Request for Proposals (RFP):
Quick-Turnaround, Actionable Research to Improve the Lives of Coloradans

The mission of the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab (Colorado Lab) is to improve services to Colorado residents, by working with government and community partners **to conduct research and translate it into action**. The Colorado Lab is soliciting proposals from Colorado researchers who are committed to generating actionable information and partnering with government agencies.

This RFP for Quick-Turnaround, Actionable Research to Improve the Lives of Coloradans is tailored to the following Governor's priority areas:

- Recidivism Reduction
- Affordable Housing
- Prevention and Early Intervention for System-Involved Youth
- Good Government and Efficiency Projects
- Marijuana-Funded Programs

Eligibility: Colorado Institutes of Higher Education

Project Time Period: Awards are estimated to be made by late August 2018. Projects must end no later than June 2019. Projects that can make meaningful progress by December 31st, 2018, are encouraged.

Types of Studies:

- Secondary analysis of Colorado state or local agency data
- Causal studies of programs or policies implemented by or in partnership with Colorado government agencies
- Mixed methods studies that inform theory of change for programs or policies implemented by or in partnership with Colorado government agencies

Award Range: $10,000 to $75,000 in direct costs. No indirect costs are allowed.

Letters of Interest (Required) are due by Friday, June 22nd at noon.

Letters of interest should be submitted as one document that includes: (a) cover page (1 page maximum), (b) narrative (3 pages maximum), and (c) reference list (no page limit).

Cover Page (1 page maximum, single-spaced):

- Project Title
- End Users of the Information: Be specific about the government agencies and, if appropriate, offices or divisions within the agencies. Indicate if audiences outside of government will also be included in end users.
- Abstract: Purpose of the study, data sources, and the "so what?" or why it matters. Write the abstract for the audiences identified as end users of this project.
- Principal Investigator: Name, Title, Affiliation, Email Address, and Phone Number
- Research Team Members (Optional): Name, Title, and Affiliation
- Contracting Contact: Name, Title, Email Address, Phone Number, Mailing Address

Narrative (3 pages maximum, single-spaced):

- Purpose of the Study
- Significance
    - How is the study positioned in the existing literature, nationally and in Colorado?
    - How can findings advance or inform Colorado policy and practice?
- Methods
    - Sample and data sources
    - Primary research questions
    - High-level analysis plan
- Project Timeline (that includes tasks and deliverables)
    - Specify what can be achieved by December 31st, 2018.
    - Consider products that are useful to the government agencies. Peer-reviewed journal articles may come later. Consider what can be provided in a quick-turnaround format.
- Feasibility
    - Describe the feasibility of this project (e.g., access to data, staff capacity and expertise, prior experience).
    - Describe anticipated barriers to feasibility. The Colorado Lab anticipates being an active partner in addressing feasibility issues for some projects.

Full proposals will be invited based on the review of Letters of Interest with notification by noon on Wednesday, June 27. Those selected for a full proposal will be expected to:

- Attend a virtual meeting with the Colorado Lab to discuss project on **Thursday, June 28th**.
    - The Lab will send an invitation via email by Wednesday, June 27th at noon.
- Submit a pre-analysis plan by **July 13th at noon.**
- Submit a deliverable-based budget and budget justification narrative due by **July 13th at noon.**
- Meet all other deadlines.

Expectations for Research Teams:

(1) Commit to developing or strengthening a mutualistic relationship with government agencies ([read more here](#)).
(2) Attend September networking event with state agency partners in the Denver area.
(3) Engage in monthly virtual meetings with the Colorado Lab to discuss project progress (select one representative of research team to participate).
(4) Develop a pre-analysis plan and register studies with the Open Science Framework.
(5) Collaborate with the Colorado Lab and government agencies to develop communication strategies for the results.
(6) Final reports and PPTs are branded as Colorado Lab products that are authored by your research team. Affiliations of research team members will be listed.

All submission materials and questions should be submitted via email to:

Liz Shahan, Senior Analyst
Liz.Shahan@du.edu

Questions? Contact Elysia Clemens, elysia.clemens@du.edu or 303-871-6262.