

# PPT Phase I and DPT RFS FAQ's

As of 5/15/23 9AM ET

Questions received since last update are shown in **Bold Text**

Document	Section	Question	Response
RFS	--	Who should the response be addressed to? NSF/NCSES or the ADC? Ben Patterson (bpatters@nsf.gov) is listed as the primary contact person.	The response may be addressed to NSF/NCSES.
RFS	--	What are the formatting requirements for submission (e.g., font style, font size, double/single spaced)?	There are not specific formatting requirements for submission. However, the page limit must be followed
Attachment 2	--	Is just a single cover page required for the entire proposal? Or do we need to create separate cover pages for each of the Technical and Cost Volumes?	There should be a cover page for each volume.
Attachment 2	--	Are the technical and cost volumes to be submitted in a single document? Or separately?	The Technical and Cost Volumes should be submitted as separate documents.
Attachment 2	--	Do table of contents and cover letter count towards the page limit? Or do these fall under the cover page allowance?	The cover page is excluded from the page limit. A table of contents is not required; however, if it is included it would not count towards the page limit.
PPT Phase 1 Attachment 1	--	What assumptions can we make about NSF/NCSES's current access to information about PPT projects? Are there any existing/ongoing data collection efforts?	NCSES's current access to information is minimal. Our knowledge is limited to conversations we have had with other agencies that we have contacts with. No coordinated effort to collect data on this topic has been undertaken.

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PPT Phase 1 Attachment 1	Bullet 5 under Phase 1	Is NSF/NCSES focusing on any specific industries or use cases for PPTs?	Use of PPT with government data and for evidence-building is important, with particular focus on uses for program and policy evaluation. Given that, any technologies, techniques, methodologies, etc. that would be applicable to use of government data and for evidence-building would be useful even if those technologies, etc. are not being applied to government data or evidence-building at this time.
Attachment 2	Volume II: Cost Proposal	Is the cost proposal format and preparation instructions provided on page 3 suggested, or required?	The information provided on page 3 is the minimum amount of detail that should be provided for each cost category. If your organization has a preferred format, that is acceptable as long as the required detail is included.
Attachment 2	Volume II: Cost Proposal	Is GSA OASIS LCAT required? Or are other labor categories permitted in the cost proposal?	There are no restrictions on the labor categories proposed.
Attachment 2	Volume II: Cost Proposal	Are LCATs, rates, and hours required for consultants or subcontractors that are not part of the offeror's organization? Or is a line-item with the associated fee sufficient?	At this time, a line item for the consultant/ subcontractor is sufficient. However, additional details may be requested during the CMF review.

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Attachment 2	Organizational Conflict of Interest Certificate	What is the PROJECT IDENTIFIER NUMBER listed under the RFS number on the OCI Certificate Page? Is this something that the offeror needs to fill out?	The Project Identifier Number will be provided after submission. It does not need to be filled out by the offeror at this time.
Attachment 2	--	Can we provide hyperlinks in the proposal body?	Hyperlinks are not permitted.
Attachment 2	Volume I: Technical Proposal	Are we permitted to include a references (appendix) page for the technical volume? If so, would this count against the 8-page limit?	References may be included in the Technical Volume and would count against the 8-page limit.
Attachment 2	Volume I: Technical Proposal	Is it acceptable to include additional sections in the Technical Proposal, beyond those listed as required in Attachment 2 (Exec Summary, SoW, etc.)? We'd like to include a Project Management Approach section.	The sections identified in the RFS must be included. You may include additional information; however, you must remain compliant with the 8-page limit.
Attachment 1	Subsection "Phase 1 – PPT Environment Scan"	<p>PWS reads " What projects and pilots are currently testing or implementing (or have previously been done) privacy-preserving technologies, including but not limited to secure multi-party computing (SMPC), synthetic data, differential privacy methodologies, homomorphic encryption and validation servers? "</p> <p>Question: Will the government confirm that we will need to gather project information related to PPT from different agencies? If so, approximately how many agencies? How long after the award notification, will the information be provided?</p>	The Government is interested in broadly gathering information related to PPT projects/pilots; there is no limitation on the source for that information, to include government agencies, private sector and international sources. Offerors should propose how they intend to conduct the environmental scan. The Government does not intend to direct which sources and how many sources to engage.
RFS	3.1.1.2 Teaming	Can a Business Analytics Center at a University that has not done NSF work support this as a non-traditional teammate if their parent University has done work with NSF within the past 3 years?	Yes

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Attachment 1	Subsection "Phase 1 – PPT Environment Scan"	<p>PWS reads " What do we know about how to evaluate whether a certain PPT is a good fit for a specific use case? What features of the data or users might indicate one PPT approach over another? "</p> <p>Question: How and when will we be provided access to the tools to evaluate?</p>	<p>Offerors should propose the tools they intend to evaluate and their plan for gaining access to the tools. This evaluation, however, is not dependent on access to the tools themselves. The evaluation is dependent on interviews with organizations testing these tools and gathering their understanding of use cases and the appropriateness of these tools for different use cases.</p>
Attachment 2	Volume II: Cost Proposal	<p><b>In the cost proposal, is it permissible for labor rates to include margin? Or do we need to separate out total profit/fee in its own line item?</b></p>	<p><b>The cost proposal format does include a separate line for profit/fee. This should be inclusive of the fee associated with all cost categories proposed.</b></p>