

Future Directions for Data Collection Frames and Novel Estimation Strategies

(DCF-25) FAQ

	Question	Answer
1	We understand that at least one use-case that informs the U.S. science and engineering workforce estimates should be included in the deliverables. Should all use-cases focus on the U.S. science and engineering workforce estimates, or is there interest in other kinds of use cases?	The RFS requests for at least one test case on the U.S. science and engineering workforce. However, as noted in the RFS, the methods should be applicable to other policy relevant topics of interest. It is up to the discretion of the offerors to include other groups that may inform the key objectives of the RFS.
2	Given that there is to be "at least one test case on the U.S. science and engineering workforce," will the awardee be granted access to the data NCSES has on that topic? Specifically, may the applicants assume that any NCSES survey and non-survey data be made available? If so, could we receive what datasets will be accessible?	Offerors should consider whether public data can meet the needs of their solution. They should determine the types of data and methods of access needed to meet the objectives of the study. The data acquisition and methods of access should be accounted for with timelines and milestones to meet the objectives. A listing of the NCSES restricted use data can be found here: NCSES Restricted Use Data Licensing NSF - National Science Foundation
3	Would a case study other than one focused on the U.S. science and engineering workforce be of interest for this RFS?	Please see the response to question #1.
4	Is a case study based on synthetic data acceptable?	It is unclear how synthetic data would meet the objectives of the RFS. The case study should meet the objectives of the RFS. As noted in the RFS, the use case should test the data collection frame creation with the U.S. science and engineering workforce. The frame creation can come from sources including but not limited to administrative, sensor, stream, and/or web-scraped data.
5	Numerous case studies will require access to secure data. Will the awardee be able to access these data? For example, will there be provisions for the awardee to be able to work within a secure data site and, if so, which one(s)?	Offerors should consider whether public data can meet the needs of their solution. They should determine the types of data and methods of access needed to meet the

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		objectives of the study. The data acquisition and methods of access should be accounted for with timelines and milestones to meet the objectives.
6	Is a state-level case study suitable or does it need to be at the national level?	The case study should meet the objectives of the RFS and be generalizable to the U.S. science and engineering workforce. As noted in the RFS, the use case should test the data collection frame creation with the U.S. science and engineering workforce.
7	Suppose an Institute within a university has not had any NSF funding in the past 3 years, but the University has. Does the Institute qualify as a non-traditional entity?	No, affiliation with an NSF-funded university disqualifies the institute from being considered a non-traditional entity.
8	Will there be any help in identifying the case study?	As noted in the RFS, the case study should test the data collection frame creation with the U.S. science and engineering workforce for key estimates such as following career pathways, science and engineering trends in education, and workforce credentials and training. This case study should demonstrate how an alternative data collection frame is created and how it is implemented for one population of interest. The bidder should propose a case study that meets these objectives.
9	The definition of a “non-traditional entity” means an entity (construed in its broadest sense to include qualified large and small businesses, universities, non-profits, philanthropic organizations, partnerships, joint ventures, and other entity forms) that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the three-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by NSF for the procurement or arrangement, under any NSF procurement contract or NSF instrument of financial assistance. Does this definition apply to work conducted as a subcontractor, for less than \$100,000 spread across a 5-year contract? That is, if an entity is a subcontractor performing work valued at less than \$100,000 across 5 years, does this entity remain “non-traditional”?	Yes, the definition applies if the five-year contract includes any period within the three-years preceding the solicitation, regardless of whether the entity participated as a subcontractor.
10	Can ADC provide any information on the allocated funding or anticipated level of effort for this opportunity?	There is not a target level of funding. We would look to the offerors to propose a cost that will meet the objectives stated in the RFS.

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11	Can offerors propose approaches that rely on, or are validated using, proprietary data?	Approaches that rely on proprietary data are acceptable as long as they meet the objectives of the study. The source code and documentation are key deliverables for this project.
12	Will bidders be allowed to use restricted use data from federal statistical agencies as part of this project? This question is with the understanding that the bidder will need to request access through the Standard Application Process portal, receive approval to use the data from the data owning agency, and will access the data through the agency-determined access modality.	Offerors should consider whether public data can meet the needs of their solution. They should determine the types of data and methods of access needed to meet the objectives of the study. The data acquisition and methods of access should be accounted for with timelines and milestones to meet the objectives.