Request for Information 18-RFP-002-LAJ
Economic Security Report

Questions and Answers

The Department's responses to timely submitted questions are provided below:

Question Number	Page Number	Section	Question	Response
1.			Will the website have information similar to this link http://esm.beyondeducation.org/esm/florida/ ? I am trying to visualize the variables to be included in the website.	Yes
2.			My firms does data analysis and reporting on economic and self-sufficiency data. We may have to partner with a web developer to accurately respond to this RFP? Would this be OK? Can we also be the lead agency in the application?	See Page 11 of the RFP, Section B.30 - Contractor and Subcontractors.
3.	NA		Who is the current vendor and how long have they held the contract?	College Measures, LLC is the current vendor. Their contract began in March of 2014.
4.		B.36.1 Tab 2	Will past performance of a company previously owned by a principal owner be considered?	Only the performance of the company submitting the proposal will considered.
5.		B.40	Is there an evaluation preference for small, women owned businesses?	No However, DEO supports diversity in its procurement program and requests that all subcontracting opportunities afforded by this Contract embrace diversity enthusiastically. The award of subcontracts should reflect the full diversity of the citizens of the State of Florida. Prospective contractors can contact the Office of Supplier Diversity at 850-487-0915 for

				information on minority vendors who may be considered subcontracting opportunities.
6.	Page 24	Section C.2	How many discrete data sources will be needed?	Data comes from the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) and the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) both at the Department of Education. Labor market information is provided by the Office of Labor Market Statistics, at DEO.
7.	Page 24	Section C.2	Will the vendor be responsible for merging and normalizing data?	The vendor will be responsible for organizing the data, populating the website, and producing the required reports. See section B 36.1
8.	Page 24	Section C.2	Will data models be provided for the individual data sources as well as models that represent the relationships between the data sources? This would include hierarchical, relational, entity-relationship, entity-attribute models or diagrams. If no data models exist, will data models be required as part of the deliverables?	No models exists or will be required. They may be part of the vendor response in addressing B.36.1.
9.	Page 24	Section C.2	Will any data received by the vendor contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII)?	No PII will be exchanged. See C.19, Page 33 of the RFP.
10	Page 24	Section C.2	Will the vendor need an Authorization To Operate (ATO) in relation to using any of data? If yes, how will that authorization be provided?	No
11	Page 29	Section C.7	Will designs or queries for the current economic report and summary be shared with the vendor?	The report is posted at http://floridajobs.org/local-workforce-development-board-resources/program-monitoring-and-reports/economic-security-reports. Queries will not be shared.
12	Page 29	Section C.9	Will the website development team and DBA resources be required to work on-site at a DEO location?	No
13	Pg 24	C.2 a.b	Will these data references be the only source of data for the reporting requirements?	See Question 6

14	Pg 24	C.2 a.b	Is there any requirement for maintaining historical data that isn't available in the referenceable data mentioned in this sections?	Yes, see c.7, Page 29 and c.15(e), page 32 of the RFP.
15	Pg 25	C.4	What are the current usage measures for the online criteria based search functionality? How many users? Page views?	Usage varies. As an example, for the week of February 27, 2017, there were 71 users and 115 page views.
16	Pg 25	C.4	What is the current hosting environment?	The vendor hosts the site. See Deliverable 2, Page 28 of the RFP
17			Given the existing "Beyond Education" website http://www.beyondeducation.org/ how is the new website intended to be different in terms of features and/or information? Could you please draw a sharper contrast?	See B.36.1, Tab 3, page 14 of the RFP.
18			The "Beyond Education" website is linked directly to AIR's College Matters website. The College Matter website appears to have all of the functionality that is required by law and as expressed in the RFP. Assuming there are new features and/or data that will be added to the existing Beyond site, how will a different contractor's host website interact with the College Matter website?	See Deliverable 2, Page 28 of the RFP\n\nI believe you mean College Measures which is the current vendor for the ESR.
19			a. When will the data be available? Example, "All data needed to produce the ESR will be available X days prior to 12/1 (publishing due date)"\nb. How will this data be delivered?\nc. Is the contractor pulling the data or will the data be pushed to the contractor?	Data will be available in May of each year. The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.

