique ID a common ID?	Yes, SSN or a generated unique ID can be considered examples of a Common ID.
A.2.2.j - Requirement Matrix	P4	Please elaborate on "j. The proposed solution shall have a standard internal representation." What is a standard internal representation?	Standard internal representation means the data shall be represented in the warehouse using standard formats i.e., a date should be stored as a date and time type; alphanumeric data should be stored as text and numeric data should be stored as numbers. The data type of a column defines what value the column can hold: integer, character, money, date and time, binary, and so on.
Price Proposal		On the tab of "VI. Annual Prod Lic-Main Sch", what is the original project proposed price? Is that the same as the total price on the tab of "IV. Summary Schedule of Costs"?	No. The "Original project proposed price" is the proposed cost of each component of the system that will require annual product licensing and maintenance and corresponds to the deliverables listed in tab II. Detailed Del Cost Schs and tab III. Other Associated Costs.
N/A	N/A	Please advise what percentage of the work can be performed remotely and what percentage is expected to be performed in-state.	The work can be performed completely remotely, however there may be limited times when it is desired the vendor is on-site for large stakeholder meetings and/or other duties not able to be completed remotely. Travel costs can be included in the final contract.

N/A	N/A	Is it safe for offerors to prepare their pricing and technical response with the understanding that the effort for this requirement, whether in whole or in part, can be performed 100% remotely?	The work can be performed completely remotely, however there may be limited times when it is the desired the vendor is on-site for large stakeholder meetings and/or other duties not able to be completed remotely. Travel costs can be included in the final contract.
IV.A	23	Paragraph 5: Given that the state has already incurred one year of work and research on this, will the results of that research be made available to offerors to better assist the Firm Fixed Price requirement? We are referring to the main Data Sources identified (with specific Data Store Technologies), the Use Case Analysis, and ECIDS Architectural Analysis.	These documents are considered internal at this time but will be shared with the selected vendor during the contract negotiation phase and the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
N/A	N/A	Besides the development and implementation, are there funds allocated to Operation & Maintenance to support this procurement?	Yes.
IV.C	26	What type of enterprise license does the state have in the Azure domain? Please provide clarification with regards to Azure services that can be used to leverage existing capabilities in an effort to control cost.	NDE maintains an Azure Commercial license. The vendor should specify which Azure components are needed in order to implement their ECIDS solution. Thus, it is up to the vendor to determine which Azure services they will be using and their cost proposal should reflect the associated costs.
IV.A	N/A	What is the total number of state agencies, community providers, and other systems with API access in the landscape?	For the primary use case, the distinct count, the majority of the data exists in two state agencies, DHHS and NDE and 21 local Head Start grantees.
IV.A	N/A	What is the estimated size of the ECIDS data?	This is unknown at this time as the list of data sources and number of records has not been finalized.

IV.A	23	What is the estimated number of child records to reconcile and what is the breakdown for each state agency system and each community organization?	This is unknown at this time as the list of data sources and number of records has not been finalized. The exact number of records to be integrated will be determined during the System Requirements Refinement Task as outlined in Section IV.E.3. There are approximately 150,000 children in Nebraska under the age of 6 but enrollment and participation numbers vary across programs. Below are approximate numbers of the children birth enrolled in/served by the various ECCE programs in Nebraska. NDE Early Childhood Programs - 21,000 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDF) - 13,000 Head Start/Early Head Start - 6,000 Sixpence - 2,000 IDEA Part B, Section 619 - 6,700 IDEA Part C - 2,100 MIECHV - 400
IV.A	N/A	What is the estimated number of users expected in the landscape?	The number of admin users with restricted access will be relatively small, around 10-20 users across two state agencies. The public-facing reporting tool will not require login access.

