



Multi-State Data Collaborative

Request for Information

September 19, 2025

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Introduction

The Multistate Data Collaborative (MSDC) issues this Request for Information (RFI) to obtain information and solicit interest in developing data tools and products that benefit states using state administrative records. The RFI prioritizes projects that use data housed in the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF) hosted by the Coleridge Initiative. However, projects may include MSDC member states who do not share data through the ADRF as partners or collaborators. Successful respondents will demonstrate their commitment and ability to successfully partner with one or more MSDC states and pursue funding to support their proposed initiative.

Background

The [Multistate Data Collaborative](#) is peer network of member state agencies established to develop scalable new mechanisms for states and agencies to work together and create actionable information through timely products of immediate value. The MSDC's mission is to develop scalable, innovative mechanisms for states and their agencies to work together to create actionable information and timely products of immediate value. The MSDC will support:

- State-led or state-partnered projects with participation at local, regional, and national levels,
- Useful innovative products designed with common priorities, data protections, state autonomy, and streamlined data access procedures,
- Shared training to build capacity and develop communities of practice,
- Continued collaboration through a shared governance framework, and
- Exploration of data products in new domains.

This RFI serves that mission by soliciting partnerships with applied policy researchers and technical experts to extend member states' capacity to develop innovative data tools and products to address shared priority policy and program issues.

MSDC states are specifically seeking partner entities to develop innovative solutions around the following priority topics:

- a. Credentials of Value***
- b. High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs***
- c. Emerging Technologies, Industries and Occupations***
- d. Recidivism/Reentry***
- e. Post-secondary Outcomes***
- f. K-12 Education**

- g. Unemployment Insurance Access/Unemployment to Reemployment
- h. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- i. Subgroup Access and Outcomes
- j. Migrant and Refugee Populations

*The agenda topics in bold received the highest number of votes in an interest survey of MSDC members conducted in July-August 2025.

The National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) serves as the MSDC Administering Organization and will coordinate the RFI process on behalf of the MSDC.

The Coleridge Initiative serves as the MSDC Platform Organization for data sharing. The Coleridge Initiative provides a secure remote access environment, the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF), which has been authorized to host local, state, and federal administrative records. The ADRF's security protocols (user identity, password complexity and expiration, etc.) follow strict FedRAMP guidelines and the 'five-safes' best practice. All user access activity is logged and monitored. The ADRF has provided secure access to over 300 confidential government datasets from 50 different agencies at all levels of government.

MSDC states have developed exploratory projects into collaborative data products that are informing practice among state, local, and regional leaders. Respondents to this RFI can see examples of projects developed through the MSDC on the [Projects and Products section](#) of the MSDC website.

Participating States and Agencies

All RFI respondents must partner with at least one MSDC state/agency in their project. While all MSDC member states and agencies are eligible to participate in the RFI process, the following states/agencies **affirmed** their interest in participating in projects focusing on the following topics:

New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education	Credentials of Value; High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs; Multi-State Post-Secondary Outcomes
South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce	UI Access/Unemployment to Reemployment; Multi-State Post-Secondary Outcomes; K-12 Education; Recidivism/Reentry; Emerging Technologies/Industries/Occupations; Credentials of Value; High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs
DC Office of Education Through Employment Pathways	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Alabama Department of Workforce	Recidivism/Reentry; High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs; Credentials of Value; UI Access/Unemployment to Reemployment; Multi-State Post-Secondary Outcomes; K-12 Education; Emerging Technologies/Industries/Occupations
Kentucky/ the Kentucky Center for Statistics	Multi-State Post-Secondary Outcomes; Recidivism/Reentry; Credentials of Value; High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs

The following states/agencies expressed **potential** interest in participating in projects focusing on the following topics:

Missouri Department of Corrections	Recidivism/Reentry; K-12 Education
New Jersey Department of Labor	Recidivism/Reentry; Emerging Technologies/Industries/Occupations; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
New Jersey State Data System	Recidivism/Reentry; Credentials of Value; High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs; Emerging Technologies/Industries/Occupations
Virginia Department of Education	K-12 Education; Credentials of Value; Subgroup Access and Outcomes

The RFI is not limited to the above states and topics. A virtual “Meet-Up” will be held on **Thursday, October 23rd** from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET for interested project teams to pitch their ideas to states and identify potential partners with data and capacity to partner on projects.