20			a. What is the volume of data? b. What is the frequency of data updates? Yearly?	The volume will include outcome data for five years of graduates from the State University System, Florida College System and District Technical Centers. Numbers can vary each year. Data are updated annually.
21			a. Will the data need to be merged? Cleansed? Standardized?	See Question 7
22			a. How many users do you expect will visit the site? b. Do you have any benchmarks/google analytics reports showing number of visitors to your existing sites.	See Question 15
23			a. What are your branding guidelines?	Please see B.48 - Respondents submitting proposals to this solicitation must provide electronic and information technology resources in complete compliance with the accessibility standards provided in Rule 60-8.002, F.A.C. These standards establish a minimum level of accessibility. Also, please see Section 286.25, Florida Statutes.
24			a. Are there performance guidelines to be met? For example, the report should open/return results in X time (speed).	See Section C.10, page 30 of the RFP. Also see C.4.b, page 25 of the RFP.
25			a. Will users need the ability to download the ESR report? if so, what formats? PDF, Excel? Image?	Yes - PDF
26			a. Are there any data or report security requirements? Once a report is published can anyone see it?	See B.36.1, Tab 3 on page 15 of the RFP and B.18, Page 8 of the RFP.
27			a. Will there be a proof of concept stage?	See B.36.1, Tab 3 on page 15.

28			a. Who will manage technical support and/or issues between the contractors website and the redirects (landing website).	The vendor hosts the site. See Deliverable 2, Page 28 of the RFP
29			a. Will you require user "help" materials?	See B36.1, Tab 3 on page 15 of the RFP and B.18, Page 8 of the RFP.
30		B.32	a. Does all software needed to generate the final ESR data for the site need to be supplied? b. It is not clear what year the ESR is referring to in C.4 d. Is the year of the ESR to be a Sept to June or September, and, the data for that year to be posted as follows: the report is posted Dec 1 (as indicated in step 2 & 3), the summary is posted on March 15 (as indicated in steps 4 & 5), and the website reporting data posted on September 1 (as indicated in step 6)?	a. This solicitation seeks a report and a website and does not include software development. b. Data posted by December 1 of each year must include prior year completers (as of December of the prior year) and (1) year after graduation for a five-year period as well as five (5) years after graduation by number and percentage (outcomes the first year after graduation and five (5) years later).
31			a. For the FETPIP data, Integrated Postsecondary Education data, OSFA data, and optional DEO data - Where are the data layouts and metadata on the data that will be needed for the website? - What are the timelines to obtain these data and their updates, especially in light of the generation of the ESR Report, Summary and Data deadlines?	The selected vendor will need to work with the data suppliers to confirm metadata layouts. Data availability – See Question 19. Once the files are received, there shouldn't be any updates unless errors are found.
32	Page 36	Attachment B	What is the anticipated budget for this scope of work?	To be determined.
33	RFP p. 7, p.12		Redaction requirements listed on p. 7 of the RFP vary from those provided on p. 12. Please clarify how the department desires the submission of a redacted copy. Should it be submitted as a hard copy (on paper) with an electronic copy (on CD), or just an electronic copy (on CD) of the original?	Please provide (1) redacted hard copy and (1) redacted copy on CD.