IV.A	N/A	Are the source systems prepared to provide the existing data to meet the Use Cases through the API interface as they work to close gaps identified in the landscape?	The specific agency source systems and data exchange methods are expected to be continually growing over the life of the ECIDS application. The intention is to start with the most important agency data and add more agency and local level data sources over time. For Use Case #1, the participating agencies are in the process of developing the necessary data sharing agreements and identifying the required data elements. The vendor will be expected to build the data exchange method/API as a part of the system requirements. Personnel supporting the source systems will provide information as well as technical expertise for the ECIDS project.
V.A.3.j	47	Are teaming agreements viewed similarly to subcontract agreements by the state?	~~The answer to this question is pending additional review by the NDE General Counsel. This document will be updated when the response is available.~~ **Revised: Yes, teaming agreements are viewed similarly to subcontract agreements.**
IV.A	23	Does each state and local community system contain keys that uniquely identify children maintained in that system? If so, will the information be provided for offerors to price with greater accuracy?	Each system contains keys that uniquely identify children but the keys are not standardized across systems. The selected vendor will be expected to develop a matching algorithm to match keys based on the available identifiers within each source system.
IV.A	23	Based on the ECIDS Year 1 work, has the state determined that the individual system-specific keys do not contain Personal Identifiable Information (PII), e.g., SSN, Name, DOB, etc., used as individual or composite primary keys?	No. It is likely that PII data will be necessary to match records across sources systems.

IV.A	23	Does the state have an estimated time frame collectively or individually for completing the three (3) initial use cases included in this solicitation?	It is expected that the first use case, calculating a distinct count, will be completed by the end of the contract, while making significant progress on the other two use cases.
V.A	47, 48	Please confirm that all sections other than Personnel Resumes (page 47) and Major Work Tasks (page 48) do not possess page limits.	That is correct.
IV.E	33	Is the bidder expected to use the state's existing Azure account as the target "hosted environment" to provision and deploy the cloud infrastructure—including compute, storage, and other components required for implementing the centralized data warehouse, applications, and analytics and reporting platforms—as part of the Use Cases 1 through 3? Or is the state expecting the bidder to host those systems on a new Azure account? If so, will this environment be owned by the state or brokered by the bidder?	The vendor is expected to use NDE's Azure Commercial tenant.
IV.E	38	Can the state confirm that the Implementation task includes production support and operations only "until all the iterations are complete and NDE has accepted the final work"?	Yes. However there remains the option to renegotiate and renew the contract for additional maintenance, support and improvement periods as stated in Section I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL.
IV.E	38	Does the state intend to solicit post-implementation Operation & Maintenance and Support as a separate contract possibly awarded to a different vendor than the implementor?	It is expected that the state will require post-implementation support from an external vendor. The state retains the option to renegotiate and renew the contract with the selected vendor for additional maintenance, support and improvement periods as stated in Section I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL or award a contract with a different vendor.

IV.A	23	Are the NDE and DHHS systems supported by MS SQL Server as their back-end systems? Are there any other types of major data systems?	NDE currently uses on-prem SQL servers for its data which are hosted in the state's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) data centers. NDE is planning to move all if the data into Azure SQL which will be in NDE's Azure tenant. DHHS uses various data technologies across its programs and prefers REST APIs for data exchange but all utilize SFTP of flat files, Azure Data Factory, Snowflake Secure Data and others. More specifics about the agency data technologies will be shared during contract negotiation and the Requirements Refinement phase of the work as outlined in outlined in RFP Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
IV.A	N/A	Will the changes to child enrollments be triggered from the source system side? Or will the ECIDS have access to source data or extracts for reconciliation?	Changes in the source systems will be reflected in ECIDS based on the nature of the specific interchanges established with each system. This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
IV.A	N/A	Will the API be bi-directional, such that a common child identifier can be associated within source system records, or will it be managed entirely on the ECIDS side?	The API will be bi-directional in that specific data elements can be shared between ECIDS and the source systems. However, it is unlikely the common identifier created in ECIDS to match records will be shared back to the source systems. Following the structure of hybrid architecture, source systems will retain their existing IDs.
IV.A	N/A	It appears that the system will enable source providers oversight of their source data: "The proposed solution shall allow external partners to establish rules for data access and use." Is there a set of predefined parameters and rules in the ECIDS Architectural Analysis, or will this be developed as each source is added?	This will be developed as each source is added.

