

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Request for Offers (RFO) My Texas Future Development

RFO No. 781-3-28308

Questions and Answers December 22, 2022

1. The introduction states, “THECB will be launching My Texas Future (MTF) in the fall of 2022.” Can you please clarify, should this be Fall 2023?

RESPONSE: My Texas Future for working-age adults launched internally in late 2022, and will launch publicly in early 2023.

2. Will the current vendor be bidding on this project?

RESPONSE: Unknown.

3. How did the initial development go? Any lessons learned?

RESPONSE: This RFO is specifically for MTF 2.0. Accordingly, these questions are not relevant to the current solicitation. That being said, a concern for this phase of work is the integration with ApplyTexas. It will be crucial that the two teams (My Texas Future 2.0 and ApplyTexas) work closely together throughout development to identify risks and integration points.

4. What back-end technology stack is the portal built on (.NET, Java, PHP, etc.)?

RESPONSE: .Net.

5. The RFP mentions that the new vendor would fix bugs with the existing portal. Why would the vendor that built the portal not fix bugs?

RESPONSE: The original vendor’s contract ends with the launch and initial post-launch shakeout period.

6. Explain how the portal should integrate with ApplyTexas.

RESPONSE: Students will be able to explore careers and programs of interest to them and then seamlessly move from that process into applying for those programs. Student data that THECB has will pre-populate the ApplyTexas application (with student permission, as needed), reducing the overall time spent applying to programs.

7. What vendor is building the ApplyTexas application?

RESPONSE: That award has not yet been announced.

8. What back-end technology stack is the ApplyTexas application running on?

RESPONSE: ApplyTexas will be rebuilt in the first half of 2023 as part of a separate contract. The specific stack is part of the bids from vendors, but the RFO has similar requirements in terms of Azure Cloud, Salesforce, and other THECB-preferred approaches.

9. Will you please extend the response deadline 2 weeks to allow vendors appropriate time to respond after questions are answered.

RESPONSE: No.

10. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.1, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 4, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: Collaborate as needed with the ApplyTexas vendor to ensure payment processing for ApplyTexas goes through Texas.gov, which achieves Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliance;

With the planned integration of ApplyTexas into MTF, are payment methods expected to be stored within MTF?

RESPONSE: No, see section 3.1 on payment methods and PCI compliance.

11. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.1, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 4, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: At such time as THECB determines it is appropriate, transition the ADVi chatbot platform into the THECB Salesforce instance;

Can THECB clarify what is meant by “transition the ADVi chatbot...”? Is THECB planning to remove ADVi from the platform and replace the current product with a Salesforce chatbot solution, or is the intent to more closely integrate ADVi into Salesforce?

RESPONSE: The intent is to more closely integrate ADVi, which may involve migrating it to Salesforce. Specifics are to be determined as part of the project.

12. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 5, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: Design and publish a common data standard for the creation and storage of Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP)

Does THECB currently have a standard ICAP structure that the selected vendor will be able to utilize? What is the ICAP relationship to MapMyGrad?

RESPONSE: THECB does not have an existing ICAP standard, but will collaborate with TEA using best practices from other states (<https://bit.ly/3c0mnEu>) to develop one. MapMyGrad is a tool for understanding pathways and credit policies, as opposed to an ICAP, which is a personalized document that helps students plan.

13. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 5, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: The data standard and THECB storage of ICAPs will allow for portability across districts and the usage of data in other places such as college applications.

Can THECB clarify what is meant by “portability across districts”?

RESPONSE: If a student moves districts, that student should be able to take their ICAP with them.

14. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 5, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: The data standard and THECB storage of ICAPs will allow for portability across districts and the usage of data in other places such as college applications.

Can THECB elaborate on the intended use of ICAPs for students and/or THECB? Are ICAPs unique to a given student or chosen from a standardized set of options? Do ICAPs contain identifiable data connected to individual student records?

RESPONSE: ICAPs are unique for students and contain student data. For more information, please visit the website on ICAPs included in the RFO: <https://bit.ly/3c0mnEu>.

15. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 6, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: Integrate the Texas OnCourse MapMyGrad product that allows students to understand the Texas high school endorsement process and select potential endorsements based on their skills and interests;

What is meant by “integrate”? Is this more of a content/functionality migration into MTF, or is the intention for the selected vendor to redesign and rebuild MapMyGrad functionality into the existing MTF design system / site structure?

RESPONSE: The goal is to allow MTF users to benefit from MapMyGrad content/expertise as part of the MTF user journey.

16. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 6, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: Design and build a user experience for students to create and modify their own ICAP on MTF;

What is the relationship between the plan generated by the MapMyGrad application and the ICAP students would generate through MTF? How are ICAPs used by students today? Can a student have more than one ICAP?

RESPONSE: The ICAP will be more comprehensive than the output of today's MapMyGrad. Texas does not currently utilize a statewide ICAP.

17. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 6, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: Ensure the THECB data submission portal supports the ability for institution of higher education data submitters to upload, check, and certify Recommended Course Sequence (RCS) files.

An "additional or separate UX for RCS submission workflow to the data submission portal" is mentioned. Outside of the THECB data warehouse, are there any other applications/services this portal would need to connect to?

RESPONSE: Enhancements to the data submission portal to support RCS collection will involve agency data factory pipelines, Azure functions, and Azure databases. We are not planning on the portal connecting to external applications or services.

18. RFO SECTION NUMBER - 3.2.2, RFO PAGE NUMBER - 7, TEXT OF PASSAGE BEING QUESTIONED: Complete development of ApplyTexas integration by July 31, 2023.

Beyond the ApplyTexas integration, are there specific deadlines the potential awardee should be aware of for the other features mentioned in the RFO?

RESPONSE: All the deadlines are included in the RFO.

General Questions:

19. Are offshore staff accepted?

RESPONSE: Yes.

20. Is Deloitte, as the awarded vendor for RFO No. 781-2-25867, conflicted out from bidding this RFO based on their inside knowledge of their My Texas Future project?

RESPONSE: No.

21. Did Deloitte complete the product they were awarded in April 2022, and was the full scope delivered?

RESPONSE: This RFO is specifically for MTF 2.0. Accordingly, this question is not relevant to the current solicitation.

22. On the last procurement it took more than 4 1/2 months to award - what is different that helps you believe you can award and start in 3 months?

RESPONSE: The fierce urgency of delivering for students and helping them build a successful future.

23. Can we get an extension of the due date - from Jan 2 to Jan 12 or the later of Jan 12th and 10 business days after the Q&A comes back? With all of the holidays that is a very tough date to deliver a credible proposal response.

RESPONSE: No.

24. What is the expected duration of the "implementation"? What is driving the October 2023 finish date? And how many years of maintenance are included in the contract?

RESPONSE: All timelines are included in the RFO. Items outside of those timelines are not part of this RFO.

Section 1 (Introduction), Page 2. THECB: The Awarded Respondent will also ensure that the My Texas Future extension integrates seamlessly with the new version of ApplyTexas that is currently under development.

25. Does the My Texas Future extension require using the same application architecture and platform as Deloitte proposed for My Texas Future or would THECB accept a completely different architecture as long as it "integrates seamlessly with the new version of ApplyTexas?"

RESPONSE: As long as it integrates seamlessly it could be a new architecture, but given that the integration needs to live on My Texas Future, it's unclear how it could use a different technology stack than My Texas Future itself.

26. Since the awarded vendor is expected to support the existing My Texas Future architecture, please publish architecture and design details of the current My Texas Future application so we know the skills required to maintain and develop enhancements to integrate with current My Texas Future portal. For example: is the current platform Java? C#/.Net? Salesforce? SQL Server database? Oracle database? Is JavaScript used? If yes, what JavaScript library is utilized?

RESPONSE: My Texas Future is a Progressive Web App built using .Net as a framework, React as a JS library, Salesforce as a CRM, headless WordPress as a CMS, Azure AD B2C for IAM, and SQL Server and Cosmos DB for datastore. Additional Azure components are used for DNS, WAF, and API management.

Pg. 14 of RFO - Section 10.2 Organization of the Proposal for Submission - "Proposals must be submitted to the Point of Contact by an authorized representative via email to eBids@highered.texas.gov and received by THECB prior to the deadline. The subject line of the email shall be entitled "Proposal Submitted for RFO No. 781-3-28308, My Texas Future Development." THECB recommends a limit of 75 MB for each attachment."

