



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

April 2, 2015

Dear Vendor:

This letter is to announce the release of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Request for Information (RFI) number JFSR1617148077 for the purpose of obtaining information on effective, secure, and innovative methods and/or technologies currently available. ODJFS is considering whether such technologies or methods would improve its efforts to identify ineligible persons claiming benefits from the public programs it administers by cross-matching its data with public records from incarceration facilities throughout the nation. ODJFS has the responsibility of confirming the eligibility of applicants for, and recipients of, multiple public assistance program benefits in Ohio, including Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) benefits. Having reliable, secure, cost-effective, and efficient access to a variety of public records is essential in those efforts. Accordingly, ODJFS is releasing this RFI to organizations and/or companies that offer any products, methods, and services for the State's consideration in its process of determining whether an investment in an automated method for cross-matching incarceration records may be warranted.

If your organization is interested in submitting a proposal for this important project, please obtain the RFI through the ODJFS web site at <http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/rfp/>. In the event of any problems accessing this document or opening the above referenced ODJFS URL, please contact the RFP/RLB Unit at (614) 728-5693.

Responses must be prepared and submitted in strict accordance with the requirements and time frames given in the RFI. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Jay Easterling
Deputy Director
Contracts and Acquisitions

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

Request for Information Number JFSR1617148077

Incarceration Cross Match Exchange

Section I – General Information

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) releases this Request for Information (RFI) for the purpose of obtaining information on effective, secure, and innovative methods and/or technologies currently available to identify ineligible persons claiming benefits from the public programs it administers by cross-matching its data with public records from incarceration facilities throughout the nation. ODJFS has the responsibility of confirming the eligibility of applicants for, and recipients of, multiple public assistance program benefits in Ohio, including Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) benefits. Having reliable, secure, cost-effective, and efficient access to a variety of public records is essential in those efforts. Accordingly, ODJFS is releasing this RFI to organizations and/or companies that offer any products, methods, and services for the State's consideration in its process of determining whether an investment in an automated method for cross-matching incarceration records may be warranted.

ODJFS would like to review and consider available options for an automated system for cross-matching claimants applying for or receiving benefits and individuals incarcerated in public and private facilities in its process of determining whether an investment in such technology may be warranted. In addition to learning about cross-matching methods, approaches, and technologies available for researching and collecting data and detecting incarcerated ineligible claimants, ODJFS also seeks specific information on costs associated with the use of such methods, and pricing structures used by firms that can provide those improvements to government agencies.

Suggestions and comments from firms, individuals, or organizations (referred to collectively in this RFI as 'vendors') that offer products or services for public records research, specifically related to the project as described in Section III of this RFI are invited. The objective of this RFI is to gather feedback from vendors that provide technology-based background checks regarding the best approaches, technologies, architectures, and products to meet ODJFS specifications. ODJFS would then consider those comments for the possibility of making cost-effective improvements to its current processes for program eligibility determinations.

If there are alternatives which fall outside of the parameters listed, but could achieve the stated goals of the project, ODJFS would be interested in those as well. ODJFS recognizes the depth of knowledge and experience present in the vendor community and understands that it could provide valuable information that would help in the State's assessment of its current processes for verifying

applicant eligibility, and to decide upon the nature and extent of any revisions to its current methods and policies. This RFI is an effort to draw on that expertise.

If ODJFS learns of the existence and availability of multiple cost-effective methods and technologies for enhancing its ability to detect ineligible incarcerated program applicants or recipients, and decides to acquire such services and/or products, a formal competitive procurement will be developed and released in order to identify the vendor most capable of fulfilling the State's specific needs at the most reasonable cost. In that event, the competitive opportunity would be open to any vendor that meets the requirements that would be defined in that procurement, and participation in this RFI process would NOT be a requirement. Also, whether any vendor decides to respond to this RFI will neither increase nor decrease that vendor's chances of being awarded a contract from any competitive solicitation, if any is subsequently made.

However, if ODJFS determines that inadequate competition among vendors offering such technology, methods, and/or services currently exists to warrant an open competitive opportunity, but a single solution is identified, ODJFS may decide to negotiate a contract with the vendor offering that solution.

IMPORTANT: Vendors are NOT to include ANY trade secret information because the contents of their response to this RFI will be considered public information and will be made available upon request. Responses to this RFI are to contain general descriptions of methods, technological solutions, or services that would serve the State's needs; ODJFS seeks nothing as detailed as the sort of information that might be considered proprietary in nature!

RFI Clarification Process – Questions and Answers

Interested parties may ask clarifying questions regarding this RFI, using the following Internet process:

- * Access the ODJFS Web Page at <http://jfs.ohio.gov//>
- * Select "Doing Business with ODJFS" from the bottom of the page;
- * Select "RFP's" from the left side column;
- * Select RFP Number JFSR1617148077 from the list of competitive opportunities;
- * Follow the link to the dedicated web page;
- * Select "Submit Inquiry" near the bottom of the web page;
- * Follow instructions there for submitting questions; or, to view posted questions and answers,
- * Select "View Q and A" near the bottom of the web page.

In submitting a question, please provide the contact person's name, the organization's name, email address, and business phone number. ODJFS will not respond to questions submitted after 8:00 a.m. on the date the Q&A period closes (as identified in the following section).

Questions will be answered only if they are submitted using this process, and are received before the close of the Q&A period. All ODJFS answers will be posted for reference by all interested parties;

answers will be posted on the Internet website dedicated to this RFI and may be accessed by following the instructions provided above.

Questions will only be answered within this forum.

