

# Request for Proposals (RFP)

## Software Platform to develop Economic Development Tool

*Issue Date: May 31, 2019*

### PART ONE: Overview

US Ignite seeks a vendor to provide Software as a service (SaaS)/Platform as a Service (PaaS) cloud computing platform to enable US Ignite to build a visual, demographic economic tool.

The RFP process will proceed according to the following schedule. The target dates are subject to change.

Target Date	Description
May 31, 2019	RFP made available to select organizations and posted on US Ignite's website.
June 12, 2019	Responses are due to <a href="mailto:meghan.histand@us-ignite.org">meghan.histand@us-ignite.org</a> by 12:00 pm eastern.
June 17, 2019	Responses to be evaluated by US Ignite. Follow-up interviews and negotiations, as necessary.
June 25, 2019	Vendor selected.
June 28, 2019	Master Services Agreement and Task Order(s) finalized.
by July 1, 2019	Period of Performance begins (or sooner).
June 30, 2020	Period of Performance ends.

### PART TWO: US Ignite Context

#### **US Ignite Overview**

US Ignite is a national nonprofit, a 501(c)(3), that is accelerating the smart city movement – and creating value for an entire ecosystem – by guiding communities into the connected future, creating a path for private sector growth, and advancing technology research that's at the heart of smart city development. Why is this important? Because local governments need to improve quality of life and ensure economic development in their communities, particularly during a time of rapid technological change. Businesses recognize the importance of the emerging market around smart communities and need to find commercial strategies that are repeatable, scalable, and sustainable. And foundations and federal agencies need to channel their institutional aims into efforts ranging from cutting-edge research to practical economic development initiatives that deliver measurable benefits.

As a trusted partner, US Ignite brings this entire smart city ecosystem together, successfully pairing financial investment with technical and organizational expertise. Through the public-private partnership programs we run, US Ignite is a catalyst for communications network advancement, and for innovation in smart city services that are powered by a new generation of technologies.

US Ignite Programs include:

#### **Smart Cities Data Exchange**

US Ignite and ATIS are developing the Smart Cities Data Exchange framework, a blueprint for the secure and interoperable exchange of data beyond city operational boundaries. Designed to help cities analyze and apply civic

data more effectively, the program will produce a data-sharing framework, recommended data formats and protocols, security and privacy requirements, and common APIs. In addition to technical specifications and best practice guidelines, work on the Smart Cities Data Exchange framework will result in a single, highly visual tool that will help communities explore a specific use case for data sharing. The goal is to position cities for success in leveraging the next decade of smart cities applications.

### **Smart Gigabit Communities**

The US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities (SGC) project is a network of more than two dozen communities developing a catalog of applications to address smart city and internet of things (IoT) challenges. With the benefit of high-capacity and low-latency networking technologies, these communities are solving modern-day dilemmas and developing their own innovation ecosystems focused on improving quality of life and boosting local economic development.

### **Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research**

Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research (PAWR) will enable experimental exploration of robust new wireless devices that will revolutionize the nation's wireless ecosystem while sustaining US leadership and economic competitiveness for decades to come. PAWR is funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) and the PAWR Industry Consortium representing 28 of the nation's leading companies and associations in wireless.

### **US Ignite Forum**

The US Ignite Forum is a structured series of workshops that brings together municipal leaders to discuss strategies for tackling smart city challenges. Each workshop focuses on one pre-defined topic, with speakers presenting their own experiences and then contributing in interactive conversation with the group. Events are deliberately kept small, roughly 50 people, with attendees including additional municipal representatives, members of the academic community, and our corporate vendors. The program includes six workshops per year, spread around the country, and has so far covered topics that include small cells, smart lighting, public safety, and big data.

The tool described in Part 3 will be aligned to US Ignite's NSF grant, "EAGER: Smart Community Big Data Co-op". Through this grant, US Ignite seeks to create the Co-Op platform that will integrate and analyze today's best smart city models and tools while also establishing an impactful feedback loop that engages developers, data stewards and other key stakeholders.

## **PART THREE: US IGNITE VISION OF THE TOOL**

Across the country, cities have identified strategic goals for urban development, including driving reuse and infill, providing affordable housing, and improving walkability. With more affordable housing options, denser and more walkable neighborhoods, communities can reduce car-dependency, improve adoption of transit, and lower the burden of housing costs, directly correlating to a higher quality of life for citizens. However, most cities face steep challenges balancing these goals, due to a lack of clarity and accessibility to information in the development process, creating barriers to private sector investment.

