

Request for Information

To: Vendors Interested in Responding to Request for Information (RFI) Number 4621 for the Mississippi Department of Employment Services (MDES)

From: David C. Johnson

Date: April 25, 2024

Subject: Request for Information

Contact Name: Khelli Reed

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The Mississippi Department of Employment Services (MDES) plans to procure an online military personnel recruiting platform that will connect veterans and military personnel to high paying career opportunities with defense manufacturers and other aligned employers.

Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) is releasing this RFI Number 4621 to seek Vendor interest and capabilities in providing an online military personnel recruiting platform to the State. Vendors are asked to provide a level of detail to each question that will assist the State in researching what kind of products and services are currently available.

1. RFI SUBMISSIONS INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.1. MDES is interested in receiving informational submissions from Vendors who can provide an online platform that will connect veterans and military personnel to career opportunities solution and services.
- 1.2. Vendors should explain their capabilities to provide and implement the solution at a level of detail to assist the State in determining what features are available in the market. See Attachment A for a scope of requirements. Vendors who cannot fulfill all requirements are still encouraged to provide a submission. Any and all additional information is welcomed.
- 1.3. Vendor submissions will be accepted at any time prior to Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Central Time to Khelli Reed at Khelli.Reed@its.ms.gov or at the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services, 3771 Eastwood Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39211. Submissions may be delivered by hand, via regular mail, overnight delivery, e-mail or by fax. Fax number is (601) 713-6380. Interested Parties may contact Khelli Reed to verify the receipt of their submission.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to identify solutions capable of providing a technology pilot to connect veterans and military personnel to high paying career opportunities with Defense Manufacturers and other aligned employers.

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ONLY. This RFI is issued solely for informational purposes – it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP), Invitation for Bid (IFB), Request for Qualification (RFQ) or a promise to issue an RFP, IFB, or RFQ in the future. This request for information does not commit MDES to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Further, MDES is not at this time seeking proposals, bids, or qualifications and will not accept unsolicited proposals, bids, or qualifications. Respondents are advised that MDES will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI; all costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, IFB, or RFQ, if any is issued. If a solicitation is released, it will be available on the ITS website (www.its.ms.gov). It is the responsibility of the potential offerors to monitor this site for additional information pertaining to this requirement.

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Khelli Reed at 601-432-8194 or by email at Khelli.Reed@its.ms.gov.

Attachment A: RFI No. 4621 Requirements

cc: ITS Project File Number 48291

Attachment A

RFI No. 4621 Requirements

Technology Pilot to Connect Veterans and Military Personnel to High Paying Career Opportunities with Defense Manufacturers and other Aligned Employers

Mississippi serves as permanent and temporary home to a large military population with significant training and base operations covering a significant geographic footprint. Concurrently, there are numerous quality Mississippi employers, especially those in Defense Manufacturing, with significant workforce shortages in technical skill areas aligned with individuals serving in various branches of armed forces. There exists a gap in how the state of Mississippi engages those service individuals wishing to transition to civilian life to better connect them with high paying, quality career opportunities and a gap in how the state helps those quality employers identify servicemen and women who have applicable experience and skills to their current needs.

MDES is looking for an online platform to provide an open/closed virtual ecosystem that allows access for veteran and military families to connect with a community of high-quality jobs. The online platform should also provide career assessments that help match career paths to skills and attitudes; connect veterans and military families to opportunities for scholarships, certifications, internships, and apprenticeships; provide direct access to virtual mentorship programs; provide virtual hiring events for veterans and military families.

MDES desires to identify and select a Vendor with specific expertise, experience, and suitable technology solutions to provide innovative and successful virtual and in-person recruitment solutions connecting servicemen and women to targeted employers in the defense manufacturing sector and aligned industries. This Vendor will be expected to provide a robust regional pilot program demonstrating the ability to successfully recruit and talent-match individuals over the course of twelve months to key Mississippi employers.

Successful applicant platforms will demonstrate evidence of technological and strategic solutions by connecting military personnel with employers through recruitment, talent-matching, and communication strategies. Vendors will demonstrate a budget and plan for how to pilot this activity over the course of twelve months in the state of Mississippi in targeted regions of the state. Vendors are requested to provide a map or define the region their online platform will cover. MDES has a \$400,000.00 budget for 12 months.

1. Online Platform Requirements

Please fully describe the capabilities of your proposed solution based upon the following system requirements:

1.1. Solution Overview:

1.1.1. Provide an overview of how your solution will allow military veterans access to job opportunities in Mississippi in the region stretching from the Gulf Coast to the Golden Triangle (see map below of Golden Triangle).

1.1.2. Describe how your solution will provide career assessments that help match career paths to skills.

- 1.1.3. Describe how your solution will connect veterans and military families to opportunities for scholarships, certifications, internships, and apprenticeships.
 - 1.1.4. Describe how your solution will provide direct access to virtual mentorship programs.
 - 1.1.5. Describe how your solution will provide virtual hiring events for veterans and military families.
- 1.2. Pricing and Licensing:
 - 1.2.1. Provide pricing details, including any subscription-based models, licensing options, and associated costs for your online platform solution.
 - 1.2.2. Outline any additional fees or charges related to ongoing support, maintenance, or future upgrades specific to the solution.
- 1.3. Vendor Qualifications:
 - 1.3.1. Provide evidence of technological and strategic solutions of connecting military personnel with employers through recruitment, talent-matching, and communication strategies
 - 1.3.2. Describe how you will budget and plan for how to pilot this activity over the course of 12 months in targeted regions of the State.
 - 1.3.3. Provide a map or define the large Defense Manufacturing Community region stretching from the Golden Triangle to the Gulf Coast with employer locations if possible.
 - 1.3.4. The State is potentially interested in re-using another public entity award of contract for same services. In order to consider another public entity award for re-use, the State has certain criteria that must be met, e.g. publicly advertised, awarded on cost, etc. If Vendor has been awarded a contract for the services provided herein, the Vendor is requested to provide information for re-use, including public entity name and contact information (name, title, e-mail address, and phone number).

Map of Golden Triangle

