

New York State Department of Health
All Payer Database Request for Information
RFI #1205180104

Questions and Responses: Round One

Category: Governance

1. Question

In Model B, it would be helpful to better understand the legal status, roles and responsibilities of the not-for-profit entity, and its relationships with the DOH and DFS.

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and recommendations from RFI respondents on the governance models.

2. Question

Specific reference is made to box (D) IT Team on both diagrams and the related footnotes. The footnote references for Proposed Model A imply that the IT Team could consist of (1) Membership and (2) Contracted, while the footnote for Proposed model B for the same team implies that the team could consist of (2) Staffed and (3) Contracted - is this intentional? If there is an intention for the composition of the IT team to differ depending on the Governance Model could the Department please clarify its intention and rationale for the difference.

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and recommendations from RFI respondents on the governance models and the benefits of participation on teams within the models.

3. Question

Is it anticipated that governance process will include managing patient authorization to share and utilize data?

Response

The Governance process includes establishing standards, policies, and processes to administer the collection of data, the release of data, and to manage all aspects of the APD.

4. Question

It is unclear whether certain roles are to be performed by State staff or the contractor. In particular, the Data and Informatics Team. Many of the listed roles would normally be performed by the contractor, pursuant to the questions posed in D.III Sections A-F. Would the State clarify this?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and recommendations from RFI respondents on the governance models and the benefits of participation on teams within the models.

5. Question

The RFI introduces the two potential governance models, and requests response commentary on the advantages and disadvantages of each - apart from the high level description on page 14 and the summary pictorials on pages 40 - 43, information is not provided in terms of their functions, functional flows, oversight responsibilities, regulatory authority, contracting authority, applicability of standard state agency rules and regulations as they relate to contracting and administration, etc. - the absence of this information makes it more difficult to provide the requested evaluative comparison. Could the Department provide additional

detail in regard to the items listed above, in the interest of receiving more comprehensive responses on this issue from the RFI respondents?

Response

Please refer to pages 44-48, which describe the roles and responsibilities of each team within the governance models. The Department welcomes specific suggestions and proposals on the governance models from RFI respondents.

6. Question

Is one possible view of Model B that the "Implementation Phase" of this project will be undertaken under NYS governance, and the governance during the operational phase would then be transitioned to a public/private entity such as a Not for Profit?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and proposals on this topic from RFI respondents.

7. Question

Can the IT contractor participate on the Proj Mgmt and/or Informatics Teams, and/or any of the other implementation or operations tasks of the APD?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and recommendations from RFI respondents on the governance models and the benefits of participation on teams within the models.

8. Question

In the alternate model, Model B, does the State have any preference if the not-for-profit organization is public or private? If so, what is the preference?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and proposals on this topic from RFI respondents.

9. Question

Will the governance process manage the cost/charge/incentives?

Response

The Governance process includes establishing standards, policies, and processes to administer the collection of data, the release of data, and to manage all aspects of the APD.

10. Question

How will the governance and financing of the APD be structured so there is continuity in operations and policy regardless of changes in budget, leadership, and other circumstances?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and proposals on this topic from RFI respondents.

Category: Funding

11. Question

The RFI recites that "[f]unding beyond the first year of the APD project is undetermined at this time." What are potential sources of funding beyond year 1?

Response

Potential sources of funding are yet to be determined but may include grants and alternative revenue sources. The Department welcomes specific suggestions on funding sources and sustainability from RFI respondents.

12. Question

If funding beyond the first year of the APD project is undetermined at this time what criteria will be used to decide future funding?

Response

Potential sources of funding are yet to be determined but may include grants and alternative revenue sources. The Department welcomes specific suggestions on funding sources and sustainability from RFI respondents.

Category: General

13. Question

Project Schedule: Would the State be willing to entertain an alternate phasing plan and task list, comparable to but not identical to the tasks listed in the RFI, but a plan that is still consistent with the State goals? We would recommend a plan and schedule based on our experience with other APD efforts.

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and recommendations from RFI respondents.

