#	Section	Page	Reference	Question
1	1 3.1.1(e) 3.1.2(4)	1 7 10	Thus, each ERC allows access to the data and use of research and statistical analysis software within the firewall of its own secure technical architecture and environment, and no approved individual when actively accessing ERC data is allowed access to the Internet or other applications and networks when actively logged into an ERC session.	Is THECB open to a cloud hosted platform (e.g. in MS Azure) that meets required ERC standards and restrictions? Are there any other limitations on tools that should be considered for the solution? A1: Yes, THECB is open to considering a cloud hosted platform that meets required ERC standards and restrictions. Refer to Section 1, page 1 and Section 3.1.1(e), page 7. A2: Yes. Refer to Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 in full and Sections 3.1.1(e) and 3.1.2(4).
2	3	4	While the solution and any solution components resulting from this RFO may be used or modified for future agencywide solutions and collaborations that THECB may require, the scope of this project is focused on ERC researcher and related ERC stakeholder needs.	Should requirements that would make the platform easily transferable from THECB's Secure Data Enclave be considered in the solution design? What are the differentiating factors between environment for ERC researcher and Secure Data Enclave? A: Such requirements can be considered, but they may be neither feasible nor optimal for the scope and timeframe of this project.
3	3.2(4) 3 3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.4	14 4-5 5-8 8-11 11	3.2(4) Deliverables, 4, Shared Research Repository Platform, Hosted instance of Data Dictionary solution, with core information architecture in place. Scope of Work Data Dictionary Platform. Shared Research Repository Platform.	Is the mention in #4 of "Hosted instance of Data Dictionary solution" meant to refer to "Shared Research Repository Platform"? Please clarify what is meant by the reference to "Hosted". Is that specific to THECB, the offeror, or a cloud provider? A1: Per the RFO, p4, "The overall ERC-DDA solution will provide a "single portal" experience for researchers and stakeholders...the result will be a seamless user journey...for browsing, searching, and accessing resources to the platform(s)." Refer also to Section 3.1.4, page 11. A2: See answer above. THECB is looking for a viable solution. Hosting location may vary depending on the proposed solution.
4	5.1	16	Respondent's pricing must be all-inclusive, covering all services required to provide all deliverables as described in this RFO, including travel expenses, personnel costs, and all other necessary expenses required in the performance of the engagement.	Please confirm that software licensing or SaaS licensing fees required for the platform should not be including the respondent's pricing and/or will be purchased separately by THECB. A: If a proposed solution would involve software licensing or SaaS licensing fees, the requirement should be clearly documented and included in the proposal along with estimated costs. Even though purchasing the software or SaaS licenses will be handled separately by the agency, the total cost of ownership of the solution is one of the key considerations during the vendor evaluation process.

5	3.1.1 3.2(5)	5-8 14	Data Dictionary Platform	Is the solution to search variables of interest, and the codebook definitions of those variables? If so, what is the date range of the data dictionary? What are the formats of the data? Would the data be restricted at all? A1: Yes, part of the solution is to provide searches on variables of interest, as well as their definitions. Refer to details in Section 3.1.1, pp. 5-8, and Section 3.2(5) (Data Dictionary Content), p. 14. A2: Refer to the links in Section 3.1.1, Subsection b. for date ranges of the various data collections available to approved researchers using data at the ERCs. Some data collections extend back to 1990 through present year. A3: Formats of the data (features to be searched) may be numeric, alphanumeric, or text. A4: It is expected that Data Dictionary content generally would not be restricted, although some features may be unique to prospective and active ERC researcher use and technical context. Refer to Section 3.1.1 in full and Subsection a., p. 5.
6	3.1.2 3.1.9 3.2(6)	8-11 13 14	Research Project Repository User Role Definition Deliverables	Is the research repository of published research, or research in development? If published works, would THECB coordinate the copyright compliance? A1: The focus of the Research Project Repository content is on published results including briefs, summaries, journal articles, and other potential formats resulting from research projects completed at the ERCs and using ERC data. Basic status information regarding ERC projects in progress may be considered for inclusion. A2: Published works requiring copyright compliance will be with permission from the researcher in coordination with the ERCs, THECB, and any other concerned parties and also in accordance with user roles. Refer also to Section 3.1.9 and Sections 3.2(6).
7	3.1.3	11	User Profile Management	Would the user profile content be similar to the Research Profiles we created with Texas Woman's University? If not, what type of profile fields is THECB interested in including? • Example Link: https://apps.twu.edu/my1cv/profile.aspx?type=twp&id=84RN6YsbxGoBdqVpzjyoSQ%3d%3d A: Refer to 3.1.3, p. 9, of the RFO. Additional types of profile fields may be considered. Additional profile information from a registered user would be voluntary from that user.