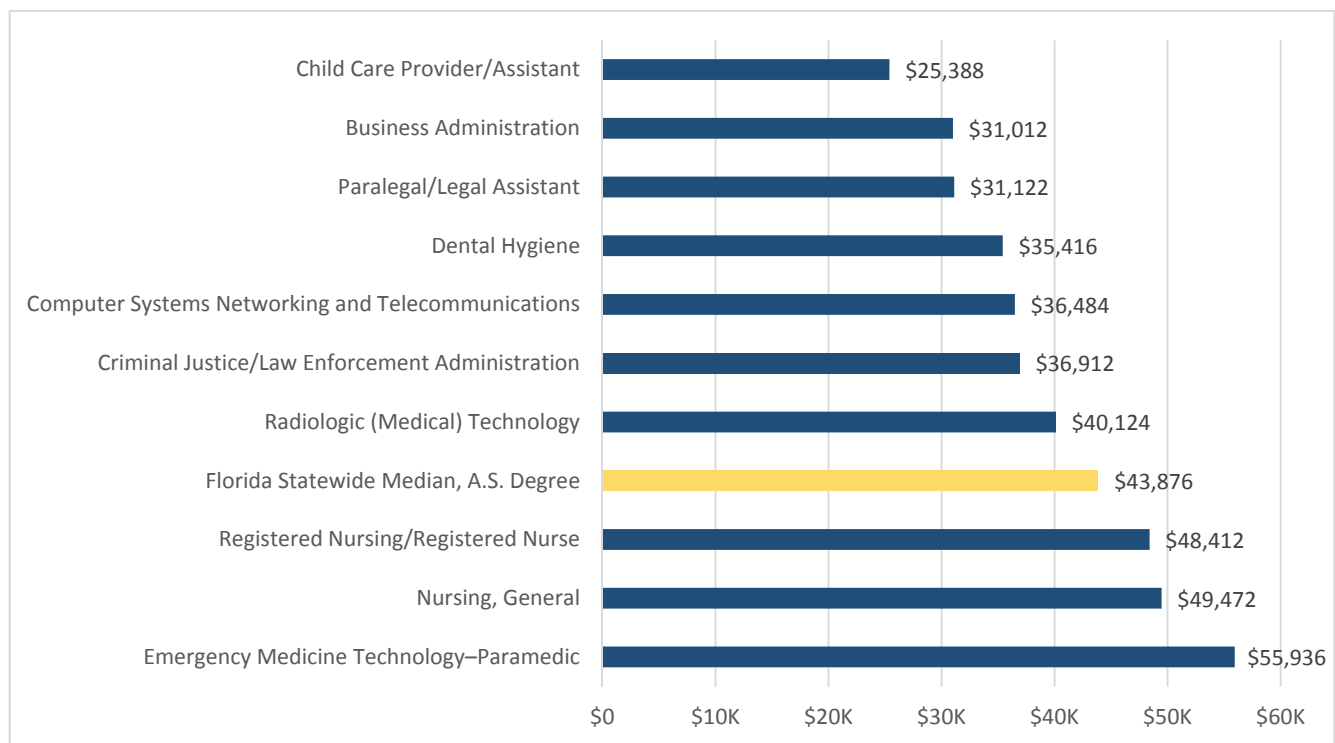|				
34	RFP p. 6		Page 6 of the RFP lists "Attachment H – Reference Questionnaire" as one of the required elements for submission, but Attachment H is a questionnaire filled out by vendor's client references. Is it expected that the vendor obtain client reference responses and furnish them to DEO, or will DEO seek these responses as a separate process? If the latter, should Attachment H be included in the vendor's proposal response or not?	Attachment H will be completed by DEO and is not a mandatory form to be returned by the Respondents with their respective proposals. An addendum will be posted to VBS addressing this.
35	General		Will the selected vendor have access to the source code that is used to power the http://esm.beyondeducation.org/esm/florida/ website currently?	No
36	General		Is the Department seeking a vendor to host the existing website with a look-and-feel update/refresh, or are they looking for a vendor to rewrite the site from fresh code?	See Deliverable 2 on Page 28 of the RFP.
37	General		How many distinct data connections currently exist to meet the existing reporting and web hosting requirements?	All the data necessary for the site and report are provided via FTP. There are no "data connections."
38	General		Is the current ESR Report creation process manual, automated or semi-automated?	The report is written based on analysis of the data and the data are hosted on the website.
39	General		Will the selected vendor have access to the software and/or database scripts used to generate or assist in generating the current ESR Report?	No
40	Pg 4	Sect. B,B.7	What is the expected budget range for this project?	To be determined.
41	Pg 24	Sect. C,C.3	Have you identified all the specific data tables that will be used for the project?	Yes
42	Pg 24	Sect.C,C.3	Is the data aggregated or does it include individual student data?	Aggregated
43	Pg 24	Sect. C, C.3	What is the total size of all the data being integrated, how many data tables does it include, and what is the total number of data elements (columns) in all the tables?	The selected vendor will need to work with the data suppliers to confirm table sizes and data elements.
44	Pg 25	Sect. C, C.4	Will there be any training requirements?	No