27. Can your email system really accept 75MB times 3 in attachments? If the answer is no - can we send 3 emails with subject including 1 of 3, 2 of 3, and 3 of 3 with one file attached to each email?

RESPONSE: THECB is not aware of any limits imposed by Microsoft Outlook.

Pg. 1 of RFO - Introduction - Section 1 - "THECB is interested in potential vendor responses on cost to maintain the live production version of MTF, including necessary patching and bug fixes--":

28. Can THECB provide the number, severity, and age of known existing bugs AND a list of backlog items with as much description as possible?

RESPONSE: THECB does not anticipate a significant number of existing bugs and backlog items (besides those mentioned in the RFO).

Section 3.2.2, Page 7 of RFO. "Complete development of ApplyTexas integration by July 31, 2023."

29. What is the current vendor's schedule to complete the new version of ApplyTexas? This question is based on Section 1, page 2 that states "Awarded Respondent will also ensure that the MTF extension integrates seamlessly with the new version of ApplyTexas that is currently under development."

RESPONSE: The timelines are aligned, though require close collaboration.

30. Has the current vendor developed a REST service? Or what interface has been developed to allow external applications to integrate with the ApplyTexas solution?

RESPONSE: Development of the new ApplyTexas will occur in parallel and with close consultation on integration points.

Section 1, page 2 of RFO - "Awarded Respondent will design (consistent with MTF and THECB standards and patterns) and build an engaging user-focused extension of MTF for K12 and transfer students."

31. Please provide the current standards and patterns used by the current vendor for ongoing MTF maintenance and new features.

RESPONSE: Design patterns will be provided to the selected vendor.

General

32. Can offshore resources be leveraged for this work?

RESPONSE: Yes.

33. Are there data residency requirements?

RESPONSE: Data will be stored in the THECB's Azure Cloud.

34. Will the existing vendor give the new vendor the required knowledge transfer to take over and maintain?

RESPONSE: Yes.

35. What worked well in Phase 1 and what did not in terms of engagement?

RESPONSE: Stakeholders appreciate regular updates and the ability to weigh-in on key questions in a timely manner.

36. Given the complexity of the requirements, the close turnaround of question responses, will THECB consider granting an extension of 2 weeks?

RESPONSE: No.

Section 6. Contract Term & Termination

37. Per Section 6 Contract Terms & Termination, the contract term shall terminate at the end of 4 years beginning start of engagement. Are you looking for a pricing for 4 years?

RESPONSE: Pricing should reflect the requirements of the RFO, including maintenance, both internal and external.

Section 3.1 Technical Requirements

Section 3.1 - Work with THECB to follow a process for engineering that involves regular updates and feedback from a small number of THECB staff.

38. Please indicate what THECB staff resources will be attached to this engagement and what their planned involvement will be?

RESPONSE: THECB will assign a Product Manager (50% time), an Executive Sponsor (25% time), and an IT Partner (25% time). Additional staff will be involved as necessary based on their expertise and role.

Section 3.2 Deliverables & Service Requirements

Section 3.2.1 Existing Portal Maintenance

39. Please provide the application architecture, integration architecture and details of full-technology stack with their versions.

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 26.

40. Please provide the list of software and tools that require updates. What is the expected frequency of updates?

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 26 for a list of software. Updates will be necessary based on tools and libraries in use.

41. Please provide the list of all applications/products & related technologies that existing portal interacts with (upstream/downstream)?

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 26.

42. Please provide a list of functionality, screens and integrations that were developed in Phase 1. We'd like to also request for a demo of the existing portal. This is required to estimate effort required to maintain and expand it. Else please provide the level of effort you have estimated for existing portal maintenance.

RESPONSE: External APIs are integrated from O*Net, Career One Stop, and Roadtrip Nation. THECB estimates that the existing portal maintenance should require 1 FTE engineer/QA and 0.5 FTE product manager.

43. What is the current process and tool being used for prioritizing, deploying, and communicating bug fixes?

RESPONSE: Azure DevOps.