Contractual Services Form	i and 44	The RFP requires an original signature in pen. Since this is an electronic PDF submission, is a scanned copy of an original signature acceptable?	Electronic/scanned signatures are acceptable in the State of Nebraska.
III. Terms and Conditions	7–22	Is a copy of the Terms & Conditions section with initials required to be submitted with the RFP response?	Yes, a copy of the Terms & Conditions with initials should be included within the .pdf submission.
YY. Disaster Recovery/Back up Plan	21	Is the disaster recovery plan required as a post-award action?	No.
B: Project Environment	25–26	This section only includes sub-sections 1, 2, and 4. Is there a is missing sub-section 3? Please confirm the typo.	Correct, this was a typo and the sub-sections are 1, 2, and 4.
Proposal Instructions, C: Exit Strategy	49	Please confirm that an Exit Strategy will be required upon completion of contract, as stated, and not with the proposal submission.	That is correct.
IV.E	N/A	The RFP details all the required deliverables suggesting a Waterfall type of software development approach. With the vast majority of the industry having adopted Agile approaches, is the state considering a creative Agile approach where some of the deliverables would be delivered in small incremental fragments with each Agile Sprint?	An Agile approach is acceptable and preferred.

IV.E.9	39	What is the anticipated period of performance (POP) for the delivery of the three prioritized Use Cases? Is the four-month warranty intended to follow this delivery period and be priced separately?	It is expected that the first use case, calculating a distinct count, will be completed by the end of the contract, while making significant progress on the other two use cases. The four-month warranty begins once all project implementation iterations and phases for use case #1 are fully implemented and stabilized by the vendor, and all project products and services are reviewed and accepted by the State. The costs associated with the four-month warranty period should be included Attachment B. ECIDS Project Costs.
I.A	1	The government states that the contract will be awarded in March 2022 and that the contractor start date will be March 2022, only for it to end on April 29, 2022, and then immediately renew on April 30, 2022, pending approval of state funding. What date is that approval expected on? We are asking in order to evaluate the risk to the contractor, who would only be guaranteed less than 60 days' worth of work based on existing funding (March to April 2022).	Due to the nature of the funding source, we are unable to contract for periods outside of the current subaward. However, we fully expect to receive Year 3 funds as it is a non-competitive renewal process.
N/A	N/A	Is a budget assigned to this project? If so, what is the budget?	The targeted budget range is $900,000 to $1,300,000 for development and implementation of the system. We will be using a competitive negotiation procurement process so the final contract amount may be increased or decreased based on the final agreed upon deliverables.

N/A	N/A	How many children/families are in the current combined database now?	No combined database currently exist and each individual database contains a varying number of child and family records. The exact number of records to be integrated will be determined prior during the System Requirements Refinement Task as outlined in Section IV.E.3. There are approximately 150,000 children in Nebraska under the age of 6 but enrollment and participation numbers vary across programs. Below are approximate numbers of the children birth enrolled in/served by the various ECCE programs in Nebraska. NDE Early Childhood Programs - 21,000 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDF) - 13,000 Head Start/Early Head Start - 6,000 Sixpence - 2,000 IDEA Part B, Section 619 - 6,700 IDEA Part C - 2,100 MIECHV - 400
N/A	N/A	Can any of the services be outsourced?	Yes, services can be outsourced, as long ast they are defined in the proposal; as stated in Section III. Terms and Conditions, Section I. Contractor Responsibility, "*If the contractor intends to utilize any subcontractors' services, the subcontractors' level of effort, tasks and time allocation must be clearly defined in the contractor's proposal. The contractor shall agree that it will not utilize any subcontractors not specifically included in its proposal, in the performance of the contract, without the prior written authorization of the State. Following execution of the contract, the contractor shall proceed diligently with all services and shall perform such services with qualified personnel in accordance with the contract.*"
N/A	N/A	Who will be the end user of this system?	End users of the system include ECCE Program Administrators, Early Childhood/Community Service Provider Directors, Healthcare providers, state program administrators, providers, navigators, parents, technical assistance providers, Early Childhood Care and Education Coaches/Trainers, Community Leaders, Researchers, and Policymakers.