The registration link for the event is:

<https://naswa.zoom.us/meeting/register/PbsEgakbSv62e79iBrhocQ>

Please contact to datcollabs@naswa.org to express interest in pitching an idea at the virtual meet-up.

RFI Components

1. Priorities and Projects of Interest

The MSDC is seeking entities who are interested in conducting analytic projects and developing data products and tools that use state administrative records. The RFI prioritizes projects that leverage data housed in the ADRF, but also encourages projects designed to replicate or scale to states that currently do not have data in the ADRF.

MSDC states are specifically seeking partner entities to develop innovative solutions around the following priority topics:

- k. Credentials of Value***
- l. High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs/Quality Jobs***
- m. Emerging Technologies, Industries and Occupations***
- n. Recidivism/Reentry***
- o. Post-secondary Outcomes***
- p. K-12 Education
- q. Unemployment Insurance Access/Unemployment to Reemployment
- r. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- s. Subgroup Access and Outcomes
- t. Migrant and Refugee Populations

*The agenda topics in bold received the highest number of votes in an interest survey of MSDC members conducted in July-August 2025.

2. Eligibility

Organizations with expertise in conducting analysis with restricted administrative data and experience with public-sector data partnerships are encouraged to respond to this RFI. Organizations may include, but are not limited to, postsecondary institutions (including research centers), and non-profit organizations with data and research capabilities. Eligible respondents must provide evidence of partnership with at least one MSDC state/agency that commits to sharing data with the project team through the ADRF (Lead Partner). Respondents may provide evidence of engagement with additional MSDC states/agencies as relevant to the proposed project(s). Additional partner states are encouraged, but not required, to provide data access via the ADRF (i.e. projects that are replicated across data platforms are allowable).

3. RFI Response Schedule

September 25, 2025	RFI Published
September 25, 2025	Informational Webinar
October 10, 2025	Deadline for Receipt of RFI Questions
October 20, 2025	Responses to RFI Questions Posted
October 23, 2025	Researcher/State Agency Meet-up
November 21, 2025	Deadline for RFI Responses

4. Requested Information

Respondents should use the template in Appendix B of this document to complete their submission. Detailed instructions are in Appendix A. Requested information is listed in the section below.

- 1) Title of Proposed Project
- 2) Project Team and Collaborators
 - a) Project team contact information:
 - i) Name
 - ii) Project Role
 - iii) E-mail
 - iv) Phone
 - v) Position/Title
 - vi) Department
 - vii) Institution
 - viii) Office Mailing Address
 - b) Collaborating government agencies: Identify collaborating MSDC state agencies and other partners and provide name and contact information for the lead MSDC partner agency.
- 3) Brief Description of Project (no more than two pages)
 - a) Describe objectives and expected outcomes of the project.
 - b) Describe how the project will address one or more MSDC priorities or topics of interest.
 - c) Identify (at a high level) the proposed data sets that will be used for project completion.
 - d) Describe the expected impact of the proposed project(s).
 - i) How will the project affect policy or programs?
 - ii) Who are the target audiences for the project?
 - iii) Can the project be scaled to other states/agencies?
- 4) Funding Strategy and Evidence of Prior Success (no more than two pages)
 - a) Describe the plan to fund the proposed project.
 - i) Include: estimated budget; funding source(s); timeline to secure funding; conditions to ensure successful funding.
 - ii) Project proposal needs to identify funding for a data access fee to pay to the Platform Organization and cover user set-up, data storage, computing capacity, and operational support. Moreover, add-on services are available for data ingestion for third-party public use data, export review, incremental shared project storage and compute hours, and software tools. The schedule for these fees is available upon request.
 - iii) Project proposal needs to identify funding for a flat administrative fee (\$3,000) to pay to the Administering Organization and cover consulting with prospective partners to determine project feasibility, managing the application review/approval process, and maintaining external partnership documentation.
 - b) Provide evidence of success in securing funding at similar levels for similar projects.

