Support Partner for Service Design & Delivery Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

Scope of Work

Can you explain more who are the capability building providers and what role will they play?

We do not have a specific set of capability building providers that we expect that ecosystem to work with moving forward. Rather we are seeking to find a community of practice backbone that can work collaboratively with our ecosystem partners to identify priority capabilities and identify and vet capability partners to support the ecosystem. Examples of past capability building partners include: University of Southern California's Race & Equity Center, Harvard's Strategic Data Partnership, and West:Ed.

How many do you anticipate? Will the backbone be responsible for recruiting these partners or is that happening through a different process?

The capability building providers provide the training skills (technical assistance) to the network members (Intermediaries for Scale, Solution Network Intermediaries, Pathways and Capacities providers) through the shared capability building activities and opportunities.

The backbone is responsible for recruiting, coordinating, and managing the contracts of these providers.

What could be risks, or issues or concerns that I should flag in my proposal?

We are looking for how your organization assess risks, identifies any risks, issues, or concerns in carrying out this work and how you might mitigate them.

What do you anticipate will be the greatest challenges for the backbone entity (beyond ramping up and building relationships) in terms of actually doing the scope of work?

Our strategy is fluid. While we are in the process now of reflecting on the lessons we have learned and adjusting for our future work, we anticipate that this learning process will be continuous. Said another way, we are seeking a partner who is comfortable with ambiguity and is willing to make adjustments, as needed.

How can one indicate one's interest in partnering with others to respond to the RFP? The role is a big one and it seems like a partnered approach to respond to this role may be a good approach?

Our Steering Committee will consider this question and provide us guidance on the answer. Please circle back.

Qualifications

Will I be disqualified and or weighed less if I do not have prior BMGF experience?

No. Please see list of qualifications in the RFP Scope of Work.

10/29/2021

Do I have to be an Equity First Organization to apply?

No. We are looking for applicants that can demonstrate racial and socioeconomic equity expertise within the context of U.S. higher education landscape. Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as evidenced by representative leadership, project staffing, and other organizational leadership (i.e., board or an advisory group)

How should organizations proceed if they are a legitimate business entity, yet do not have a Board?

Entities do not have to have a board in order to apply. Board or advisory group is just an example of other organizational leadership, if applicable to the entity. We are looking for the entity to demonstrate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion as evidenced by representative leadership and project staffing.

As an individual applicant, would we be able to hire our partners/staff?

Yes, individuals or organizations applying are responsible for hiring their own partners/staff to support the scoped work.

Budget

Is the budget per year or total?

Total. Provide a 26-month budget for your services; the overall budget for the backbone's professional support should not exceed ~**$1.0 million.** If your staffing budget must exceed $1.0 million, please provide a rationale in your application.

Assessment Criteria and Selection Process

Where can I access the assessment criteria?

The "Assessment Criteria" section of the RFP Scope of Work provides additional context how applicants will be assessed. By **December 1, 2021**, details of the rubrics will be shared on the Support Partner for SD&D RFP.

Will all applicants be interviewed?

No. Only applicants that move on from the review stage to the finalist interview stage. We anticipate that 3-5 applicants will move to this stage, though may change depending on the strengthen of the applicant pool.

Will you be providing any compensation to those organizations that make it to the interview stage (to advance an equitable process)?

Our Steering Committee will consider this question and provide us guidance on the answer. Please circle back.

Learn More

Will you still be accepting questions in November after the RFP is released?

We will be hosting three office hours to provide information and answer questions about this opportunity and the selection process.

- **Register Here** to participate in:
    - o Office Hours 1: November 18, 2021
    - o Office Hours 2: December 8, 2021
    - o Office Hours 3: January 6, 2022

10/29/2021