N/A	N/A	Are there any reporting requirements identified now as a result of this integration?	No. Any required reporting will by determined during the System Requirements Refinement Task as outlined in Section IV.E.3.
IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview	23	How many systems are currently used by the two state agencies and the various community organizations for collecting the data that you would like to integrate?	The exact number of systems to be integrated is still to be determined but initial efforts will focus on 3-4 primary EC data systems within two state agencies. NDE currently uses on-prem SQL servers for its data which are hosted in the state's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) data centers. NDE is planning to move all if the data into Azure SQL which will be in NDE's Azure tenant. DHHS uses various data technologies across its programs and prefers REST APIs for data exchange but all utilize SFTP of flat files, Azure Data Factory, Snowflake Secure Data and others. More specifics about the agency data technologies will be shared during contract negotiation and the Requirements Refinement phase of the work as outlined RFP Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.

IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview	23	Could you please provide a list of the systems currently in use by NDE and DHHS and Community Partners to collect early childhood program information to be consolidated by this RFP? It would also be helpful for the state to identify which agency is using which system to have a wholistic understanding of the current process.	The exact number of systems to be integrated is still to be determined but initial efforts will focus on 3-4 primary EC data systems within two state agencies. NDE currently uses on-prem SQL servers for its data which are hosted in the state's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) data centers. NDE is planning to move all if the data into Azure SQL which will be in NDE's Azure tenant. DHHS uses various data technologies across its programs and prefers REST APIs for data exchange but all utilizes SFTP of flat files, Azure Data Factory, Snowflake Secure Data and others. More specifics about the agency data technologies will be shared during contract negotiation and the Requirements Refinement phase of the work as outlined in outlined in RFP Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT. There are approximately 150,000 children in Nebraska under the age of 6 but enrollment and participation numbers vary across programs. Below are approximate numbers of the children birth enrolled in/served by the various ECCE programs in Nebraska. NDE Early Childhood Programs - 21,000 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDF) - 13,000 Head Start/Early Head Start - 6,000 Sixpence - 2,000 IDEA Part B, Section 619 - 6,700 IDEA Part C - 2,100 MIECHV - 400
IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview	23	The RFP states "there is generally a gap in community-based data systems that needs to be filled." Is filling this gap a requirement of this RFP, or something that will be done outside of the scope of this RFP? We have various solutions for the State and Community Partners, but it is not clear if the state is looking for solutions in this RFP.	Although this is not a specific deliverable of this proposal, this function could be submitted as an optional feature in as outlined in Section V.A.4.f. Optional Features, Functionality and Services.

IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview	23	Are Community Partners responsible for a specific geographic region? If so, can you please define the geographic region of each Community Partner in the state? If not, how are families distributed amongst the state and various Community Partners?	Community partners define regions in different ways.
IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview, Use Case #1	24	How is a geographic area defined?	Geographic area can be defined in different ways depending on the context. A few examples of commonly used geographic areas in Nebraska are zip code, school district, city, county, legislative district, and congressional district.
IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview, Use Case #3	25	Is Nebraska using a Head Start software now? Is the state looking for a new system or just looking to achieve better use of the systems currently used at the agency level?	There is not a statewide Head Start software system. Local Head Start grantees select their own data management software and enter into contracts directly with the vendors. The ideal ECIDS solution will be able to integrate data from their existing software and data management systems.
IV. Project Description and Scope of Work, A. Project Overview, Use Case #3	23	Is the purpose of the pilot intended to ultimately replace the existing State's system? If so, who was the source/vendor that developed that system or is it an off-the-shelf system?	Currently there is not existing state ECIDS and the intention is not to replace any of the individual legacy early childhood data systems.
ECIDS Requirement Matrix, 2. Application Requirements Matrix, 1b.	2	Is the intent to interface with systems written for .NET Core/Angular, or must our base SaaS product be written in .NET Core/Angular to qualify?	It is preferred that the vendor's SaaS system be written with a .Net Core/Angular to qualify if order for the inhouse team to support and manage it.