- 5) Project Team Experience and Capacity (no more than two pages)
 - a) Describe, in detail, the project team's experience in the creation of data tools and/or products using administrative records.
 - i) If the Respondent does not have experience in the creation of data tools and/or products using state administrative records, describe Respondent's experience in the conduct of similar projects and how that experience is relevant to the MSDC.
 - b) Describe respondents experience working with restricted-access data in remote environments or virtual data enclaves.
 - i) Please note if the respondent has specific experience working in the ADRF.
 - c) Attach a CV of each senior member of the project team.

5. Proposal Description and Process

Participation in this RFI process is voluntary. All costs incurred in responding to, or in participating in, this RFI will be the responsibility of the vendors or other third-party organizations participating in the RFI, and not that of NASWA or the MSDC.

6. Confidentiality

Any document submitted in response to this RFI that contains confidential information must be marked by a watermark on the appropriate pages as "Confidential." The confidential information must be clearly identifiable to the reader as confidential. All other information will not be treated as confidential. Note all confidential information is for NASWA and the MSDC's use evaluating proposals in response to this RFI.

7. Instruction and Response Guidelines

Responses to this RFI shall adhere to the page limits specified and must be in narrative form and provide details on vendor product capabilities. Responses must be viewable with Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat and printable on 8.5" x 11" paper, must use 12-point font, and follow the template in Appendix B of this document.

Responses must be received electronically by 5:00 p.m. **Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, November 21, 2025.**

Responses will be submitted through the online **RFI Submission Form**:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/174e73f0d1ed44b2b0c25f3e666cdf73>

Please ensure that the submittal is in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Telephone calls regarding this RFI will not be accepted. Questions may be submitted by email to NASWA at datacollabs@naswa.org up to **5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, October 10, 2025.**

Appendix A: Instructions for Respondents

Proposal Description and Process

Participation in this RFI process is voluntary. All costs incurred in responding to, or in participating in, this RFI will be the responsibility of the vendors or other third-party organizations participating in the RFI, and not that of NASWA or the MSDC.

Confidentiality

Any document submitted in response to this RFI that contains confidential information must be marked by a watermark on the appropriate pages as "Confidential." The confidential information must be clearly identifiable to the reader as confidential. All other information will not be treated as confidential. Note all confidential information is for NASWA and the MSDC's use evaluating proposals in response to this RFI.

Instruction and Response Guidelines

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<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/174e73f0d1ed44b2b0c25f3e666cdf73>

Please ensure that the submittal is in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Telephone calls regarding this RFI will not be accepted. Questions may be submitted by email to NASWA at datacollabs@naswa.org up to **5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Friday, October 10, 2025.**

Response Narrative

Respondents are required to follow the template in in Appendix B of this RFI.

- 1) Title of Proposed Project *Provide a brief, descriptive title of the project.*
- 2) Project Team and Collaborators *Provide the requested information for each of the senior project team members (Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators, and Key Staff).*
 - a) Project team contact information:
 - i) Name
 - ii) Project Role
 - iii) E-mail
 - iv) Phone
 - v) Position/Title
 - vi) Department