44. What are the support hour requirements? (e.g., weekdays 8 AM to 6 PM)

RESPONSE: No specific requirements - THECB is interested in vendor proposals on responsiveness.

45. What is the current Active Directory forest functional level in the environment?

RESPONSE: THECB's IAM solution is built on Azure AD B2C. User profile and role are maintained in that.

46. What are you using for directory synchronization today?

RESPONSE: Azure AD B2C.

47. Is federated identity currently deployed? (Active Directory Federation Service or third-party) If you're using federated identity, what is the federation infrastructure?

RESPONSE: Azure AD B2C allows for federated identity.

48. If applicable, what form of authentication/authorization have you configured for MTF?

RESPONSE: Users are authenticated for storing data.

49. Do you use single sign-on? Do you leverage a Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)?

RESPONSE: Yes, via Azure AD B2C.

50. What are security challenges you are facing, or concerned about?

RESPONSE: No current challenges.

51. Is the portal TxRAMP certified?

RESPONSE: All development must be completed in compliance with TX-RAMP and other DIR requirements as listed in the RFO.

Section 3.2.1 Existing Portal Maintenance: Add to and maintain a backlog of potential new features focused on adult learners and work with THECB on the prioritization of these features alongside new feature development outlined in 3.2.2;

52. Do you already have a backlog of new features required for adult learners. If yes, please provide for estimation purposes.

RESPONSE: The new feature backlog can be found in the RFO.

Section 3.2.1 Existing Portal Maintenance: At such time as THECB determines is appropriate, transition the ADVi chatbot platform into the THECB Salesforce instance;

53. What technology is used for THECB's Virtual Advising chatbot? Is it Azure Bot service?

RESPONSE: ADVi was built by, and is currently hosted by, Mainstay.

54. What is driving the change to Salesforce instance?

RESPONSE: Salesforce is the preferred CRM provider of THECB and THECB sees efficiency in moving the chatbot to Salesforce.

Section 3.2.1 Existing Portal Maintenance: Maintain 99.9% MTF site uptime; and

55. How long has the site been running, and what is the current site-up time?

RESPONSE: The site has launched internally and will launch publicly in early 2023.

Section 3.2.1 Existing Portal Maintenance: Maintain and improve Azure data pipeline by developing and calling API (Application Programming Interface) services; and

56. How many pipelines exist today? What are they built in? Are they ADF orchestrating SQL stored procedures or SQL statements?

RESPONSE: There are four to five ADF pipelines. Some tasks execute SQL and some execute stored procedures, functions, and APIs.

57. For each pipeline, please provide the following information:

- a. What is the technical stack – i.e., ADF calling stored procedures? Azure functions? Logic Apps? Etc.

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 56.

- b. What is the application (business) functionality facilitated by these pipelines?

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 56.

- c. What kind of data transformation is processed through the pipeline? What is the extent of transformations that occur in the pipeline?

RESPONSE: Details will be shared during the discovery phase.

d. What are the targets of the pipeline?

RESPONSE: Data lake, SQL databases.

e. How often do these pipelines run? What is the trigger mechanism?

RESPONSE: Details will be shared during the discovery phase.

Section 3.2.1 Existing Portal Maintenance: Manage and integrate databases with calculated metrics, customer relationship management software, and other existing state tools/artifacts.

58. CRM - Please confirm THECB uses Salesforce CRM.

RESPONSE: Confirmed.

59. What is the data platform associated with the CRM software

RESPONSE: The CRM is built on a Salesforce platform using Salesforce native services.

60. What are the functional requirements that are driving integration to CRM and other data bases?

RESPONSE: See the RFO for more details.

61. For each database that needs to be managed, please provide the following information:

a. What is the platform and version?

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 26.

b. What is the purpose of the database?

RESPONSE: See the RFO for more details.

c. How many transactions are processed and what is the current uptime?

RESPONSE: The Platform has not launched yet.

d. Categorize them as Tier 1, Tier 2 (Tier 1 meaning business critical, and following tiers lower the criticality of the database platform)

RESPONSE: See the RFO for more details.

62. What do you mean by “integrate” the databases? Is there data across multiple databases that need to be consolidated into a single canonical model? Or do you mean integrating the various database with the front-end portal?