Scope of Service	1	How many children (funded slots) will be served by the new system annually?	This is still to be determined based on the final list of data systems and programs to be integrated. There are approximately 150,000 children in Nebraska under the age of 6 but enrollment and participation numbers vary across programs. Below are approximate numbers of the children birth enrolled in/served by the various ECCE programs in Nebraska. NDE Early Childhood Programs - 21,000 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDF) - 13,000 Head Start/Early Head Start - 6,000 Sixpence - 2,000 IDEA Part B, Section 619 - 6,700 IDEA Part C - 2,100 MIECHV - 400
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1a	Since a Hybrid ECIDS model is being requested, how many different data systems will need integration specifically, what are their data set formats, what are the frequency of data exchanges, and which direction is data being shared?	The exact number of data sets to be integrated is still to be determined but initial efforts will focus on 3-4 primary EC data systems within two state agencies. The data formats and frequency of data exchanges will be determined during a discovery process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1b	Would a fully web-based solution be considered if integration with all legacy partners, systems, and software systems were possible?	Yes.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1c	Would this API be necessary if data, analysis, and functionality were available without it?	The use of an API is preferable if the source system has one available.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1	Please provide a detailed list of existing systems and interface required.	This will be provided during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1e	Are the required legacy systems capable of integration and data exchange? If so, what are their parameters?	This will be provided during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.

Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1f	Please provide a detailed list of existing systems and interface requirements that are necessary.	This will be provided during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	1g	What are the established data agreements and project charters in detail, please?	The data sharing agreements and project charter are in the process of being developed for the first use case, the distinct count. The goal is to have one agreement for each agency or locality, no matter how many data systems are owned. Thus the agreements will be per data owner, not per database.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2a	Which systems, formats, and keys?	This will be provided during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2c	Is there a specific list of point-to-point interoperability being requested?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2	Will there be an agreed upon standard of keys and identifiers?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2f	Which standard and what format is being implied here?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2g	Will there be an agreed upon standard or grouping of data sets to be potentially shared by vendors?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2i	Please provide the source or format of the data dictionary requested.	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.

Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2j	Please provide a detailed list of existing systems and interfaces required.	NDE currently uses on-prem SQL servers for its data which are hosted in the state's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) data centers. NDE is planning to move all if the data into Azure SQL which will be in NDE's Azure tenant. DHHS uses various data technologies across its programs and prefers REST APIs for data exchange but all utilize SFTP of flat files, Azure Data Factory, Snowflake Secure Data and others. More specifics about the agency data technologies will be shared during contract negotiation and the Requirements Refinement phase of the work as outlined in outlined in RFP Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	2m	Which use-cases specifically?	The use cases specified in RFP Section IV.A. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	3c	What rules will be established specifically? Do these rules apply to anonymity or HIPAA/FERPA compliance?	The solution shall allow for external partners to establish rules for data access and use based on any criteria they deem appropriate, including anonymity and HIPAA/FERPA compliance.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	3	Which specific data sets?	The specific data sets will be determined during the requirements refinement process.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	4a	Is this requesting a Microsoft Power BI integration or simply its equivalent?	This is requesting a Microsoft BI integration.

Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	4c	What other devices specifically?	The proposed solution tool is optimized for multiple devices, including, but not limited to computers, tablets, and mobile devices.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	4f	What specific level of sophistication is being requested?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	4g	What specific guides and standards are being requested for visualization?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	4l	What are the pre-determined business rules required?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	5c	Please provide examples of the interchange, identifier keys, and linkages requested.	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	5	Is there a library of definitions and data details for sources and consumers that provides the identity of the data interchanges requested/provided and that includes security metadata?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT
Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	5e	What data sets will be routed specifically, to where, and how often? What are the registered sources, their formats, and data sets?	The exact number of data sets to be integrated is still to be determined but initial efforts will focus on 3-4 primary EC data systems within two state agencies. The data formats and frequency of data exchanges will be determined during a discovery process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.