To address this, communities and their partners need to visualize development scenarios to incorporate an assessment of neighborhood impact:

- Develop tools for well-informed policy decisions, and the development community can utilize the tool to explore, in a single, highly visual manner, the impacts of development scenarios.
- Support a wide range of development decisions that impact walkability and livability.

This tool can demonstrate to developers the lucrative benefits that a neighborhood can offer. Using data to support the city's plans and quantifying positive community attributes can help communities leverage their strengths in fostering economic development. The data collected by different city agencies must be interoperable,

and a standardized framework is necessary to achieve this goal. This framework could also drive collaboration and planning between municipalities (City and County), as well as between the public and private sectors.

US Ignite seeks a vendor to provide a baseline SaaS/PaaS cloud computing platform to enable US Ignite to build a single, highly visual tool. This tool will enable to individual businesses and city officials from communities to explore and to create snapshots of development potential on a property-by-property basis based on zoning, development standards, infrastructure requirements, and funding options. The tool will also enable communities to analyze land use scenarios in the context of building healthier neighborhoods, in terms of multimodal transportation, walkability, and ease of access to complementary services.

US Ignite envisions that the result will be a demographic tool with GIS coordinates that has all the major landmarks, street names, roads and other infrastructure facilities mapped. The tool will allow for users to select business types, and the tool will provide a default list of attributes matching to a particular segment:

- Retail
- Warehouse
- Data Center
- Manufacturing
- Restaurant
- Service Industry

The tool will be built using the open community data as a baseline; however, other private data that adds value, such as mobility or payment data may be included. The tool must be capable of performing data loading, data abstraction, data preprocessing, data cleaning, data merging, and data visualization. Therefore, the SaaS/PaaS platform must have capability to interface with a programming language (e.g., python, JAVA, etc.) for data analysis. Additional functionalities of the tool include, but are not limited to the following:

- Based on the inputs provided by users, the tool will suggest ideal locations within a particular city.
- The suggestions will be at building level, providing users the data to make informed decisions as they work to maximize their business opportunities.
- The tool will be capable of providing a measure/ranking user so they can compare the different options. This will also include a score for individual attributes and highlight what will be the most feasible/ideal spot.

The decision or analysis will be based on a model that will be created for each type of business segment. This model will also be capable of allowing customization based on user (business owner) preferences, so the user can follow a predefined model for a particular business type, but also specify weights for the attributes of interest.

The tool will finally generate a report that could be used by the user to decide on the location of interest.

**The eligible vendor must provide the following capabilities:**

1. The vendor shall host the tool and the required datasets on their infrastructure. The software should also have the capability to work/interface with other city/industry data portals and gather different data types such as JSON, GoeJSON, XML, CSV, SHP, Blob etc.
2. The vendor shall provide US Ignite access user edit access to its SaaS/PaaS cloud computing platform that provides GIS and web mapping tools.
3. The SaaS/PaaS platform must have capability to interface with a programming language such as python (preferred), JAVA, Postgresql etc. for data analysis.

## **PART FOUR: SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The vendor shall provide the following services to enable US Ignite to build the tool outlined in “*Part 3: US Ignite Vision of the Tool*”:

1. The vendor shall provide US Ignite access to its SaaS/PaaS platform.
2. The vendor platform and US Ignite tool shall be publicly accessible to an unlimited number of users.
3. The vendor shall provide US Ignite tier-2 customer and troubleshooting support.
4. The vendor shall provide US Ignite with necessary documentation that supports the development of the tool.
5. The vendor shall assist in the deployment of high-quality code that accurately meets the requirements noted in “*Part 3: US Ignite Vision of the Tool*”.
6. The vendor shall perform successful releases without introduction of unexpected problems and have minimal need for Emergency/Corrective Maintenance and to fix the same issue multiple times.
7. The vendor shall provide a dedicated project manager and a technical lead who shall be the point of contact with US Ignite.
8. The vendor shall support the overall development, testing, validation and deployment of the US Ignite tool.
9. The vendor shall provide operations and maintenance support after successful deployment of the US Ignite tool.
10. The vendor may need to assist with the migration of the tool and the datasets to a third-party infrastructure service.

