



Call for Bids NOLA Instructional Quality Initiative Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Early-Phase Grant

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

New Schools for New Orleans

The ultimate purpose of New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) is to deliver on the promise of excellent public schools for every child in New Orleans. Since our inception in 2006, NSNO has supported the launch of 35 schools currently serving more than 12,000 students; provided support to the majority of our city's schools on curriculum and instruction, leadership, and school environment; and secured over \$170 million in national philanthropy and competitive federal grants to support schools and non-profits in New Orleans.

EIR Grant

NSNO is applying for a federal Education Innovation Research (EIR) Early-Phase Grant due on Tuesday, April 2nd for the NOLA Instructional Quality Initiative. As defined by the U.S. DOE, the overall purpose of the EIR Grant is create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and rigorously evaluate such innovations. The EIR program is designed to generate and validate solutions to persistent education challenges and to support the expansion of those solutions to serve substantially larger numbers of students. All EIR projects are expected to generate information regarding their effectiveness in order to inform EIR grantees' efforts to learn about and improve upon their efforts, and to help similar non-EIR efforts across the country benefit from EIR grantees' knowledge. Please see attached Notice of Invitation for Applications (NIA) for the EIR Grant for additional information.

NSNO is seeking a project evaluator to assist with the preparation of the project evaluation section of the EIR Grant proposal, including completing the attached performance metrics form. If this proposal is awarded, the evaluator will work with NSNO to analyze data to inform the overall success of the initiative.

NOLA Instructional Quality Initiative

The goals of the NOLA Instructional Quality Initiative are as follows:

- Goal 1: Increase student proficiency in math for K-12 students
- Goal 2: Increase student proficiency in ELA for K-12 students.
- Goal 3: Increase percentage of schools effectively implementing standards-aligned curriculum.

Please see the attached draft logic model for further information.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

REQUIREMENTS

If selected, the evaluator will work with NSNO pro bono to develop a first draft of the project evaluation section and provide feedback on the logic model for NSNO's EIR grant application by 5:00 pm CST on Monday, March 18, 2019. This will require a review of a logic model and the development of approximately 5 pages (double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman Font) of narrative to address the following criteria for the "Quality of the Project Evaluation" section of the proposal:

1. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will, if well-implemented, produce evidence about the project's effectiveness that would meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with or without reservations as described in the What Works Clearinghouse Handbook (as defined in the NIA).
2. The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing in other settings.
3. The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide valid and reliable performance data on relevant outcomes.
4. The extent to which the evaluation plan clearly articulates the key project components, mediators, and

outcomes, as well as a measurable threshold for acceptable implementation.

The selected evaluator will subsequently work with NSNO pro bono to produce a second and final draft of the project evaluation section of the EIR grant application by **Tuesday, March 26, 2019** for submission by **5:00 pm CST on Friday, March 29, 2019** (in advance of the official deadline of April 2, 2019, mentioned above).

If NSNO is awarded the EIR Grant by the U.S. DOE, the evaluator will be expected to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program design outlined in NSNO's logic model (attached in draft form). The selected evaluator will agree to collaborate with NSNO from the date of the grant award (expected to be October 1, 2019) to three years after the award.

The evaluator will be responsible for annually tracking outcomes for the following performance measures for the U.S. DOE:

Annual Performance Measures – The overall purpose of the EIR program is to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on improving student achievement and attainment for high-need students. The annual performance measures are as follows:

1. The percentage of grantees that reach their annual target number of students as specified in the application.
2. The percentage of grantees that reach their annual target number of high-need students as specified in the application.
3. The percentage of grantees with evaluations designed to provide performance feedback to inform project design.
4. The percentage of grantees with ongoing well-designed and independent evaluations that will provide evidence of their effectiveness at improving student outcomes.
5. The percentage of grantees that implement an evaluation that provides information about the key elements and the approach of the project so as to facilitate testing, development, or replication in other settings.
6. The cost per student served by the grant.