RESPONSE: Where there are tools (such as Map My Grad) that currently live outside of My Texas Future, THECB is interested in incorporating them into MTF.

63. How many calculated metrics that exist today? How many are expected to be built in this phase (related to the scope of this RFP)?

RESPONSE: Metrics and Key Performance Indicators to be determined with the selected vendor.

64. Can the metrics be categorized? If yes, what would be the categories of metrics?

RESPONSE: Metrics and Key Performance Indicators are to be determined with the selected vendor.

65. Who defines the metrics and the calculation rules? If the vendor is expected to assist with the metric definition, please let us know the number and size of workgroups we need to work with to get these metrics defined?

RESPONSE: Metrics and Key Performance Indicators are to be determined with the selected vendor, in collaboration with a small team from THECB.

66. What is the purpose of these metrics and how will they be used by the application?

RESPONSE: Metrics and Key Performance Indicators will be used for measuring success of the project and impact on targeted populations, among other uses.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion

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67. To estimate the effort required for New Feature development, please provide the product backlog/features that you’d like implemented prior to go-live.

RESPONSE: See the RFO for more details.

68. Is developing a credential engine a part of scope of new feature development?

RESPONSE: No, THECB will utilize work underway with Credential Engine.

69. Would THECB be open to an agile approach allowing for prioritization and launch of MVP?

RESPONSE: Yes, Agile development is a requirement.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: My Texas Future will be expanded to be even more useful to its existing users and create value for a new set of users. The integration of ApplyTexas (being developed under a separate solicitation) into a seamless user experience within MTF will allow learners of all ages to more efficiently access and graduate from a post-secondary program. In addition, new development will make MTF valuable and engaging to students still attending K12 schools and those seeking to transfer.

70. Have personas been created as part the previous phase?

RESPONSE: Yes, though additional personas are likely needed for incremental audiences.

71. Please define seamless user experience. For example, is there a requirement to create a personalized experience across devices?

RESPONSE: THECB is interested in applicant's definition of seamless user experience. Compatibility across devices is a requirement.

72. How are you currently collecting data on each user?

RESPONSE: THECB uses Salesforce as a CRM and has Google Analytics.

73. Will campaigns be part of engaging with students?

RESPONSE: Yes.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Research existing tools for K12 and transfer student college exploration and planning (such as Big Future, Niche, Cappex, and more) and provide recommendations for how MTF can add unique value to Texas students, potentially leveraging Tri-Agency data from THECB, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC);

74. Has any primary or secondary research been completed as part of Phase 1, if yes can you please share? How will this research be applied to the requirements for this phase?

RESPONSE: All research that has been completed will be shared with the selected vendor.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Engage with THECB Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative Partners (TEA and TWC) and internal and external stakeholders (higher education institutions, employers, college access organizations, etc.) to refine product requirements, engagements strategies, and develop key performance indicators in consultation with THECB;

75. What is your current strategy and process to engage TEA and TWC.

RESPONSE: THECB has regular calls and checkpoints with TEA, TWC, and relevant stakeholders.

76. What is the current makeup of the workforce initiative? Please provide an organizational chart that shows how THECB, TEA, TWC are working together.

RESPONSE: More information on the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative can be found here: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/agency/tri-agency>. Organizational charts for THECB, TEA, and TWC are available on their websites.

77. What functionality related to this initiative has already been developed in Phase 1?

RESPONSE: Career exploration and alignment to programs is a part of the work underway. There is a lot of opportunity to go deeper and to expand the reach to more training programs and a broader set of occupations.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Design and publish a common data standard for the creation and storage of Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP) (More information on ICAPs can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3c0mnEu>.);

78. Is a Customer Data Platform in scope for this phase?

RESPONSE: THECB is interested in vendor responses that best meet the requirements and deliver excellent value to the state.

79. What is schema defined in phase 1 that is used by the portal to capture the ICAP of each individual?

RESPONSE: Defining the schema will be a crucial part of this work.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Leverage User Experience (UX) research and iterative design and prototyping to maximize user adoption and success;

80. Is THECB already working with another firm for UX research? If yes, what is their scope of work?

RESPONSE: THECB has completed work with an outside UX research firm across a number of populations.

