

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Data Modernization Project: Staff Augmentation DIR ITSAC Vendors

Questions and Answers #2

March 9, 2021

100. Sr. Software Developer – Will you accept people who have all skill sets except experience integrating with Azure AD? We are finding that people either have the development experience or the security experience with Active Director, but not both. **A:** [This is a developer position, so a qualified candidate should have the required software development experience, plus experience in integrating applications with Azure Active Directory B2C.](#)
101. Sr. Network Engineer – Can you please provide more information about the network environment that this resource would need to be familiar with (e.g., Cisco, switches, routers, firewalls, etc)? **A:** [The majority of the agency’s VM’s are running on Windows OS. We use Palo Alto firewall.](#)
102. Systems Analyst – What CMS (Content Management System) does THECB currently use? Salesforce, Drupal, Wordpress....? **A:** [Our current CMS is called Mura. The agency is in the process of migrating its websites to WordPress.](#)
103. For the Data Modernization project, for the role that states 1 Senior Web Developer/3 Data Analyst/Report Writers, most of the skills listed don’t have anything to do with a Web Developer role. Can you provide the specific skill sets for the Web Developer like what development languages they need to know (Java, .NET, C#, etc), any specific web tools they need to have worked in, etc? And, how many years of experience does the Sr. Web Developer need to have? **A:** [The agency is looking for candidates with skills in developing Power BI dashboards, web server development, and content and document management. Senior Web Developer should have “8 or more years of experience, relies on experience and judgment to plan and accomplish goals, independently performs a variety of complicated tasks, a wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected.” See \[Information Technology Staff Augmentation Contracts \\(ITSAC\\) Services\]\(#\) for details.](#)
104. For the Data Modernization project, can your managers clarify how many years of experience someone classified as a “Senior” contractor needs to have? **A:** [See \[Information Technology Staff Augmentation Contracts \\(ITSAC\\) Services\]\(#\) for details.](#)
105. Which Azure tenant will the solution be deployed on, DIR or DCS Azure or else which tenant? **A:** [DCS Azure.](#)
106. When do you expect the 21 resources to be deployed on the project? **A:** [We expect to onboard the 21 resources in early April.](#)
107. There is no cost format provided, are you expecting us to provide hourly bill rates for each of the roles? **A:** [Yes, vendors should include hourly bill rates for each role in their proposals.](#)
108. What info do you want us to provide as part of proposal?

- Include one-page summary demonstrating the team's cohesiveness.
- Identify proposed staff, by name, and state the roles that they will perform. The following areas shall be addressed for each proposed staff member, as applicable:
 - related/similar projects including the function/role fulfilled;
 - the number of years of professional experience the individual has in providing the services; and
 - resume demonstrating experience and qualifications.
- Describe staffing methodology and include details regarding how workload will be balanced among proposed staff. Provide information on how additional personnel will be onboarded should a contractor be removed from the team.
- Estimate cost of proposal.
- Identify HUB subcontracting opportunities.
- Provide five client references related to similar projects.
- Provide complete client list for the last three years.

109. What is the interview process for the candidates? A: The interview process will be determined based on qualified proposals. They will be conducted by project stakeholders along with Procurement Director.
110. Who are your priority Candidates that need to start first? A: The agency plans to onboard all the contractors at the same time, in early April.
111. What is a projected start date? A: With the one-week extension, the project start has been pushed to early April.
112. Will THECB issue the laptops or machines to perform the project work, or is it expected that vendors provide their own laptops and/or VPN tools to access any required systems? A: The agency will issue laptops to the contractors.
113. Will the vendor will be handling and/or accessing any sensitive data (e.g. FERPA, P.I.I., P.H.I., etc.) as part of this project? And if so, can we limit such access – or are there plans by THECB to limit it – by either scrubbing the environments or only granting vendors access to non-production environments? A: To support the project implementation, contractors may be given access to FERPA or other sensitive data to perform their assigned job duties. The agency has controls in place to protect the security and privacy of the sensitive and confidential data.
114. Can we add or propose other terms to the SoW so long as they do not conflict with DIR ITSAC? A: Terms outside the DIR ITSAC will need to be approved by DIR.