45	Pg 25	Sect. C, C.4	Are there any security requirements?	Yes, see C.13, C19 of the RFP. Also, additional security requirements will be spelled out in the contract.
46			Please provide detailed description of API that is needed to collect the source data for ESR	The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.
47			Is it possible to have test access to the API to improve the accuracy of the evaluation?	The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.
48			Is all the source data for ESR available through the API?	The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.
49			Is the portal http://esm.beyondeducation.org/esm/florida/default.aspx the prototype that implements ESR?	The URL is the current site for the ESR, not a prototype.
50			If the answer is "yes", then what does not meet the requirements for the functionality of this website?	The current site does meet the necessary functionality.
51			If the answer is "no", then please provide samples of the reporting forms that ESR should include, as well as a description of the ways of navigating and moving between the reports. Information about reports hierarchy also needed.	The above URL is part of the current system, not a prototype. Please see question 52.
52			Is it possible to get an example of an annual ESR report, as well as an example of a "two-page report summary to DEO"?	Please see the attached Example of the 2 page report summary
53			Are there any restrictions on ESR implementation technologies?	See B.36.1, Page 13 of the RFP.
54			Are there any preferences for choosing the technologies used?	There are no preferences on technologies used, however the report and website should be developed in a way to be accessible by most system/browsers, etc. The project plan should propose anticipated technologies. See C.4, page 25 of the RFP.

55			How is it planned to perform technical integration with the Florida Department of Education's FETPIP to obtain data on employment, earnings, continued education, and receipt of public assistance?	The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.
56			How is it planned to perform technical integration with Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System or its equivalent to obtain data for calculating the average student loan debt of a graduate of a degree or certificate program from a public postsecondary education institution?	The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.
57			How is it planned to perform technical integration with Florida Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) to obtain student loan data?	The data are shared via FTP. The contractor will pull the data from DOE.
58			How will the methodology for calculating and defining data be developed and agreed upon?	The methodologies are spelled out in the current ESR (Page 81) http://www.beyondeducation.org/temp/ER_Report.pdf
59			Is there a change in the methodology for calculating and defining data in the future?	No
60			How is it planned to perform technical integration with the DEO beyondeducation.org portal?	See Deliverable 2, Page 28 of the RFP.
61			What methods of compilation should be implemented in the report?	See B.36.1, Page 13 of the RFP.
62			We would also like to know more about the necessary sorting and grouping of the report.	See 445.07(2), F.S. for details on reporting and C.2 Page 24 of the RFP. Also, last year's report is on-line at http://beyondeducation.org/temp/ER_Report.pdf

