

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Implementation Evaluation of House Bill (HB) 2223

RFP No. 781-0-22731

Fourth Set of Questions and Answers

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has received the following questions concerning RFP No. 781-0-22731:

1. Page 9 of 18 of the RFP says, "Proposals shall be bound in a three-ring binder." Is this a single binder, or a binder for each copy? We assume this is a single binder with clear indicators of which one is original, and which are the 3 identical copies.

No, a binder for each copy.

2. For the Quantitative Analysis (Page 5 of 18) in the SOW, analysis needs to be conducted either at THECB headquarters or at one of the Texas ERCs. For projects, our organizational staff regularly access the ERC at UT but there is access fee of \$15,000 per project for researchers outside UT system. Is the access to student level data at THECB headquarters free? At THECB, are researchers limited to 8 am to 5pm data access? Can graduate students from research teams access data?

If work is done through the ERC, funds provided through the contract may be used to cover access fees required by the ERC site. Any fees associated with accessing data at THECB headquarters can be budgeted at no cost since the work is being done on contract with the THECB. If accessing data at the THECB headquarters, the contractor would be limited to access during normal business hours. The contractor would get prior approval of all dates and times of access with THECB staff. Graduate students can access data at THECB headquarters if they are under direct employment/supervision of the contractor. Each person accessing data at THECB headquarters must sign a confidentiality agreement and receive security clearance.

3. The RFP mentions that use of administrative and survey data are needed for the Quantitative Analysis and also for the Cost Study. How clean are the datasets to be accessed? The project has a tight turnaround and for time constraints as well as appropriate budget estimates, bidders need access to clean datasets.

Data from the THECB include administrative data provided by each institution of higher education after each academic semester. These data are certified by THECB staff. For information on how these data are organized, see the CBM report instructions for Community and Technical Colleges, and Universities. These outline each item and possible response in the administrative data. THECB staff can provide initial overview to data resources. THECB has data from one survey instrument that can be provided to the grantee for use in the research (the Developmental Education Program Study, or DEPS). Any other survey data needed would need to be collected by the contractor.

4. To assess the value and benefit of co-requisite courses, any cost study will need to consider complicated contextual and model-based measures which would vary across Texas institutions and subject areas. Should the bidders assume that the research questions and available data will be discussed in close conjunction with THECB staff to inform an appropriate comprehensive evaluation plan and a quantitative analysis plan? The timeline is somewhat unclear with March 13th as the submission date for the proposal and March 30th as the submission date for comprehensive evaluation plan as well as an analysis plan for quantitative analysis. Depending on the award date, will there be necessary flexibility in deliverable dates for these two deliverables?

THECB staff will be available to address any questions from the Awarded Contractor; however, it is expected that the Awarded Contractor has the experience and expertise to propose and implement appropriate plans to meet the required deliverables. The due dates in the timeline, including March 30 for the evaluation plans, are applicable and in effect.

5. Previous THECB RFPs included language that restricted the overhead or indirect recovery by the bidder/institution to zero. This RFP doesn't provide any guidance on IDC or F&A. Is full IDC allowable by the terms of this RFP?

If no guidance is given in the RFP, then the determination to include these components in the Best and Final Offer is up to the Respondent.