Attachment A – Requirements Matrix	5f	What external transactions would be logged specifically?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT
6. OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION DELIVERABLES	7.b.ii	Does the State prefer some, all, or no trainings to take place in-person?	Trainings can be completed virtually.
8. TASK: IMPLEMENTATION	8.b.v.	What are the hosting & support SLAs required by the State?	The solution would be hosted on NDE's Azure tenant and would be governed my Microsoft's SLA's.
Project Overview	23	Could you please provide a link to the Data Landscape Analysis and Architectural Analysis reports?	These documents are considered internal at this time but will be shared with the selected vendor during the contract negotiation phase and the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A - Requirements Matrix	Page 2	Item 1f: "The proposed solution shall be able to integrate various large, state level administrative databases but also integrate smaller, local level data sources." Questions: How many and what type of smaller, local level data sources require integration? Will these need to change once the system is active/in use?	The exact number of data sets to be integrated is still to be determined but initial efforts will focus on 3-4 primary EC data systems within two state agencies. The data formats and frequency of data exchanges will be determined during a discovery process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A - Requirements Matrix	Page 2	Item 2c: "The proposed solution shall eliminate point-to-point interfaces by inserting a central system to mediate and manage interoperability." Question: How many and what point-to-point interfaces are intended to be eliminated?	There are no point-to-point interfaces currently in place. The ideal solution will include a central system so that multiple, separate, point-to-point interfaces are unnecessary.

Attachment A - Requirements Matrix	Page 3	Item 2d: "The proposed solution shall resolve keys and identifiers across organizations without a common ID in order to link data." Questions: How will the data from organizations that do not use a common ID be linked? Will there be a standard rule applied for automated matching (e.g., first name, last name, DOB, zip code) or will the records need to be manually reviewed for linking?	The ideal solution will develop a matching algorithm to match keys based on the available identifiers within each source system.
Attachment A - Requirements Matrix	Page 5	Item 3d: "The proposed solution shall allow access and view of sensitive information but does not store it." Question: What system(s) and type of interface(s; e.g., API) provide the sensitive information that will not be stored in the proposed solution?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
Attachment A - Requirements Matrix	Page 5	Item 4a: "The proposed solution includes iterative development of an existing proof-of-concept data analytic, reporting, and visualization tool built in Microsoft Power BI." Question: Is use of Microsoft Power BI required or will the State consider an alternative that offers interactive, ad-hoc reporting tools, as well as graphing and visualization tools? If Power BI is required, is the vendor expected to purchase the licenses?	Microsoft Power BI is the preferred analytic tool. NDE has the Power BI premium P1 capacity and the vendor is not required to purchase the Power BI pro licenses as it will be procured by NDE on need basis.

IV.C.	26	Does NDE intend to use their own Azure environment for this solution, or are they requesting vendors to include hosting fees as part of the RFP response? If vendor is hosting in Azure, the following questions are required in order to size and price appropriately: a. What is the approximate expected volume/size of the data that will be part of the environment? b. What is the expected percentage of growth in size of data year over year? c. What is the size of the largest table that would need to be stored in the system?	NDE will host the solution on its own Azure Commercial tenant. Questions a., b., and c. will be addressed during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
IV.A.	23	Approximately how many student records currently exist across the multiple systems that NDE intends to integrate?	This will be determined during the process outlined in Section IV.E.3. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS REFINEMENT.
IV.A	24	Regarding Use Case #2: what is the number of children eligible to receive the CCDF subsidy?	Using the current income eligibility limits, there are approximately 50,000 children under the age of 6 eligible to receive the CCDF subsidy, of which approximately 11% receive subsidy.
IV.A.	25	Regarding Use Case #3: how many EHS/HS student records exist? How many professional will make use of the system for the pilot? How many beyond the pilot?	According to the Office of Head Start Program Information Report, approximately 5,266 student records exist for EHS/HS in Nebraska (2021). In the Head Start Pilot, approximately 10-15 professionals (6 grantees) will make use of the system for the pilot. Beyond the pilot, there are 21 total Head Start Grantees in Nebraska, putting the total number of professionals using the system around 25-50.
IV.B.	25	How many ECCE programs receive ratings? How many are not rated?	As of December 2, 2021, there are a total of 2,586 child care providers with 622 programs participating in the QRIS.

