

Request for Information



State of Alaska
Department of Health
Division of Public Health

Date Issued: 9/23/2024

DATA CATALOG FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ASSETS

Introduction:

The Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH) is seeking information from qualified vendors to develop a comprehensive data catalog solution for all public health data assets. The data catalog will provide a centralized, user-friendly platform for discovering, assessing, and understanding public health data.

Background Information:

The Division recognizes the critical importance of effective data management and governance in promoting public health and the well-being of all Alaskans. As part of ongoing efforts to modernize DPH's data infrastructure, a comprehensive Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) Assessment was completed in March 2022. While the assessment provided valuable insights into our health information systems, it did not capture the full extent of all DPH's data assets.

The Division is a multifaceted organization comprised of nine distinct sections, each representing different areas of public health. These sections encompass a wide range of data types, needs, and challenges, reflecting the complexity and scope of our Division's responsibilities. Within DPH the sections include:

- Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion
- Epidemiology
- Health Analytics and Vital Records
- Healthy & Equitable Communities
- Laboratories
- Public Health Nursing
- Rural and Community Health Systems
- State Medical Examiner's Office
- Women's, Children, & Family Health

Currently, DPH lacks a centralized data inventory, standardized data dictionaries, and metadata tagging/classification systems. This gap hinders data integration, collaboration, and knowledge sharing across sections, impeding our ability to harness the full potential of our data resources.

The diverse nature of our data assets presents a complex landscape of data management requirements necessitating a holistic approach to data governance and cataloging. Therefore, the Division is seeking a comprehensive and user-friendly solution that can accommodate the varied data requirements of each section, promote harmonization and standardization, and facilitate efficient data management, governance, and utilization.

Preferred Minimum Experience:

The Division is looking for vendors with:

- Demonstrated experience in delivering data catalog solutions, especially in the public health sector, with successful implementation and client satisfaction.
- Expertise in data inventorying, data discovery, metadata management, data health assessments, data governance, and integration with existing systems.
- Expertise with data privacy regulations such as HIPAA.
- Experience in working with diverse data sources and formats, including structured and unstructured data.
- Expertise in providing user training, documentation, and ongoing support services to ensure effective utilization and adoption of the data catalog platform by stakeholders.
- Proven ability to collaborate with cross-functional teams and stakeholders to gather requirements, define use cases, and deliver tailored data catalog solutions that meet the Division's needs and objectives.

Questions:

1. What is your approach to data inventorying, data discovery, metadata management, and data health assessments?
2. How do you ensure data integrity, security, and compliance with regulatory requirements?
3. What experience do you have in integrating with existing systems and providing scalable data catalog solutions?
4. Can you provide references from previous clients in the public health sector with similar project scopes?
5. What is your approach to training and wide-spread adoption of a new data catalog tool?
6. Can you demonstrate that your organization can complete implementation in an 12-month timeframe?

Response Information:

How to Participate:

Interested applicants/firms who believe they can provide the services described above should indicate their interest by submitting an electronic response with the following information:

1. Company name.
2. Contact information (email) for the individual(s) who should be notified if DPH releases a solicitation.
3. Provide a solution overview with estimated costs and timeline for this project.
4. A summary that clearly describes your company's capabilities and experience related to providing the services described in this RFI.
5. A summary that clearly describes how the applicant/firm meets or exceeds the preferred minimum experience above. (See Preferred Minimum Experience)
6. Provide narrative statements in response to the question/requested specifications listed above.(See Questions)
7. A summary of any concerns regarding the project as described, and what potential obstacles should be anticipated
8. Identify whether the vendor provides Administrative Services Organization (ASO) services for immediate procurement through the NASPO ValuePoint process: <https://www.naspovaluepoint.org/>

Interested vendors must submit their response in writing via email by **1:00 p.m. Alaska Time, on October 03, 2024**, to the following person:

Haley Wilkinson

Procurement Specialist
Department of Health
Division of Finance and Management Services

Phone: (907)759-3312

Email: haley.wilkinson@alaska.gov

Please also copy doh.procurement.proposals@alaska.gov on the submission.

Responses in Microsoft format are preferred, with attachments submitted in PDF, Microsoft Word, Adobe, Microsoft Excel, or PowerPoint files.

It is the interested party's responsibility to follow up with the person listed above to ensure your response was received prior to the time and date specified. Please ensure the response includes your company's name and contact information (email) for the individual(s) who should be notified if DOH releases a solicitation.

Important Notice:

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or purchase any goods or services. Nor will the State be financially responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of any response for the requested information. This RFI is issued for the sole purpose of obtaining information as described in this notice. However, the information obtained from this request may be used to prepare a purchase, contract, or solicitation in the future.