In the event of any technical difficulties with this Q&A process, vendors may seek assistance by contacting the ODJFS, Office of Contracts and Acquisitions, RFP/RLB Unit at PH: (614) 728-5693. This number is provided exclusively to assist with technical difficulties accessing the Q&A process; no content questions will be accepted.

Anticipated Timetable

DATE	EVENT/ACTIVITY
Thursday, April 2, 2015	ODJFS releases the RFI to the Vendor Community on the internet: Q&A period opens -RFI becomes active -Interested Parties may submit inquiries.
Monday, April 20, 2015	Q&A period closes; 8 a.m. (for inquiries for RFI clarification) -No further inquiries will be accepted -ODJFS will provide answers to the inquiries as they come in that will make up the Final Q&A Document
Friday, April 24, 2015	ODJFS posts "Q&A Document"
Thursday, May 7, 2015	Deadline for Interested Parties to submit responses to ODJFS (3 p.m.)
TBD	Interested Party interviews (potentially; only at ODJFS discretion)

Section II – Background

The ODJFS Office of Unemployment Compensation, Bureau of Integrity Assurance (BIA), seeks vendor responses to this RFI as part of its mission to aggressively protect the integrity of the Ohio Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. BIA is also responsible for promoting and maintaining the integrity of the Unemployment Compensation program through the prevention, early detection, investigation, enforcement, and recovery of improper U.I. benefit payments. With the exception of a

small population of claimants, individuals currently incarcerated are not available for work and therefore are ineligible to qualify for U.I. benefits. The Benefit Payment Control (BPC) Section seeks information on technology, services, and methods that could provide this functionality so that Ohio Job Insurance (OJI), the State of Ohio's U.I. benefits system of record, will automatically raise issues for investigation of individuals attempting to file for unemployment benefits while incarcerated.

Section III – Outline of ODJFS Needs, Specifications, and Assumptions

The purpose of this RFI is to gather information on the range of vendor solutions that could interface with OJI to send and receive information on potential matches between the population currently incarcerated and the current recipients of U.I. benefits. ODJFS is particularly interested in any potential solutions in which:

- the vendor would be responsible for the architecture and design of the solution;
- the solution would capture and store incarceration data;
- the vendor would be responsible for the infrastructure and design of the transmission;
- the vendor would be responsible for the security of the data file;
- the UI application data will be housed within OJI;
- the vendor would be responsible for supporting both a bulk and real-time interface for data retrieval;
- the vendor would provide all real-time interface transmission directly;
- state staff would have the ability to access incarceration data in real-time to verify eligibility after the project goes live;
- the incarceration data from the broadest possible range of incarceration facilities is accessed; and,
- the cross-match data would be thorough, high-quality, and current so that ODJFS eligibility determinations are soundly based.

ODJFS assumes that the following data elements would be used to perform a search on national, state, county, local, and private facility records on all incarcerated individuals and their institution status:

- Secure searches would be performed on identifying information, such as:
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Social Security Number
 - Driver's License and/or State I.D.

- When matches are found, ODJFS would securely receive information such as:
 - Inmate Number
 - Booking Date and Release or Scheduled Release Date
 - Current Incarceration Status – Incarcerated, released, transferred, etc.
 - Release Reason

- Facility address and current contact information
- Race (Desirable)
- Gender (Desirable)
- A confidence level in required data fields

The quality of the cross-match data that could be accessed through vendors' suggested methods, technologies, and services are at least as important to ODJFS as are any technological requirements, functionality issues, and system characteristics. ODJFS would consider only suggestions that, if implemented, would generate valid and valuable match information. Vendor responses to this RFI are to address at least the two data characteristics of (1) the range of the incarceration facilities (both number and type) that could be included and, (2) the degree to which the data can be relied upon as current and accurate.

Vendors that respond to this RFI are encouraged to identify any additional public records not noted in this RFI which may be relevant, and for which they could suggest access methods or technologies. A single service, technology, method or product that would provide the greatest possible access to any needed records is preferred, but vendors may include information on a variety of approaches to fill the ODJFS needs for researching public records for eligibility-related information. If vendors could suggest alternatives beyond the parameters given in this RFI, but could achieve the general goals behind the release of this RFI, ODJFS would be interested in those as well.

Section IV - Content and Format of Response

General Response Guidelines:

- Responses should be limited to 10 pages in length, including any charts, graphs or information display tools.
- Responses should briefly describe the vendor's organization, including its products and services and its industries and customers.
- Responses should briefly describe how its suggested approach to meeting Ohio's needs for an incarceration cross-match exchange would be better for Ohio than another possible solution.
- Responses should briefly describe the product or services it could provide or develop in order to meet the ODJFS needs referenced in Section III, and provide a description of the proposed approach to meeting the State's need for such a data cross-match exchange.
- Responses should provide an estimate of the implementation or start-up timeline for the proposed product/service for any new customers.
- If the suggested solution or approach is technology-based, responses are to describe any technological requirements, contingencies, and prerequisites for ODJFS for the solution's implementation.

- Responses should describe the relationship with any sub-contractors, including the services or products they would provide, the duration of the relationship, and a summary of past projects completed together.
- Responses should describe any training that would be necessary for ODJFS staff, detailing the likely length, mode, and location of the training.
- Responses should provide an all-inclusive cost estimate. It should contain all costs associated with the proposed implementation plan and any other costs necessary to effect a successful implementation and ongoing operation for the project. The estimate is to present discrete prices of various components of the work to allow for analysis by ODJFS.

Responses to this RFI are to be submitted electronically (in a secure .PDF document format) to the following e-mail address: [ODJFS Procurement Inquiries@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:ODJFS_Procurement_Inquiries@jfs.ohio.gov).

Thank you for your efforts to provide ODJFS with your suggestions, comments and relevant information to assist with this project.