IV.C.	26	Regarding Data Governance: have the necessary roles and access permissions already been identified? How many roles, and how many individuals in each role?	The Data Governance roles and access permissions have not been identified, however we anticipate a minimum of two Administrators per agency/organization for a total of approximately ten users with secured access.
IV.E.	31	Regarding the 2 page responses to specific deliverables in Sections IV.E.1 through IV.E.9: are there formatting requests for the 2 page responses? Single spaced?	There are no set formatting requests for the 2 page responses.
IV.A.	23	Is the focus of this RFP primarily on the data linking and data warehousing portion of the overall effort, or is the intention that this will include those pieces, as well as the extension of the analytics and reporting efforts that were done in the proof of concept?	The intention of the RFP is to include both pieces, the data linking/warehousing as well as the analytics/reporting.
Appendix A Requirement 4.a.	Appendix A Page 5	In Appendix A Requirement 4.a., is there an opportunity for the vendor's ad-hoc reporting abilities to replace Power BI as the reporting tool?	Power BI is the preferred reporting tool which will be easier to manage, support and enhance by the inhouse team after handover.
IV.E.3.b.i.	34	Regarding the System Requirements Refinement task: is the interview process one time or ongoing?	The interview process is ongoing until a mutual understanding of the system requirements is obtained.
IV.E.3.b.ii.	34	Regarding the System Requirements Refinement task, Detailed System Requirements Validation and Analysis activity: wow many anticipated reports? Are those reports pre-determined, or ad hoc?	The number and requirements of the reports are still being developed as the data sharing agreements are established for the prioritized use cases.

IV.E.7.b.ii.	37	Regarding the Training task, User training activity: what audience comprises the end user? Does that include ECCE program providers?	For the purposes of training, the end users are the admin users who will have restricted access, not ECCE program providers. The number of admin users requiring training will likely be 10 or fewer individuals.
IV.A.	23	What is the budget for this project?	The targeted budget range is $900,000 to $1,300,000 for development and implementation of the system. We will be using a competitive negotiation procurement process so the final contract amount may be increased or decreased based on the final agreed upon deliverables.
Scope of Service: Request for Proposal For Contractual Services form; Number 1	Page 1	The form states "2. The form "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES" MUST be manually signed, in ink, and returned by the proposal opening date and time along with bidder's proposal and any other requirements as specified in the Request for Proposal in order to be considered for an award." Should vendors provide a 'wet ink' version of the form physically delivered to the Department? Or can a scanned version of the wet ink document be provided electronically?	Electronic/scanned signatures are acceptable in the State of Nebraska
Scope of Service: Request for Proposal For Contractual Services form; Number 4	Page 1	We request clarification on the assertion related to Item 4 in the Scope of Service. The quoted amendment does not appear to relate to limits of liability. Additionally, unlimited liability is challenging or impossible for most vendors to agree to. Would the State of Nebraska consider removing this or provide revised guidance on liability limits that the State of Nebraska would be comfortable considering.	~~The answer to this question is pending additional review by the NDE General Counsel. This document will be updated when the response is available.~~ **Revised: The wrong amendment was quoted in the RFP. The correct references and associated language are below.** **As a state agency, NDE cannot agree to hold harmless clauses or indemnification clauses creating potentially unlimited debts to the benefit of third party contractors; The Office of the Attorney-General of the State of Nebraska has issued an opinion that such clauses are in breach of Article XIII, §1 of the Nebraska State Constitution, which prohibits the state from incurring contractual debts in the aggregate greater than $100,000. The Office of the Attorney General advises that agreeing to any sort of unquantified, unlimited indemnity or 'hold harmless' clause violates the Nebraska constitution.**