## **PART FIVE: QUALIFICATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION**

If your organization would like to respond to this RFP, please send your RFP response to [meghan.histand@us-ignite.org](mailto:meghan.histand@us-ignite.org) with a subject line of “RFP: Economic Development Tool – Your Organization”. Please include the following in your response:

1. **Proposer Information and References**
  - Provide primary contact information, including name of organization, phone number, email, and main point of contact.
  - Provide a description of your organization. Please include the descriptions of any proposed subcontractors, if applicable.
  - Provide a list of three professional references that US Ignite can contact – please include the following: a summary of the work provided and how your SaaS/PaaS was leveraged, the name of organization (if shareable), main point of contact, phone number, and email address.
  - A summary of the qualifications of the project manager and technical lead aligned to the project.
- **Qualifications and Response to Scope of Services:** Please detail the organization’s qualifications to perform the services and meet the requirements outlined in “*Part 4: Scope of Services*”. Additionally, please respond on how your organization will perform the duties outlined in “*Part 4: Scope of Services*” and how your organization’s product/software will help US Ignite achieve its tool vision outlined in “*Part 3: US Ignite Vision of the Tool*”.
- **Service Level Agreements:** Please provide some general Service Level Agreements (SLA). The proposed SLAs should include information such as support hours, vendor response times, resolution times, and escalation triggers.

- **Cost Proposal:** US Ignite intends to issue a fixed-price contract, to a suitable vendor who demonstrates the capacity to deliver quality scope of services and is the most responsive to the requirements of the RFP. Please note the following:
  - Please provide an organization-fixed price cost proposal showing the associate cost to deliver the services outlined in “Part 4: Scope of Services”. The cost proposal should include the following components:
    1. Component 1: Fixed costs of the first 6-months for US Ignite to access the SaaS/PaaS platform. A Task Order related to this component will be issued the first 6-months of the project.
    2. Component 2: The operational and maintenance costs for an additional 6-months. A Task Order related to this component will be issued the second 6-months of the project.
    3. Component 3: Any additional or supplemental costs to migrate the tool and dataset to a new platform. A Task Order will be issued for this component, if necessary.
  - Indicate whether your organization can invoice US Ignite monthly (preferred, but not required).
  - US Ignite will pay fees supported by evidence of bona fide services rendered. US Ignite will not enter into a retainer agreement which pays fees in advance to an organization or individual to secure or keep services when required.

**Closing Date and Time:**

US Ignite must receive proposals *by email* no later than **June 12, 2019 at 12:00 PM eastern.**

**US Ignite Point of Contact:**

Meghan Hestand, [meghan.histand@us-ignite.org](mailto:meghan.histand@us-ignite.org)

**Proposal Preparation Guidelines:**

- All proposals must be submitted in writing.
- All proposals must be emailed to US Ignite point of contact listed, Meghan Hestand.
- Organization may modify or withdraw proposal prior to the submission deadline.
- Proposals may not be changed after the submission deadline.

**Other Considerations:**

- After a contract is signed, US Ignite will pay organization for travel and other costs associated with serving US Ignite as a client. US Ignite will reimburse these costs in accordance with Federal and US Ignite travel policies.
- US Ignite may reject any or all proposals in whole or in part, waive a technicality in any proposal, make awards in a manner deemed in the best interest of US Ignite and, unless otherwise specified by the organization, accept any item in the proposal. US Ignite reserves the right to award one or more contracts, if necessary.
- US Ignite anticipates a 12-month contract.

**PART SIX: TIMELINE FOR EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

US Ignite will review all proposals submitted. If organization is invited to make a presentation to US Ignite, the costs for such presentation will be the responsibility of the organization. US Ignite plans to select the organization within 30 business days after the submission deadline and reserves the right not to select any organization if conditions change between the time of the RFP release and completion of the review process.

No contractual obligation on behalf of US Ignite whatsoever shall arise from the RFP process. Additionally, this RFP does not commit the US Ignite to pay any cost incurred in the preparation or submission of any response to the RFP.

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The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Knowledge of project requirements as demonstrated under *"Part 4: Scope of Services"*
2. Capabilities and attributes of the SaaS/PaaS platform and how the platform enables US Ignite to create the tool described in *"Part 3: US Ignite Vision of the Tool"*.
3. Qualifications and range of experience of proposed vendor.
4. Project costs and overall value.

After review of the submissions the US Ignite may request to meet with organizations prior to selecting a vendor. Please direct any questions to [meghan.histand@us-ignite.org](mailto:meghan.histand@us-ignite.org).