14. Question

Third-party Healthcare Payers: Has the State already issued instructions or guidelines to the private payers as to what data is to be reported to the APD? Have formats been specified? If not, will the APD contractor be given the opportunity to be involved in the development of those instructions?

Response

Instructions and guidelines have not been released. A contractor may have involvement in development of reporting specifications, but to what extent has not been determined. The Department welcomes specific suggestions and recommendations from RFI respondents.

15. Question

What is the scope of the claims data to be collected for the APD? Will it be limited to NYS residents seeking care within the state? All medical care provided in NYS, regardless of patient's residency? Care provided to NYS residents even if out-of-state (e.g., New Jersey, Connecticut?) Patients covered by federal employee plans? Patients who are uninsured?

Response

The goal of the APD is to be as comprehensive a database as possible. Issues like these may need to be addressed in an incremental fashion based on the ability to collect and receive data.

16. Question

Has the state determined the top priorities that would inform the order of the APD implementation phases (referring to the list of data sources, including commercial claims, SPARCS, Medicaid and Medicare data, et al)?

Response

Please refer to page 10 of the RFI. The Department may adjust the implementation schedule to best meet the needs of New York State.

17. Question

Please clarify the use of the word "transition" in B2. Is this referring to the management governance, or the technical implementation?

Response

This question refers to technical implementation and ongoing operations.

18. Question

Are there contractor tasks embedded in the work plan or is it anticipated that all these tasks will be performed by State staff?

Response

The workplan includes tasks that may be performed by either State staff and/or a contractor.

19. Question

Does the DOH have documents that represent the metadata or specifications of the APD datasets?

Response

These documents are not yet available but will be developed. The Department is currently working to develop a submission guide and data element dictionary which would contain proposed data specifications.

20. Question

Will any information need to be shared with border states? What provision will be made with border states to address transient populations? How do you envision provisions for these scenarios being captured in the database?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and proposals on this topic from RFI respondents.

21. Question

What provision will be taken to allow the State to have the legal right to obtain Healthcare data from a Private insurance company?

Response

Regulations will be promulgated as appropriate.

22. Question

Will the APD leverage anything from existing multi-payer commercial claims database projects operated at the regional level in New York State (i.e., New York Quality Alliance, P2 Collaborative, Adirondack, Hudson Valley, etc.)?

Response

The Department welcomes specific suggestions and proposals on this topic from RFI respondents.

23. Question

The third paragraph on Page 7 states, "Except when provided as examples of health care analytics, reports, outputs and consumer products in response to Section F below, pre-printed marketing material and cost information should not be included in your response and will not be considered if provided." Question: Can any of the allowed examples as stated above be submitted as attachments? If so, will these attachments be counted as part of the 50-page response limit?

Response

Examples can be submitted as attachments, but must be described within response narrative. The attachments themselves will not count as part of the 50-page response limit. However, the total page limit for all attachments is 20 pages.

24. Question

Pursuant to paragraph 2, must an interested party who is not interested in being a vendor, but who possesses particular subject matter expertise in certain areas of the RFI, answer all questions in the RFI?

Response

Interested parties are invited to respond to questions that fall in their area of expertise without having to respond to the full RFI.

25. Question

50 Page Limit: The template itself comprises 25 pages and the response limit is only 50 pages. Can the respondents reduce some of the white space areas, page breaks that leave a lot of blank space, and other wise tighten up the template, as long as we do not reduce readability?

Response

Page breaks can be removed. The questions themselves, font formatting, and margins should not be changed.

26. Question

Was an external consultant used to develop this RFI? If so, would the State identify the consultant?

Response

No, an external consultant was not used to develop this RFI.

27. Question

Is it acceptable to submit the response in PDF format?

Response

Yes, PDFs can be accepted.

28. Question

If we don't respond to this RFI, could we still respond to an RFP that comes out of this later?

Response

While we encourage all interested parties to participate in this RFI process, such participation (or lack thereof) will have no effect on eligibility for any resulting Request for Proposals.

29. Question

What is the anticipated timeline for the RFP process?

Response

Timeline for the RFP process is yet to be determined.