- vii) Institution
 - viii) Office Mailing Address
 - b) Collaborating government agencies: Identify one or more collaborating MSDC state agencies and other partners and provide name and contact information for the lead MSDC partner agency. *Successful respondents will demonstrate a partnership with one or more MSDC member states/agencies. Preference will be given to state agencies that have an existing agreement with the Coleridge Initiative to host administrative data in the ADRF.*
- 3) Brief Description of Project (no more than two pages): *The project summary provides a high-level overview of the proposed project. It should state the objective, expected outcomes, and expected impact of the project in short, active sentences. It should clearly describe the project's alignment with the MSDC priorities. Respondents should identify at a high level the data that will be used for the project and describe the anticipated linkages among data sets.*
- a) Describe objectives and expected outcomes of the project.
 - b) Describe how the project will address one or more MSDC priorities or topics of interest.
 - c) Identify (at a high level) the proposed data sets that will be used for project completion.
 - d) Describe the expected impact of the proposed project(s).
 - i) How will the project affect policy or programs?
 - ii) Who are the target audiences for the project?
 - iii) Can the project be scaled to other states/agencies?
- 4) Funding Strategy and Evidence of Prior Success (no more than two pages): *Respondents should provide a clear estimate of the funding required to complete the project, including data access fees and MSDC administrative fees, as well as a strategy for pursuing funding for the project. Successful respondents will provide evidence of securing funding for projects of similar size and scope in the past.*
- a) Describe the plan to fund the proposed project.
 - i) Include: estimated budget; funding source(s); timeline to secure funding; conditions to ensure successful funding.
 - ii) Project proposal needs to identify funding for a data access fee to pay to the Platform Organization and cover user set-up, data storage, computing capacity, and operational support. Moreover, add-on services are available for data ingestion for third-party public use data, export review, incremental shared project storage and compute hours, and software tools. The schedule for these fees is available upon request.

- iii) Project proposal needs to identify funding for a flat administrative fee (\$3,000) to pay to the Administering Organization and cover consulting with prospective partners to determine project feasibility, managing the application review/approval process, and maintaining external partnership documentation.
 - b) Provide evidence of success in securing funding at similar levels for similar projects.
- 5) Project Team Experience and Capacity (no more than two pages) *The MSDC is seeking teams of experienced researchers, analysts, and technologists who have a proven track record of creating data tools and products using administrative data. Respondents should clearly describe their experience. Respondents may include links to publicly available data products in their response, if applicable. Respondents must describe their experience working with restricted access data in remote environments or virtual enclaves. Projects pursued through this RFI **must** be conducted in the Coleridge Initiative's Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF). Information about the ADRF is available on the Coleridge Initiative website:*
<https://coleridgeinitiative.org/administrative-data-research-facility>

Respondents must provide a CV for each senior member of the project team.

- a) Describe, in detail, the project team's experience in the creation of data tools and/or products using administrative records.
 - i) If the Respondent does not have experience in the creation of data tools and/or products using state administrative records, describe Respondent's experience in the conduct of similar projects and how that experience is relevant to the MSDC.
- b) Describe respondents experience working with restricted-access data in remote environments or virtual data enclaves.
 - i) Please note if the respondent has specific experience working in the ADRF.
- c) Attach a CV of each senior member of the project team.

Appendix B: MSDC RFI Response Template

1) Title of Project

2) Project Team and Collaborators:

Complete table(s) below for the organization(s) responding to this RFI.

Project team contact:	
Respondent Name	
Project Role	
Position/Title	
Department	
Institution	
Office Mailing Address	
Email	
Phone	

Project team contact:	
Respondent Name	
Project Role	
Position/Title	
Department	
Institution	
Office Mailing Address	
Email	
Phone	

Project team contact:	
Respondent Name	
Project Role	
Position/Title	
Department	

Institution	
Office Mailing Address	
Email	
Phone	

Project team contact:	
Respondent Name	
Project Role	
Position/Title	
Department	
Institution	
Office Mailing Address	
Email	
Phone	
Project team contact:	
Respondent Name/Organization	
Point of Contact Name	
Point of Contact Title	
Physical Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

3) Collaborating government agencies:

Identify one or more collaborating MSDC state agencies and provide name and contact information for the lead MSDC partner agency.

State agency contact:	
State Agency	
Point of Contact Name	
Point of Contact Title	
Physical Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

State agency contact:	
State Agency	
Point of Contact Name	
Point of Contact Title	
Physical Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

State agency contact:	
State Agency	
Point of Contact Name	
Point of Contact Title	
Physical Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

4) Brief Description of Project (no more than two pages)

5) Funding Strategy and Evidence of Prior Success (no more than two pages)

6) Project Team Experience and Capacity (no more than two pages)

7) Attachments (CVs of senior personnel)