

Applicant Questions and Answers

Related to NFWF Catalytic Impacts Request for Proposal

February 4, 2026

Timeline

1. *What is the expected period of performance for this project?*
 - A. We expect the contractors to start as soon as possible. The project end date cannot exceed December 31, 2029.

Submission Logistics

2. *The proposal submission requirements differ from other recent NFWF RFPs. Please confirm whether NFWF prefers to receive eight (8) separate files OR three (3) files including Technical Proposal (cover letter, technical approach and methodology, project team and quals, workplan and timeline, relevant past performance and references, and contact information), Budget/budget narrative, and Evidence of Financial Stability, consistent with other recent NFWF RFPs?*
 - A. Please follow the RFP and provide eight (8) separate documents: 1) cover letter; 2) technical approach and methodology; 3) project team and qualifications; 4) work plan and timeline; 5) budget and budget narrative; 6) relevant past performance and references; 7) evidence of financial stability; and 8) contact information.
3. *Are there page limits? If yes, would NFWF please provide the page limits for each section, as relevant?*
 - A. Please see suggested page limits below for each section:
 1. Cover letter – 1 page
 2. Technical approach and methodology – 20 pages
 3. Project team and qualifications – 10 pages
 4. Work plan and timeline – 5 pages
 5. Budget and budget narrative – N/A
 6. Relevant past performance and references – 10 pages
 7. Evidence of financial stability – N/A
 8. Contact information – 1 page
4. *Do you want separate PDFs for each section of the proposal?*
 - A. Yes, please make sure each section is distinctly labeled and a separate document.

Eligibility

5. *Is our organization conflicted out of submitting a proposal because we have received NCRF funds in the past?*

- A. Past and active grantees are welcome to apply. However, the selected contractor cannot apply for a new NCRF grant for the duration of the contract period of performance AND one (1) year after the contract end date. Past and active contractors may apply. If you are unsure if there is a conflict of interest, you can provide details on the potential conflict of interest in the “project team and qualification” section, NFWF will determine if there is a conflict of interest.

Budget

- 6. *Can NFWF provide a rough order of magnitude budget (or range) for this project?*
 - A. Budgets should be cost effective and reasonable. We estimate the budget for this contract to not exceed \$300,000.

Scope of Work/Program Clarification

- 7. *Are specific points of contact (name, phone, email, physical address) provided from applications (funded or otherwise) or is some of that information redacted or not available to contractors?*
 - A. NFWF will provide the initial contact with grantees to introduce the contractors and their purpose. Preference for contact (phone, email, virtual conference, etc.) will be left at the discretion of the grantee and contractors.
- 8. *How accessible/comprehensive is existing data to complete the described tasks?*
 - A. Existing data includes proposals, interim reports, final reports, case studies, and grantee outreach.
- 9. *How accessible are representatives from past or current grants?*
 - A. Current grantees will be accessible, some past grantees may be more difficult to contact.
- 10. *If we designed an ongoing solution for data tracking that required fees for software licensing would NFWF consider that? Does NFWF anticipate additional/ongoing funding and resources to continue comprehensive data collection after the completion of the project.*
 - A. NFWF expects the contractor to develop a framework for tracking catalytic impacts that can be used by NFWF beyond the completion of the project. Proposals may include the use of software tools or platforms, and reasonable costs for software licensing may be considered. While NFWF does not assume ongoing funding for comprehensive data collection beyond the period of performance, applicants should design proposed tools and frameworks with practicality, scalability, and long-term usability in mind, including consideration of how data collection and tracking could be sustained after project completion.

11. *The text for Task 2 states “Review and synthesize existing NCRF program and project data, including grant applications...” Can you provide an approximate number of the grant applications that need to be analyzed? The Background section states more than 600 projects have been funded, but does not provide a number of applications.*
- A. NFWF does not have a fixed estimate for the number of grant applications to be reviewed. While more than 600 projects have been funded through the NCRF program, the specific subset of projects and applications to be analyzed will be determined during contract initiation and will depend on scope, and level of program-level versus project-level analysis. The anticipated volume and selection of applications will be discussed and refined with the selected contractor at the time of award and is subject to cost-effectiveness and feasibility.
12. *Task 4 asks contractors to “Analyze catalytic impacts across five dimensions,” but only lists four dimensions in the subsequent list. Can NFWF please confirm that items A-D fully encompass NFWF’s needs? Is there a 5th dimension, or are the listed A through D items the complete list of dimensions to analyze?*
- A. Items A–D constitute the complete set of dimensions NFWF intends contractors to analyze. The reference to “five dimensions” in Task 4 is a drafting error, and there is no additional fifth dimension beyond those listed.
13. *Would the social science methods used to collect information on these programs (focus groups, surveys, interviews) require an information collection request (ICR), or would they be covered by existing exemptions or existing standing ICRs?*
- A. NFWF does not anticipate that routine social science methods such as surveys, interviews, or focus groups conducted under this contract will automatically require a new Information Collection Request (ICR).
14. *Could the request to participate in social science collections come through/from the NFWF office to improve response and participation?*
- A. NFWF does not anticipate that routine social science methods such as surveys, interviews, or focus groups conducted under this contract will automatically require a new Information Collection Request (ICR).
15. *The text for Task 7 states “Prepare draft and final reports with visualizations, dashboards...” Can you provide more information on what is intended by “prepare... a dashboard”? Does this effort include creating, hosting, and maintaining a dashboard? Or is the intent to prepare the framework for a dashboard that NFWF staff would host and maintain?*
- A. The intent of “prepare... a dashboard” is to develop and demonstrate a dashboard concept—including structure, metrics, visualizations, and functionality—that supports analysis and communication of catalytic impacts. This may include creating a draft or prototype dashboard as part of the project’s deliverables. NFWF does **not** anticipate that the contractor will be responsible for long-term hosting or maintenance beyond the period of performance. Proposals should prioritize developing a clear, transferable dashboard

framework that NFWF staff could host, adapt, or maintain after project completion. If short-term hosting or tools are proposed to support development or demonstration during the project period, these should be clearly described and justified.

Monitoring

16. Is it preferable that the impact tracking and monitoring framework is generally consistent across all projects, or does NFWF prefer a structure that varies by project type, location, etc.?

- A. NFWF anticipates a consistent impact tracking and monitoring framework that enables portfolio-level analysis and comparison across NCRF projects. At the same time, the framework should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate variation by project type, stage in the pipeline, or other relevant characteristics. Proposals should strike a balance between standardization—supporting comparability and aggregation—and adaptability, allowing metrics or methods to be applied in ways that are appropriate to different project contexts.