30. Question

Will NY State Dept of Health allow for a joint proposal between separate business entities that are teamed on a common solution proposal to this RFI?

Response

Yes, such a response is allowed.

31. Question

RFI states that the DOH has identified High Priority Use Cases. However, there are no specific use cases as part of the document. Understanding the specifics of the use cases provides insight into the type of data required and its application. What documentation exists on these high priority use cases and will those use cases be made available?

Response

The Use Cases will be posted in addition to this document on the APD RFI webpage.

32. Question

Please clarify whether respondents should view the cost estimates to represent only those components and contributions they anticipate offering at some point, or provide an overall estimate for the entire project as they would if offering as the prime contractor.

Response

Please provide both as applicable: a cost for the components and contributions respondents anticipate offering, and an estimate on what respondents estimate the entire system will cost. Be clear as to which information is provided. Ranges or estimates are acceptable; please include clarifications and narrative as needed.

Category: Timelines

33. Question

Does DOH/DFS intend to promulgate regulations to require mandatory claims data submission by payers? If so, how will the timing of such regulatory framework dovetail with the operational launch of the APD?

Response

The Department is currently drafting regulations for the submission of data. MOUs or other agreements may be established if regulations are not in place.

34. Question

Approximate Start Date: Can the State provide us with an estimated time when the APD project would begin? Is there a particular date or deadline by when the APD must be in operation?

Response

Please refer to the estimated project schedule included on pages 55-57 for the proposed order of tasks. Although some activities in this schedule are delayed, it should provide reference for purposes of this RFI.

35. Question

What key objectives do you plan to accomplish in the first year? Is there a sub set lists of priorities that must be accomplished in the first year of the first iteration? Will you please provide this list.

Response

Please refer to the estimated project schedule included on pages 55-57 for the proposed order of tasks. Although some activities in this schedule are delayed, it should provide reference for purposes of this RFI.

Category: Technology

36. Question

Are entity relationships and technology systems represented on these diagrams (p. 54 and 58) unalterable or are they flexible and open for discussion and comment on alternatives from stakeholders?

Response

The Department is open to any alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.

37. Question

Will there be the opportunity to leverage Hardware and Software currently not documented in the APD stack?

Response

Yes, the Department is open to any alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.

38. Question

Technical Platform: Are the technologies mentioned on p. 21 and p. 54 preferences, requirements, examples, or descriptions of the technologies currently used for SPARCS or elsewhere in the agency? Can the respondents suggest proven alternatives?

Response

The Department is open to any alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.

39. Question

Can the Vendor define/propose the architecture or has NYS decided on the APD architecture (including 3rd party software)?

Response

RFI respondents can comment on the architecture and offer alternative suggestions and proposals.

40. Question

Does NYS have a strong preference on deployment, specifically does the State prefer that the APD be internally hosted or can operations of the APD be performed under a SaaS model?

Response

The Department welcomes suggestions and alternative proposals from RFI respondents.

41. Question

Have these tools already been selected for the APD? If so, are the selections final? Where are these tools currently utilized in State applications? Is the State interested in other tools, either to provide this functionality and / or to provide functionality not available utilizing this toolset?

Response

These tools have not been selected as final; the Department welcomes suggestions and alternative proposals from RFI respondents.

42. Question

Are bidders required to use the technology stack outlined? If not, what options do we have in bidding alternative products?

Response

The Department is open to alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.

43. Question

Is the DOH open to a vendor providing alternate technical solutions, that does not necessarily include the APD Stack, but allow you to meet your objectives smarter and sooner.

Response

The Department is open to any alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.

44. Question

Is DOH interested in potential alternative complementary technologies to the products depicted in the “APD Stack” diagram on page 54 or are these elements “set in stone”?

Response

The Department is open to any alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.

45. Question

The Data Analysis element of the architecture on page 58 seems to indicate SAS as the primary asset. Does DOH have any specific technology assets or standards recommendation for portal / collaboration tools which would enable data publication, dissemination, and analysis beyond the traditional functionality serviced by SAS?

Response

The Department is open to any alternatives and proposed solutions from RFI respondents.