

CRCOG Digital CEDS RFP Questions

Ashwin Thiruvillakkat, SOLMAPP Inc 10/20/2025

1. Website Structure and Integration

- When you mention "develop on a platform that is conducive or interfaces with the CRCOG website," are you envisioning a completely new URL/website, or integration within your existing site? If it's a new URL, could you clarify what you mean by "interfaces" – is this simply a link from your current website to the new CEDS site?

Yes, CRCOG is in the process of upgrading its website and is currently operating with an outdated system. We used a link to connect to the Digital CEDS, which was hosted on a separate website by Statebook International.

2. Data and Content Requirements

- Regarding "self-updating socioeconomic data," could you specify what types of data you plan to include and how the self-updating functionality should work? Are we correct in assuming this will be a data-heavy website with digital data dashboards?

Data includes most Census-generated data sets. Yes, the data will be displayed through digital dashboard widgets that allow for updates to occur seamlessly as new datasets are released. Yes, this is a data-heavy product, nested within a report format. I would recommend reviewing <https://networksnorthwest.digitalceds.com/interactive-data-center/>

- For the "geo-based multi-level socioeconomic data" download capability, what format should these downloads be in – Excel, CSV, or another format?

Excel, CSV, PDF, JPEG would be the goal. Output would depend on the needs of the user.

- What types of customizable reports do you envision, and who will be generating them?

I think something customizable based on the research/data needs of the user.

3. Design and User Experience

- Do you have an existing design system or brand guidelines for CRCOG that we should follow?

No, as we are in the process of updating our website.

- Could you share examples of websites you admire or would like us to use as inspiration for the design approach?

Yes, StateBook International, See the attached links:

<https://networksnorthwest.digitalceds.com/interactive-data-center/>

- Who are the primary users and target audiences for this website? Understanding this will help us design an appropriate user experience.

The users of the Site would be representatives of our 4 counties, 22 municipalities, economic developers, and the general public.

4. Vendor and Procurement Questions

- Do you have a local vendor preference?

No.

- Is there a current incumbent performing this work, and if so, are they eligible to participate in this RFP?

We have used the firm StateBook International. The contract has expired, and we are now readvertising as is required by internal procurement requirements. StateBook International has indicated that they will be submitting their RFP next week.

Aafaq Sikandar ENCYPHERS 10/16/2025

1. Will CRCOG provide access to existing branding assets, data sources, and CMS documentation to support integration and design alignment?

The CRCOG would provide whatever authorized information it has access to. Data sources will mostly come from the Census Bureau and the BLS data sets. We will work with the successful firm on the final design layout.

2. Is there a preferred CMS or hosting environment CRCOG expects vendors to use or recommend?

No, but the preferred CMS should be easily customizable and support internal editing as needed. We have used WordPress in the past. We used StateBook International from 2021-2024.

3. Should the proposal include post-launch support and maintenance pricing, or will that be negotiated separately?

Yes.

4. Are there specific data integrations or APIs expected for socioeconomic metrics and reporting?

We utilize Census data sets. I would recommend reviewing

<https://networksnorthwest.digitalcds.com/interactive-data-center/>

5. Is there a target go-live date or timeline CRCOG is aiming for?

December 1, 2025

6. Will vendors be evaluated on accessibility testing tools or methodologies used to meet ADA compliance?

ADA Compliance is one of the requirements for the site.

7. Is there a target budget range or ceiling vendors should be aware of when structuring engagement fees?

No Target Budget at this time.