

**RFP # 2024-LDI-01****Alabama Medicaid Agency Lab Data Integration RFP****Proposer Questions and Agency Answers****03/12/2024**

<b>Question ID:</b>	1
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/22/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the budget for this project? Year One: product and implementation costs? Out years: product costs and managed services?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The estimated budget for this procurement will not be provided. The Agency requests all prospective proposers to submit their best and final price.
<b>Question ID:</b>	2
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/22/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the existing data platform noted in the RFP document?
<b>Section Number:</b>	I
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The existing platform is a cloud-based platform that integrates HL7 messages.
<b>Question ID:</b>	3
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/22/24
<b>Question:</b>	How many out years do you all expect to be built in to proposals for the managed services portion?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The resulting Vendor contract could be for a maximum 5 years.

<b>Question ID:</b>	4
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can Medicaid provide either an official number or an estimated number of labs that are not currently providing data? Additionally, are all potential labs located within Alabama?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.E Planning Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	A labs listing will be provided within 30 days after the contract effective date. Yes, all labs are with the State of Alabama.
<b>Question ID:</b>	5
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can Medicaid provide the number of labs currently providing data?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.A. Implementation Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Today, there are 10 Independent labs groups providing an average file size is 1,067 kb.
<b>Question ID:</b>	6
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	As this project has been identified as “takeover proposal with enhancements” (page 7), can Medicaid provide any detail about the current cloud environment such as the size of the current database, how much storage is included, how much storage is currently being used, and how much storage is available? This information would be beneficial to serve as a baseline for future scalability considerations.
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.H. Implementation Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current cloud solution resides AWS. The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months.

<b>Question ID:</b>	7
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	Based on the two sections of the RFP described, would it be safe to assume that the data retention requirement would not exceed a total of 8 years in the event that the full contract term plus applicable extension periods were exercised?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.H Ongoing Work Requirements & VIII.BB
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8 & 24
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Agency Data retention policies are outlined in the Records Disposition Authority (RDA) and applicable Interoperability requirements and will effective upon contract start date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	8
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	Would historical data include lab results data that has currently been collected, or historical from the effective date of the contract resulting from this RFP? If it would include current data, would we need to provide a data migration plan with our response to import data into the new environment?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.I Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	As stated on RFP page 8, Item G, Vendor must demonstrate their capacity and capability to implement, transition, and maintain interface connectivity.
<b>Question ID:</b>	9
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	Currently, what is the frequency of lab results data being received from participating labs (i.e. daily, weekly, monthly)?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.A Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid receives the lab results monthly.

<b>Question ID:</b>	10
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/26/24
<b>Question:</b>	Is there a difference between “State-approved labs” noted in Section E of the Ongoing Work Requirements and “labs” noted in Section E of the Planning Requirements section? In essence, could there be “labs” that the Vendor identifies that would not be considered “State-approved labs,” or is there a known list of labs that would need to be recruited?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.E. Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Any lab(s) that provide(s) services reimbursed by Alabama Medicaid are deemed “state-approved” within the scope of this RFP. Alabama Medicaid will provide a lab listing within 30 days of contract award.
<b>Question ID:</b>	11
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	You noted that you currently use "a cloud-based platform to collect, parse, and transmit integrate the lab test results in to the Agency's data lake". Is this current Data Lake included in that "cloud-based platform", or does the Data Lake exist as a separate solution?
<b>Section Number:</b>	I. Background
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid’s Data Lake is a separate solution that resides in the Agency’s Azure cloud and is outside the scope of this RFP.
<b>Question ID:</b>	12
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What technologies are used in your current Data Lake environment?
<b>Section Number:</b>	I. Background
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid’s Data Lake is a separate solution that resides in the Agency’s Azure cloud.
<b>Question ID:</b>	13
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are are open to a new Data Lake platform?
<b>Section Number:</b>	I. Background
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid’s Data Lake is a separate solution that resides in the Agency’s Azure cloud and is outside the scope of this RFP.

<b>Question ID:</b>	14
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	If you are open to a new Data Lake platform, can the new Data Lake be on the Cloud?
<b>Section Number:</b>	I. Background
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid's Data Lake is a separate solution that resides in the Agency's Azure cloud and is outside the scope of this RFP.
<b>Question ID:</b>	15
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Do you have a current design or vision for the format of Alabama's One Health Record®? Or do you look to the vendor selected to design that for you?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II. B Planning Requirement
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP page 12, Item G for any applicable, standardized data formats/protocols/interfaces to be addressed in Vendor's response.
<b>Question ID:</b>	16
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What standard-based file transmission protocols does Alabama currently have experience using?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II. B Planning Requirement
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	7
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP page 12, Items A-Q for any applicable, standardized data formats/protocols/interfaces to be addressed in Vendor's response.
<b>Question ID:</b>	17
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Do you have a current list of all the labs approved by the Agency?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II. G Planning Requirement
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Yes. Alabama Medicaid will provide a lab listing within 30 days of contract award.

<b>Question ID:</b>	18
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How much does this list of labs change? As in, how many labs are added per month, how many removed per month, etc.
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.G Planning Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Infrequently. Alabama Medicaid will provide a lab listing within 30 days of contract award.
<b>Question ID:</b>	19
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Do you have a definition of your meaning of a "Data Management Plan"?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.H Planning Requirement
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Alabama Medicaid will provide a Data Management Plan template within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	20
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	By stating "file format(s)", do you envision that there will be different file formats for different labs? Or a singular, standardized file format?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.A. Implementation Requirement
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	8
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid will only accept standardized file formats, including but not limited to HL7.
<b>Question ID:</b>	21
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the expected scale of lab results data -- i.e. how many GB of data daily, how many records daily, how many fields per record, size of fields, etc.?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.A. Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months.