81. For Phase 1, are there existing metrics to share?

RESPONSE: All metrics will be shared with selected vendor.

82. For Phase 2, has UX research already been facilitated? If so, for which groups?

RESPONSE: Yes, for high school students and adult learners.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Complete/acquire necessary visual design elements, including iconography, imagery, and video as necessary to enhance the user journey;

83. Was a style guide, brand templates created for Phase 1?

RESPONSE: Yes.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Where applicable, collaborate with other design experts contracted by THECB or the Texas Higher Education Foundation working on parallel projects;

84. Are design experts from external agencies, or internal teams?

RESPONSE: Both.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Build a mechanism to ingest, store, and distribute ICAPs to trusted College and Career Planning vendors as they support counselors in creating ICAPs for students. (The data standard and THECB storage of ICAPs will allow for portability across districts and the usage of data in other places such as college applications.);

85. Can this be an OOTB solution which would create the customer data platform and i/o across your existing technology stack?

RESPONSE: Conceivably, yes.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Integrate the Texas OnCourse MapMyGrad product that allows students to understand the Texas high school endorsement process and select potential endorsements based on their skills and interests;

86. What's the current technology stack / platform for Texas OnCourse MapMyGrad product?

RESPONSE: MapMyGrad is built in React and hosted in the Azure Cloud.

87. Are there APIs in place currently to expose relevant data sets?

RESPONSE: Yes.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Design and build a user experience for students to create and modify their own ICAP on MTF;

88. Do you currently have a CMS (Content Management Solution) and Forms?

RESPONSE: Yes.

89. Do you have current metrics on where students drop off in completing the process?

RESPONSE: Yes.

90. What is your content operations procedure? How frequently do you expect website content to get updated? Who is responsible for the updates?

RESPONSE: It varies based on the product and user group. Some products have content updated by internal groups in a CMS, others have hard-coded content updated by vendors or internal technology teams. The website content will be evaluated on an annual basis and ad hoc changes will be made as state and federal educational requirements evolve.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Build an engaging and seamless connection between MTF and ApplyTexas so that user data and exploration from MTF can jumpstart applications to schools and save users' time;

91. What platform/technology is in use for ApplyTexas?

RESPONSE: See the response to question number 8.

92. Are there APIs in place currently to expose relevant data sets?

RESPONSE: Yes.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Ensure the THECB data submission portal supports the ability for institution of higher education data submitters to upload, check, and certify Recommended Course Sequence (RCS) files. Ensures the RCS data is supported within the agency Azure cloud infrastructure for use by the MTF application. This includes, but is not limited to, the following items:

93. Is there a standard format used by institutions to submit RCS data? If yes, can you please provide the file schema, along with required rules for submission

RESPONSE: Yes, there is a standard format used by institutions. The template and examples can be found here: SB 25 Recommended Course Sequence Reporting Template: <https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/blank-forms-templates/sb25-recommended-course-sequence-reporting-template/>, SB 25 Recommended Course Sequence Reporting Template: Bachelor Example: <https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/blank-forms-templates/sb25-recommended-course-sequence-reporting-template-bachelor-example/>, and Recommended Course Sequence: <https://www.highered.texas.gov/our-work/supporting-our-institutions/institutional-resources/recommended-course-sequence/>.

94. How many different types of RCS files exist?

RESPONSE: There is one RCS file template.

95. How does THECB relate RCS data with ICAP data today?

RESPONSE: There is no relationship at this time.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Create asynchronous support articles to support student usage;

96. How is support currently handled?

RESPONSE: Via asynchronous support.

Section 3.2.2 New Feature Development and User Expansion: Complete development of ApplyTexas integration by July 31, 2023.

97. What platform/technology is in use for ApplyTexas? Will the integration be to the existing technology or with new ApplyTexas solution that is referenced in the RFO?

RESPONSE: ApplyTexas is being developed as a new platform under a separate procurement process. The technology stack will be determined with the selected vendor in line with the RFO. Close focus will be put on integration with My Texas Future.

98. In addition, given the complexity of the requirements and the close turnaround of question responses, will THECB be willing to extend the due date by a week?

RESPONSE: No.