			Also, as a Nebraska state agency, NDE is covered by the State's sovereign immunity status. No claims for damages against NDE or the State of Nebraska as a whole can be made except as provided by Nebraska legislation. Claims against the State or its agencies can only be made through the State Claims Board, in accordance with state law. Per §81-8,209, Nebraska R.R.S.: **"The State of Nebraska shall not be liable for the torts of its officers, agents, or employees, and no suit shall be maintained against the state, any state agency, or any employee of the state on any tort claim except to the extent, and only to the extent, provided by the State Tort Claims Act."** **Furthermore, such claims are limited in scope; §81-8,210(4), Nebraska R.R.S of the Nebraska State Tort Claims Act limits claims against the State to those "caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the state, while acting within the scope of his or her office of employment…" No claim can be brought against NDE for the actions (or omissions) of third parties, or of employees of the state acting outside the scope of their office of employment.** **Because of these legal requirements, NDE cannot agree to indemnify or hold harmless any third party.**
IV: Project Description and Scope of Work; C. System Requirements; 3c. System Software	Page 28	RFP States "The State reserves the right to purchase third party software through the vendor as part of the contract and/or through other available resources approved by the State. " If vendor is a 'services' only vendor, and not a reseller of software/hardware - will vendor still be considered given that State can procure through other means?	Yes, Vendor will still be considered. This will not disqualify the vendor.

IV: Project Description and Scope of Work; C. System Requirements; 5. System Architecture	Page 28	How are external parties expected to authenticate?	Two-factor authentication is expected.
IV: Project Description and Scope of Work; C. System Requirements; 5. System Architecture	Page 28	Does the state have a requirement for Azure Gov or Commercial Cloud?	Azure Commercial Cloud.
IV: Project Description and Scope of Work; C. System Requirements; 5. System Architecture	Page 28	Is there a preference (or requirement) for managed cloud services?	NDE would like to manage the solution after handover, although other options can be considered as the work progresses based on the cost and maintenance factors.
V: Proposal Instructions; A: Technical Proposal; g: Contract Performance	Page 45-46	We are unable to provide details related to contract terminations due to confidentiality obligations to which we are bound. If we are unable to provide this information, will this be disqualifying or treated as non-responsive?	~~The answer to this question is pending additional review by the NDE General Counsel. This document will be updated when the response is available.~~ **Revised: Failure to provide details related to contract terminations will not treated as non-responsive but can be taken into consideration by the Evaluation Committee during the proposal review and scoring process.**

Attachment A: Requirements Matrix	Page3	How many different data sharing agreements exist?	The data sharing agreements are in the process of being developed. The goal is to have one agreement for each agency or locality. Thus the agreements will be per data owner, not per database.
Attachment A: Requirements Matrix	Page 5	Is the Power BI dashboard expected to be public facing?	Yes, the Power BI dashboard is expected to be public facing, with a wide range of users including, but not limited to community leaders, policymakers, funders, program and service providers parents, and researchers.
Attachment A: Requirements Matrix	Page 5	Is the Power BI dashboard expected to be embedded in a portal/website for external usage?	Yes.
N/A		1. Can you provide any indication on the volume of the scope, for example volume of records for children and families, number of non-governmental providers, and any other numbers related to the cross-agency nature of the project scope that would assist in better understanding the full reach of the project?	For the primary use case, the distinct count, the majority of the data exists in two state agencies, DHHS and NDE. There are approximately 150,000 children in Nebraska under the age of 6 but enrollment and participation numbers vary across programs. Below are approximate numbers of the children birth enrolled in/served by the various ECCE programs in Nebraska. NDE Early Childhood Programs - 21,000 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDF) - 13,000 Head Start/Early Head Start - 6,000 Sixpence - 2,000 IDEA Part B, Section 619 - 6,700 IDEA Part C - 2,100 MIECHV - 400

N/A		2. Can you provide any guidance on the preferred structure of the proposals/ More specifically how you would like to receive supporting attachments, such as financial statements and financial statements? Should they be included as appendices or included as part of the corresponding section within the narrative?	Bidder should electronically submit one (1) original of the entire proposal (in PDF format) to nde.ecids@nebraska.gov. Please refer to RFP Section V. PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS. Supporting documents can be submitted as as appendices and referenced in the appropriate section of the narrative.	
N/A		3. Is there a preference for an overall page limit, other than the two page section limit for the scope of work requirements?	There is no preference for an overall page limit.	
N/A		4. For the narrative accompanying the requirements matrix, is there a preferred format for how this information is incorporated into the proposal? For example, should it be a two-page narrative following the completed matrix?	There is no preferred format.	