



educational service center  
*of Central Ohio*

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

School Improvement Technical Assistance Providers

## **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE**

### *Background*

The ESC of Central Ohio seeks school improvement technical assistance providers to join its effort to improve low-performing schools and ensure that all students have access to schools that prepare them for college and career.

Interested school improvement technical assistance providers will engage with ESC leaders along with district and school leaders to collaboratively implement and monitor locally-driven evidence-based school improvement solutions and add expertise and capacity to schools with persistent challenges.

### *Goals*

The ESC of Central Ohio is building a comprehensive coalition of providers to support school improvement and technical assistance systems and processes.

The *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) creates an important opportunity to improve achievement for students in persistently low performing schools. ESSA requires that states identify at least 5 percent of schools as chronically under-performing and in need of comprehensive school improvement.

The ESC of Central Ohio will support the state's low-performing schools by helping to facilitate strategic partnerships among these schools, their districts, and local, regional, and national U.S.-based school improvement technical assistance providers.

Accordingly, the ESC of Central Ohio will use responses to this RFI to:

- Create an inventory of high-quality school improvement providers with evidence of success
- Invite selected providers to join district and school leaders for an interactive school improvement conference that will bring district and school leaders together with the most promising school improvement providers

### *Guidance*

Technical assistance providers may provide a range of supports to schools, including but not limited to:

1. Comprehensive school improvement providers who deliver holistic support on all aspects of school design/re-design or school operators who are equipped to run schools.
2. Technical assistance providers with targeted expertise in necessary elements of school improvement such as:
  - a. Leadership development;
  - b. Teacher development;



- c. Rigorous instruction;
- d. Data-driven decision making;
- e. Culturally responsive teaching;
- f. Student and school culture; and
- g. Technology integration.

3. Targeted support to address opportunity and achievement gaps felt by specific subgroups of students such as English language learners, students with disabilities, or students of color.

4. Direct student services including tutoring, college and career counseling, and alternative access to unique courses such as AP courses.

The ESC of Central Ohio welcomes responses from a range of entities, including for-profit companies, not-for-profit organizations, innovation start-ups, and institutions of higher education. These organizations must be based in the United States and willing to partner with local districts and schools to co-construct and execute school improvement strategies.

The ESC of Central Ohio requests that potential providers supply the required information (listed below) in order to determine their eligibility to be invited to the school improvement summit.

A list of and background information on invited providers will be provided to district and school leaders in advance of the summit to consider for alignment to their school improvement challenges and needs.

## **RESPONSE FORMAT AND ATTACHMENTS**

Respondents should submit responses to the RFI through the online response form linked below. Using the online form, applicants will describe their organization, its accomplishments, and how it can help improve educational outcomes for students in low-performing schools.

NOTE: Online responses cannot be saved and continued later and therefore must be completed and submitted in a single sitting. Applicants are encouraged to prepare the following information prior to accessing the online response form:

### **I. Background**

- 1. Organization name
- 2. Organization address
- 3. Organization contact person
- 4. Contact email
- 5. Contact phone
- 6. Primary Area(s) of Expertise

### **II. Approach**

- 7. How will you differentiate your services to meet the unique needs of districts and schools (Limit 2000 characters)?



8. Describe your experience working with other third-party providers to support collaborative district and school improvement efforts (Limit 2000 characters).
9. What are the attributes of your ideal partner district and/or school (Limit 2000 characters)?
10. What support from the ESC, district, or school would enhance your success (Limit 2000 characters)?

**III. Evidence of Track Record of Student and School Outcomes**

11. Illustrate your organization’s track record in dramatically improving schools or systems and/or radically increasing outcomes for targeted subgroups of students (Limit 2000 characters).
12. Describe the evidence-based threshold (Table 1) met by your organization’s service(s) (Limit 2000 characters).
13. Identify the resource(s) used to determine evidence-based threshold (Limit 2000 characters). Respondents can utilize multiple resources to help them determine if an intervention, strategy, or activity meets the evidence requirements outlined in Table 1, based on rigorous studies from a reputable third-party evaluator.
  - ✓ What Works Clearinghouse: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wcc>
  - ✓ Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Resources: <http://ies.ed.gov>
  - ✓ ERIC: <http://www.eric.ed.gov>
  - ✓ JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/action/showAdvancedSearch>
14. Describe at least one study with a statistically significant positive effect on student outcomes for each of the service(s) proposed (Limit 2000 characters).

The ESC of Central Ohio will not accept responses that do not meet these evidentiary requirements as defined by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA)

**Table 1: Evidence-Based Interventions as Defined by ESSA**

Evidence Level	Evidence Threshold
Strong	Based on at least one (1) well-designed and well-implemented experimental study.
Moderate	Based on at least one (1) well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study.
Promising	Based on at least one (1) well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias.

**IV. References**

15. List (3) three clients for whom the respondent has provided services that are the same or similar to the services requested in this RFI. Information provided should include:
  - i. name, title, organization, and phone number of a person who may be contacted for further information.
16. Does this RFI response contain proprietary information that is to remain confidential as allowed by Ohio's Public Records Act? If yes, please specify.



## **RFI TIMELINE**

The ESC's RFI process is on a non-expiring timeline. RFI submissions will be reviewed as they are received and successful applicants will be added to the ESC's list of approved school improvement technical assistance providers.

## **QUESTION AND INQUIRY PROCESS**

All initial questions/inquiries regarding this RFI must be submitted in writing via email to [communications@escoco.org](mailto:communications@escoco.org). The email subject line should contain the following phrase: "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT RFI QUESTION."

The ESC will maintain a viewable list of questions/inquiries submitted by all Respondents. Only answers posted on the ESC website will be considered official and valid. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any ESC employee.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFI process, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFI, an addendum will be posted on the ESC website.

## **CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The ESC reserves the right to request clarifications on all information submitted. The ESC also reserves the right to conduct discussions, either oral or written, with the Respondents. These discussions could include requests for additional information, requests for cost information or technical requirements response attachment revision, etc.

Additionally, in conducting discussions, the ESC may use information derived from the responses submitted by competing Respondents only if the identity of the Respondent providing the information is not disclosed to others. The ESC will provide equivalent information to all Respondents which have been chosen for discussions. Any information gathered through oral discussions must be confirmed in writing.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROPRIETARY MATERIALS**

It is important to note that all information submitted in Respondent's proposals to this RFI becomes part of the public record and is subject to all provisions in Ohio's Public Records Act.

Proprietary information can be kept confidential as long as it is marked clearly in your proposal submission as "PROPRIETARY MATERIAL". Confidential proprietary material must be clearly marked in a separate file. It is the responsibility of the Respondent to ensure that all confidential proprietary information is easily identifiable to ensure it is not released as nonconfidential material.



## **RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

School improvement technical assistance providers interested should submit responses via online response form at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESCRFI\\_SI](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESCRFI_SI)

No more than one proposal per Respondent may be submitted. The ESC accepts no obligations for costs incurred by Respondents in anticipation of being awarded a contract

