

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Data Modernization Project: Staff Augmentation
DIR ITSAC Vendors

Deadline to submit a proposal is **11:59 p.m. CST/CDT, Monday, March 8, 2021**. Proposals received past the deadline will not be accepted.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) (“Agency”) is seeking a vendor(s) to assemble and coordinate a team of twenty-one (21) ITSAC contractors to assist with the THECB’s Data Modernization Project (“Project”). DIR’s Innovative Procurement Lab will assist the THECB in this procurement.

Project Background:

The THECB is undertaking critical efforts to modernize and improve state educational and workforce data infrastructure to better inform and support students and families on their paths from enrollment, to completion, to the workforce and to provide insight to support institutions, policymakers, and other stakeholders in making informed decisions. The agency is the steward of a wealth of educational and workforce data, and this support and the right partnerships will enable the agency to deploy new tools that turn this data into actionable intelligence for students and families, institutions, employers, and policymakers.

Program elements:

- Secure, cloud-based infrastructure with integrated analytics, visualization tools, and robust governance
- Program-level reporting of postsecondary and workforce outcomes for every educational institution
- Back-end infrastructure and interfaces to facilitate access to and ongoing analysis of key educational and workforce data for state agencies, educational institutions, researchers, and external partners
- Unprecedented business intelligence capabilities to focus institutional, community, and state resources more efficiently and effectively on student, community, and state needs.

Timeframe:

The assembled team of contractors are set to begin in March 2021 and the Phase I of the engagement will last for 12 months.

Awards:

The THECB may award to multiple vendors to work on the Data Modernization project. A set contract dollar amount is not a guarantee.

Proposals:

The proposal should include how vendor will successfully complete the Project including how the qualified team will be assembled, coordinated, and overall monitored.

Proposal should also include an estimated cost.

Submit proposals to ebids@highered.texas.gov. Hard copy proposals mailed or delivered to the THECB will not be accepted.

Contractor Skill Level:

The vendor(s) selected for this project will provide and coordinate a team of contractors to work cohesively to ensure the success of the Project. The following is a list of contractor levels needed to carry out the Project. The hourly rate is set by DIR <https://pubext.dir.texas.gov/portal/internal/contracts-and-services/Contracts/DIR-CPO-4517%20Appendix%20C%20ITSAC%20NotToExceedRates.pdf>

Project Team	Roles/Title	Description
2	Senior Software Developer	2 senior software developers with web application development skills in C#.NET, Azure App Service, Azure Functions, Azure API Management, Cosmos DB and integration with Azure Active Directory B2C.
4	Senior Web Developer 3 Senior Data Analyst/Report Writers	1 senior web developer 3 senior data analyst/report writers with skills in developing Power BI dashboards, web server development, and content and document management.
3	Senior Data Modeler Senior Data Engineer (Level 3) Data Engineer (Level 3)	1 senior data modeler 1 senior data engineer (level 3) 1 data engineer (level 2) with skills and experience building data analytics pipelines using Azure Data Lake Gen2 (Blob Storage), Azure Data Factory (Pipelines and Data Flows), Azure Data Catalog, Azure Event Grid, Azure Service Bus, Azure SQL Database, Synapse Analytics
3	Senior Developers	3 senior developers with web application development skills in C#.NET, Azure App Service, Azure Functions, Azure API Management, Cosmos DB and integration with Azure Active Directory B2C.
5	Senior Developers	5 senior developers with experience with C# and .Net MVC5, WebAPI, JQuery and object-oriented design. Working experience in Azure Cloud environment and Visual Studio 2017. Working experience with MS SQL and SQL Server Management Studio. Working experience with application design, development, and support.
1	Senior Project Manager	1 senior project manager with more than 7 years of experience managing projects in IT environment. Experience with Microsoft Office products, effective written and verbal communication, and problem-solving skills. Works under limited supervision with considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment. Implementation of information systems, system integration and project delivery experience. Experience working with external vendors and/or Quality Assurance efforts a plus.
1	Senior Quality Assurance Analyst	1 senior quality assurance analyst with more than 4 years of working experience with different types of testing in Functional, Integration, API, Regression, Security and Database Testing. Working experience with Test management and defect tracking tools such as TFS, JIRA or Similar Working experience with basic SQL skills and use of SQL Server.
1	Senior System Analyst	senior system analyst with technical experience in applications software development and systems analysis. Competent to work at a high technical level for most phases of applications systems analysis and programming activities. Experience in integration/customization of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products and Content Management System (CMS) development and maintenance. Proficient in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), Extensible Markup Language (XML), Java, C/C++, or other application engines as required.
1	1 Senior Network Engineer	senior network engineer with experience performing advanced computer systems architecture, design, and analysis work in an Azure and Windows environment. Architecting, design, and implementing new systems or to improving existing systems. Experience leading cloud infrastructure adoption and migration efforts.
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Acceptance Criteria

- The Vendor is required to provide the Agency project manager with weekly written progress reports of this project. These are due to the Agency project manager by the close of business on Friday each week throughout the life of the project.
- The progress reports shall cover all work performed and completed during the week for which the progress report is provided and shall present the work to be performed during the subsequent week.
- The progress report shall identify any problems encountered or still outstanding with an explanation of the cause and resolution of the problem or how the problem will be resolved.
- The Vendor will be responsible for conducting regular status meetings with the Agency project manager. The meetings will be held once every other week - at a time and place so designated by the Agency project manager - unless revised by the Agency project manager. The meetings can be in person or over the phone at the discretion of the Agency project manager.

Team Members:

The vendor is responsible for providing qualified and professional contractors to support the agency data modernization initiative. In case of non-performance, the vendor will find a new contractor with like or better skills within two weeks to help minimize the impact on the project timeline.

Questions:

All questions must be addressed to Linda Natal at ebids@highered.texas.gov. Responses to questions will be posted on the THECB website <https://www.highered.texas.gov/about-us/procurement/>

No other THECB staff members will respond to questions to make this a fair procurement.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the project's success!

Linda Natal
Director, Contracts and Procurements
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