Economic Security Report of Employment and Earnings Outcomes
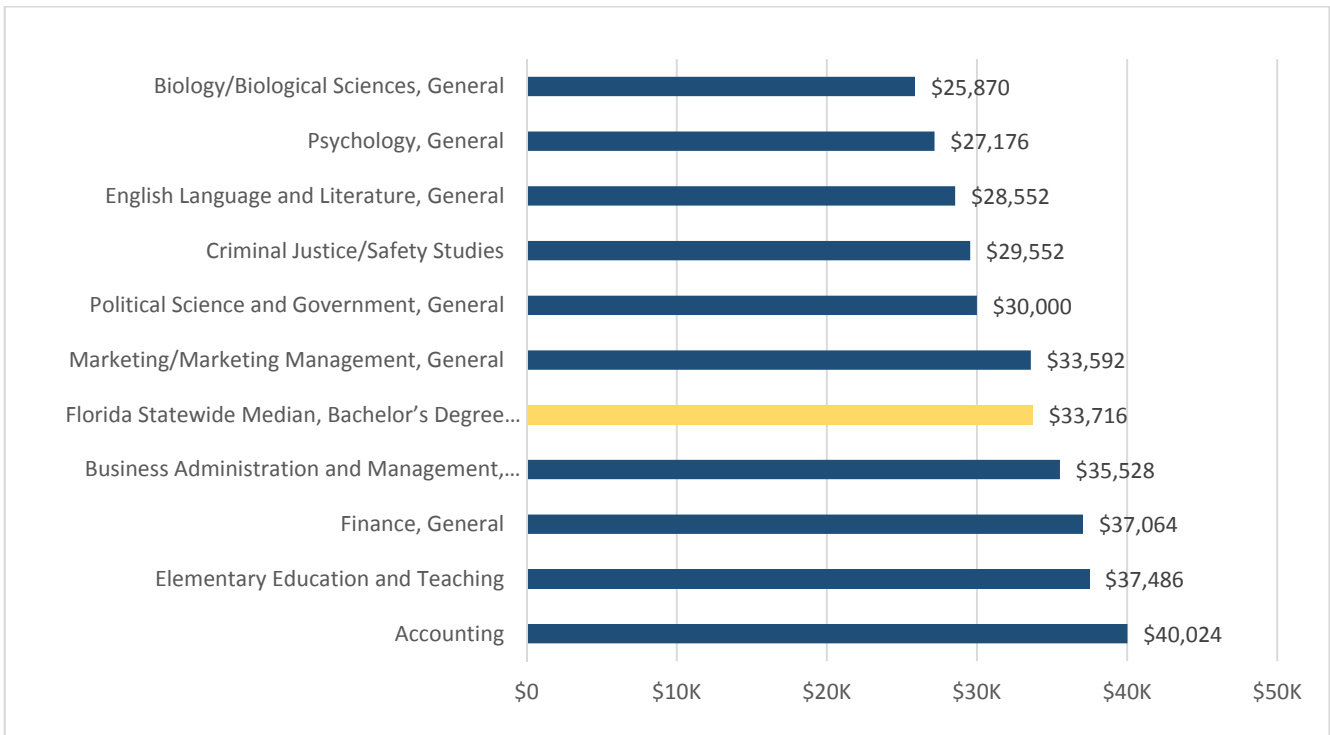# From Florida's Public Postsecondary Educational Institutions

Florida's Economic Security Report focuses on the median first-year earnings of recent graduates and completers[1] from Florida's public postsecondary educational institutions – State University System of Florida (SUS), Florida College System (FCS), and District Technical Centers (DTCs). The report documents the variation in first-year earnings among completers who earned degrees or certificates from these postsecondary institutions. Additionally, it presents data on the percentage of completers from various institutions who are receiving public assistance and the percentage enrolled in continuing education programs, as well as debt accumulated by all students, not just graduates. The results show that the types of postsecondary credentials completers earn and where they earn them, matter.

Increased levels of educational achievement provide a boost in earnings power – the more you learn, the more you earn. However, there is often wide variation in the average earnings of graduates with the same level credential depending on what they studied. The following chart shows some of the most popular fields of study of graduates with an Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree. The median first-year earnings of a graduate with an A.S. degree in Child Care Provider/Assistant were around $25,000. In contrast, a graduate with an A.S. degree in Nursing earned almost twice that amount, while a graduate who earned an A.S. degree in Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic earned more than $55,000.

This is also true for graduates with a bachelor's degree. The figure below shows the variation in the earnings of graduates in the most popular bachelor's degree programs in Florida. The range is from less than $30,000 per year (Biology, Psychology, English, and Criminal Justice) to more than $40,000 (Accounting). Elementary Education and Teaching and Finance graduates earn, on average, more than $37,000 the first year after graduation.

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[1] In this report, "graduates" is a specific term used to identify any person who has earned a degree (e.g., associate's, bachelor's, or master's). "Completers" is a more general term used to identify any person who has completed any level of postsecondary education (e.g., certificates, diplomas, bachelor's degrees, etc.).

As reflected in this summary, there are many factors to consider when exploring education and career choices. We encourage you to visit Beyond Education to review the full Economic Security Report and obtain valuable information for you to consider as you research the many postsecondary learning opportunities available to you in the State of Florida.