8	3.1.4	11	Information Architecture Design & Implementation	What current platforms are in use for repositories that could be used for the build and search design of the new system? A: The agency is using Azure cloud to build the state's new higher education data pipeline.
9	3.1.5	11-12	Stakeholder Engagement	Would THECB be interested in creating an Advisory Board for end user requirements, solutions, enhancements, and project input? A: An Advisory Board is not required. A proposed Stakeholder Engagement Plan should consider the target stakeholder groups, requirements, and project timeline. Refer also to Section 3.1.5.
10	3.1.7 3.1.9 3.2 3.1.1(e)(vii)	12 13 14-15 8	Training User Role Definition and Implementation Deliverables Addresses User Interfaces and Accessibility	What is the end goal of Administrators, end-users etc. for the repository? Is THECB looking for maintenance after the project build? What type of accessibility requirements are needed? A1: Refer to Sections 3.1.7 and 3.1.9 A2: Refer to Section 3.2 Deliverables 7-9 and 12. A3: Refer to Section 3.1.1(e)(vii) regarding user interfaces and accessibility.
11	3.1.8	12	Integration Plan	What other systems should this system integrate with? Please provide examples. A: The system will be integrated with Azure AD B2C to allow single sign-on for external users.
12				Whether companies from Outside USA can apply for this? (like, from India or Canada) A: Provided the contractors are based in the United States, the company may be international.
13	4.2	16	Meetings and Communication Plan Between Meetings	Whether we need to come over there for meetings? A: Refer to Section 4.2.
14				Can we perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside USA? (like, from India or Canada)

				A: The contractors will need to be based in the United States and all work will need to be performed in the United States.
15	10.2	23	Organization of the Proposal for Submission	Can we submit the proposals via email? A: Yes. Refer to Section 10.2, p. 23.
16	3	4-5	Scope of Work, Project Context and Background, Overall Solution Description	Is the team at THECB considering use of ServiceNow's portal functionality to fulfill the requirements of the ERC-DDA project? If so, has the team at THECB seen demos of the Service Portal, Employee Center, or similar in the ServiceNow platform? If so, are you able to share thoughts regarding the solution and how it may or may not fit the requirements of THECB? A1: THECB is open to considering offers including such functionality if requirements of the ERC-DDA are fulfilled. See also answer(s) to Question 3 above. A2: The THECB team has not seen demos of the Service Portal, Employee Center, or similar in the ServiceNow platform. A3: See above.
17	3 3.1.9	4-5 13	Scope of Work, Project Context and Background, Overall Solution Description User Role Definition and Implementation	The RFO mentions a need for the solution to hold publicly shareable information. Does THECB intend to make this information publicly available by creating an account to log in, or will the information be shared publicly without requiring login information as well? A: While certain core content information is publicly shared online already, it is not readily searchable on many features requested by ERC researchers and stakeholders that are unique to the prospective and active ERC researcher use and technical context. Per the last paragraph on pages 4-5 of the RFO: "This solution will only hold publicly shareable information such as…." Per Section 3.1.9, the RFO currently envisions a minimum of three authenticated roles…." Thus, offers may be considered that have option(s) that will not require account login for certain THECB and ERC stakeholder designated content that may be determined.