Cumulative Performance Measures

1. The percentage of grantees that reach the targeted number of students specified in the application.
2. The percentage of grantees that reached the target number of high-need students specified in the application.
3. The percentage of grantees that use evaluation data to make changes to their practice(s).
4. The percentage of grantees that implement a completed well-designed, well-implemented, and independent evaluation that provides evidence of their effectiveness at improving student outcomes.
5. The percentage of grantees with a completed evaluation that provides information about the key elements and the approach of the project so as to facilitate testing, development, or replication in other settings.

6. The cost per student served by the grant.

Project-Specific Performance Measures - Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures and performance targets (as defined in the attached NIA) consistent with the objectives of the proposed project.

1. Performance measures. How each proposed performance measure would accurately measure the performance of the project and how the proposed performance measure would be consistent with the performance measures established for the program funding the competition.
2. Baseline (as defined in the attached NIA) data.
 - A) Why each proposed baseline is valid; or
 - B) if the applicant has determined that there are no established baseline data for a particular performance measure, an explanation of why there is no established baseline and of how and when, during the project period, the applicant would establish a valid baseline for the performance measure.
3. Performance targets. Why each proposed performance target is ambitious yet achievable compared to the baseline for the performance measure and when, during the project period, the applicant would meet the performance target(s).
4. Data collection and reporting.
 - A) The data collection and reporting methods the applicant would use and why those methods are likely to yield reliable, valid, and meaningful performance data; and
 - B) the applicant's capacity to collect and report reliable, valid, and meaningful performance data, as evidenced by high-quality data collection, analysis, and reporting in other projects or research.

The evaluator will receive data from NSNO and our partners for the above performance measures. Furthermore, publicly available data on school performance may be used to assess the impact of grant activities on student achievement. A data-sharing agreement with the State of Louisiana will be necessary to access student-level data.

DELIVERABLES

The evaluator selected as a partner on this project must agree to the following requirements:

- 1) Evaluator must participate in regular check-in meetings (at least quarterly) with NSNO
- 2) Evaluator must contribute data analysis and support writing of the following reports submitted to the U.S. Department of Education:
 - Annual performance reports
 - Final performance report due at the end of the grant
- 3) Evaluator must agree to cooperate with technical assistance provided by the U.S. DOE.

III. EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD

CRITERIA

The following elements will be the primary considerations in evaluating all submitted proposals and in the selection of the evaluator:

- Ability to work collaboratively with NSNO in the design and implementation of the project
- Understanding of and ability to perform the work and meet project goals
- Experience implementing an evaluation for K-12 education and non-profit organizations
- Ability to analyze and clearly report accurate data
- Experience with and understanding of New Orleans public education
- Ability to complete the project on the outlined timeline and in a cost effective manner
- Familiarity with sources of student achievement data, as well as all applicable laws governing data use

IV. REQUIREMENTS

Selection of an evaluator will be based upon the level of responsiveness demonstrated by an evaluator whose offer will be the most advantageous to NSNO in terms of cost, functionality, and the criteria lists in Section III of this request for bids.

Evaluator's bid shall be submitted as set forth below. **Bids should be emailed to eliza@nsno.org by 5:00 pm CST on Wednesday, March 6th. NSNO will contact evaluators with a decision on the bids by 5:00 pm CST on Thursday, March 7th.**

Part I: Narrative (submitted as a PDF document; requested length ~3 pages)

Organization Information

- Organization's official registered name.
- Applicant contact name, title, phone number, and email address.
- Brief history, including year established and number of years the organization has been conducting K-12 research
- Total projected cost of this project

Project Narrative

Describe what experience, expertise, and resources qualify your organization to perform the evaluation for this project. Description of similar work performed in New Orleans and/or Louisiana is particularly welcome. Include short biographies and/or relevant experience of key staff and management personnel.

Part II: Budget

The cost of the NOLA Instructional Quality Initiative is estimated to be \$4.44M over the next three years. **NSNO expects that the total cost for carrying out the evaluation of the project will be approximately 15% of the total grant budget of \$4.4M over the next three years.**

Please include the estimated total project evaluation fees for each year of the grant (Year 1: 10/1/19 – 9/3/20, Year 2: 10/1/20 - 9/30/21, Year 3: 10/1/21 - 9/30/22.)