Request for Information

September 30, 2026

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. 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.

Housed at the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), the MSDC is a state-driven, cross-sector network of state agencies and partner organizations working together to use administrative data to inform public policy and improve programs.

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 policy and program issues. Examples of past and current projects developed through the MSDC can be viewed on the Featured Work section of our website.

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. MSDC states are specifically seeking partner entities to develop innovative solutions around the following priority topics, which received the highest number of votes in 2026 interest surveys of MSDC members:

- Credentials of Value / High-Wage, High-Skill, High-Demand Jobs / Quality Jobs
- Emerging Industries, Occupations, and Technologies
- H.R. 1 Implementation
- Career Pathways

The following table summarizes responses from two surveys to states in Summer 2026. In each topic column, "D" indicates that a state has identified as a "doer" on a scale of "learner to doer" or expressed interest in collaborative projects/data projects, while "T" indicates that the topic was ranked #1 or #2 priority. The RFI is not limited to these states or topics.

State RFI Interest based on states' 2026 summer survey responses:

	Credentials of Value / High-Demand Jobs	Emerging Industries, Occupations & Technologies	H.R. 1	Career Pathways	K-12 Education	Post-secondary Education	Recidivism & Reentry	TANF/SNAP
CA						T		T
CO			T			T		
CT				T			T	
DC		T					T	
GA	D	D						
HI	D; T	T	T					
IA	D							
ID				T	T			
IL			T					T
KY	D		D		T	T		
LA				T		T		
MA					T	T		
MD	T			T				
MI	T							
MO	T	T	T	T			T	
MN	T	D	D; T	T	T			T
MT	D; T	D	T				T	
NE	T			T				
NJ	D; T	T	D; T		T	T		
NY	T	T		T				
OH	T	T	T					
OK		T		T				
RI	T							
SC	D; T	D; T	T			T		
TX		T		T				
TN	T						T	
VA			T	T				
WI	D	D; T	T					

Key:

- **D** = State identified as a "doer" or expressed interest in collaborative projects/data products for this topic area
- **T** = Top 1 or 2 topic identified in survey response

The RFI is not limited to the above states and topics. However, **all RFI respondents must partner with at least one MSDC state/agency in their project.**

A virtual "Office Hours" will be held on **Thursday, October 29** from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET for interested project teams to connect with interested 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/W3q2mJqRTOK4h7l2PRNCCg

Please contact datacollabs@naswa.org to express interest in pitching an idea at the virtual event.

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. Respondents may provide evidence of engagement with additional MSDC states/agencies as relevant to the proposed project.

3. Requested Information

Please structure your response to address all requested information outlined below, keeping within the specified page limits.

1) Title of Proposed Project
2) Project Team and Collaborators
    a) Project team contact information: name, project role, email, phone, position/title, department, institution, and 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 (max 2 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) Identify the technology platform(s)/data enclave where data will be shared.
e) Describe the expected impact of the proposed project.
    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 (max 2 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 data access fees and any other costs associated with the technology platform identified in 3(d). These may include costs related to user set-up, data storage, computing capacity, and operational support, data ingestion for third-party public use data, export review, incremental shared project storage and compute hours, and software tools.
        iii) Project proposal needs to identify funding for a flat administrative fee (10% of total budget; min. $3,000) paid to NASWA. This fee covers 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 (max 2 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 experience working with restricted-access data in virtual data enclaves.
    c) Attach a CV of each senior member of the project team.

4. 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.

5. 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 the MSDC's use evaluating proposals in response to this RFI.

6. 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, with 12-point font.

Reponses must be received electronically by EOD **Friday, December 11, 2026.**

Reponses will be submitted through the online **RFI Submission Form**: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/174e73f0d1ed44b2b0c25f3e666cdf73

Please ensure that the submission is in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Phone calls regarding this RFI will not be accepted. Questions may be submitted by email to NASWA at datacollabs@naswa.org by EOD **November 12, 2026**.

7. RFI Response Schedule

Date	Milestone
September 30, 2026	RFI published
September 30, 2026	Informational webinar
October 29, 2026	RFI Office Hours, 2:00-3:30 pm ET
November 5, 2026	Deadline for receipt of RFI questions
November 12, 2026	Responses to RFI questions posted
December 11, 2026	Deadline for RFI responses