Request for Proposals:

Cross System, Actionable Social or Health Policy Research

The mission of the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab (Colorado Lab) is to improve the lives of Colorado residents by partnering with state and local governments to strengthen coordinated and efficient person-centered services. Examples of how Governor Hickenlooper's priorities for the Lab are being actualized can be found **here**. During the transition to the next administration, the Colorado Lab is soliciting proposals from researchers to conduct cross-system, actionable social or health policy research in partnership with one or more state agencies[1].

> Governor Hickenlooper's priorities for the Colorado Lab are:
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> • Affordable Housing
> • Reducing Recidivism
> • Prevention and Early Intervention for System Involved Youth
> • Good Government and Efficiency Projects
>
> Cross system research ideas that reflect these priorities are encouraged, but all cross system social policy and health research ideas will be given full consideration.

Cross System Research:

- Involves two or more state agencies
     OR
- Involves at least one state agency and one or more local government partner(s) (e.g., judicial district, county, public housing authority, school district)

Priority will be given to proposals that benefit multiple systems over projects that simply use data from multiple systems.

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
- Quantitative studies that inform theory of change for programs or policies implemented by or in partnership with Colorado government agencies

Any of the above study types may be supplemented by a qualitative component, but that is not a requirement.

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[1] The Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab's advisory group is comprised of representatives from state agencies. The advisory group prioritized the Lab's focus on cross system research.

Project Timelines, Submission Types, and Maximum Award Amounts:

We anticipate communicating Colorado Lab recommendations for funding by December 31st, 2018 with the expectations that contracts will be fully executed and projects could start by March 1st, 2019.

There are two types of submissions:

- **Quick Turnaround Projects:** No more than 9 months in length and completed by December 2019. Maximum award of $50,000. No cost-sharing or match is required.

- **Longer Term Projects**: Up to 22 months in length and completed by December 2020. Maximum award of up to $100,000 per year calendar year for up to two calendar years (i.e., project maximum from the Colorado Lab $200,000). Requires a 25% Cost-Share or Match that is addition to the Colorado Lab funding.

No indirect costs. Carryover across project years is not likely to be approved. No cost-extensions are not likely to be approved. The Colorado Lab is committing up to $1 million in funding for research proposed during the 2019 calendar year!

Applicant Eligibility:

Organizations that have the ability to conduct actionable research and engage in mutualistic partnerships with government agencies. Eligible lead applicants may include, but are not limited to, non-profit and for profit organizations and public and private agencies and institutions, such as colleges and universities. One or more state agencies must be a partner on all projects. Priority will be given to proposals that include representatives from one or more Colorado Institutes of Higher Education on the research team.

Letters of Interest (Required) are due by Monday, October 29th at noon.

Letters of interest must be submitted to the online survey as one PDF document and include:
(a) narrative (4 pages maximum), (b) reference list (no page limit), (c) description of key personnel (2 pages maximum), and (d) key personnel curriculum vitae (4 pages maximum per person).

Cover Sheet (Entered Directly into an Online Survey):

- Project Title
- Submission Type: "Quick Turnaround" or "Longer Term"
- Length of Project: Number of months (maximum length is 22 months)
- End Users of the Information: Be specific about the government agencies and, if appropriate, offices or divisions within the agencies.
- Government Agency Partners: Specify the individuals and titles and include description of how they were engaged in the proposal development.
- Abstract (125 words): Purpose of the study, data sources, and "so what" or why it matters across systems. Write the abstract for the audiences identified as end users of this project.
- Principal Investigator: Name, title, affiliation, email address, and preferred phone number
- Research Team Members (Optional): Name, title, and affiliation
- Contracting Contact: Name, title, email address, phone number, mailing address

Narrative (4 Pages Maximum, Single-Spaced, 12 Point Font, 1" Margins):
- Project Title
- Purpose of the Study
- Significance
  - How is the study positioned in the existing literature nationally and in Colorado?
  - How can findings can advance or inform cross-system Colorado policy and practice?
- Methods
  - Sample and data sources
  - Primary research questions
  - High-level analysis plan

- Project Timeline that Includes Tasks and Deliverables
  - Consider products that are useful to the Government agencies (i.e., peer reviewed journal article may come later, but what can be provided in a quick-turnaround format).
  - For longer-term projects, specify what will be accomplished by the end of 2019.
- 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.

Key Personnel and Curriculum Vitae:
- Description of key personnel, role on project, and description of experience collaborating with government partners (2 pages maximum, single-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins)
- Curriculum vitae for key personnel (4 pages per person maximum, no formatting requirements)

Full proposals will be invited based on the review of Letters of Interest with notification by 5pm on Friday, November 9th. Those selected for a full proposal will be expected to:
- Attend a <u>virtual</u> meeting with the Colorado Lab to discuss the project on the morning of **November 13th or November 15th**. Please mark your calendars.
- Submit a pre-analysis plan by **Monday, December 10th at noon** that is informed by reviewer feedback provided during the virtual meeting.
- Submit an overall project detailed budget, a budget justification narrative, and a per deliverable cost by **Monday, December 10th at noon.**

Expectations for Project Teams:
- Commitment to developing or strengthening a mutualistic relationship with government agencies.
- Attend an annual networking event with state agency partners in the Denver area.
- Engage in monthly virtual meetings with the Lab to discuss project progress (select one representative of the research team to participate).
- Develop a pre-analysis plan and register causal studies with the Open Science Framework.
- Collaborate with Colorado Lab and government agencies to develop communication strategies for the results.
- Final reports and presentations are branded as Colorado Lab products that are authored by your research team. Affiliations of research team members will be listed.

All submission materials must be submitted **HERE**

Questions? Contact Dr. Elysia Clemens, Deputy Director of the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, elysia.clemens@du.edu or 303-871-6262.

RESEARCH IDEA GENERATOR

THERE IS A SIMULTANEOUS CALL FOR COLORADO STATE AGENCY STAFF MEMBERS TO SUBMIT CROSS SYSTEM RESEARCH IDEAS.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.