<b>Question ID:</b>	22
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How often is the "periodic basis" on which the you need to parse, format and generate feeds for submission to Medicaid and the State HIE, Alabama One Health Record@.
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.B. Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current frequency of file submission to the Agency is monthly. The Alabama HIE frequency is undetermined currently.
<b>Question ID:</b>	23
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you specify your "reasonable timeframe" for providing historical data? That is, would that be measured in weeks, days, hours, minutes, seconds, other?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.I. Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The Agency's urgency of a historical data request will determine what is deemed a reasonable time frame.
<b>Question ID:</b>	24
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	You note that the number of months of data to retain will not be known until after the contract is awarded. But without that information, it is impossible to effectively estimate the amount of storage space and cost is required. Can some estimate of file counts and sizes be provided?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.F. Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months.
<b>Question ID:</b>	25
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	If you cannot provide any data sizing requirements, can we provide a flexible quote for data storage cost, that may fluctuate depending upon the file size requirements?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II.F. Ongoing Work Requirements
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months.

<b>Question ID:</b>	26
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Do you expect that the data set will remain near this count of 134 fields, and that it will not grow significantly?
<b>Section Number:</b>	Appendix D: Minimum Data Set
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	46-49
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	We expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.
<b>Question ID:</b>	27
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the expected budget? For the first 2 years and for the subsequent 3 option years?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The estimated budget for this procurement will not be provided. The Agency requests all prospective proposers to submit their best and final price.
<b>Question ID:</b>	28
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Is budget allocated for this, or will there be a process of securing budget after a vendor is selected?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The estimated budget for this procurement will not be provided. The Agency requests all prospective proposers to submit their best and final price.
<b>Question ID:</b>	29
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	The RFP states that we must submit our proposal with the contract at Appendix B signed. I note that appendix B is not a contract for professional services. Will the State be open to negotiating a Contract for professional services post award? It is expected this contract would contain insurance requirements, limitations on liability, indemnification, Intellectual property ownership, etc.
<b>Section Number:</b>	Appendix B
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	28-44
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No. Vendor response must address all RFP requirements as a single contractual solution.



<b>Question ID:</b>	30
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Should we provide our standard professional services contract for the States consideration since Appendix B of the RFP does not address legal terms for professional services? Or is there another contract the State would like to use that we can review and provide proposed changes in track changes?
<b>Section Number:</b>	Appendix B
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	28-44
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No. Vendor response must address all RFP requirements as a single contractual solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	31
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there particular insurance requirements that State will require, and may we have these requirements prior to the proposals due date? Are those insurance requirements negotiable?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must address all RFP requirements.
<b>Question ID:</b>	32
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How many unique endpoints are you looking to integrate?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Today, there are 10 Independent labs groups providing an average file size is 1,067, kb.
<b>Question ID:</b>	33
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How do you see that growing over time?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	We expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.

<b>Question ID:</b>	34
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What tool are you using for your data lake?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid's Data Lake is a separate solution that resides in the Agency's Azure cloud and is outside the scope of this RFP.
<b>Question ID:</b>	35
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	"Please provide the number of users and the number of people leaders impacted."
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Those numbers are undetermined at this time.
<b>Question ID:</b>	36
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Does the Agency allow for multiple response submissions?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No. Vendor response must address all RFP requirements as a single contractual solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	37
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Project Timeline and Milestones: Can you provide a detailed timeline for the project, including key milestones and deadlines for each phase of the RFP process, system design, development, testing, and deployment stages?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section B, Schedule of Events on Page 3.
<b>Question ID:</b>	38
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Project Timeline and Milestones: Can you provide a detailed timeline for the project, including key milestones and deadlines for each phase of the RFP process, system design, development, testing, and deployment stages?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section B, Schedule of Events on Page 3.

<b>Question ID:</b>	39
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Delivery and Acceptance Criteria: Can you detail the specific criteria and processes for the acceptance of deliverables at each stage of the project? How will success be measured, and what are the requirements for moving from one phase to the next?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Proposed Solution, Items A-Q, pages 11-12.
<b>Question ID:</b>	40
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Communication and Reporting: What are your preferences for project communication and reporting? How frequently do you expect updates, and through which channels (e.g., email updates, weekly calls, monthly status reports)? Who are the key stakeholders to be included in these communications?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Proposed Solution, Items A-Q, pages 11-12.
<b>Question ID:</b>	41
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Risk Management and Escalation Procedures: Can you outline the expected risk management procedures for this project? How should potential risks be identified, reported, and mitigated? What is the escalation process for addressing unforeseen challenges or delays that could impact project timelines or deliverables?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Scope of Work, General and Planning requirement, pages 7-8, and General Terms And Conditions on page 20. This contract will be administered by the Agency's Chief Data Officer, Data Governance Office, under the IST Department.

<b>Question ID:</b>	42
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Quality Assurance Processes: Can you specify the quality assurance (QA) processes and standards expected for this project? Are there specific methodologies (e.g., Agile QA, Waterfall, TDD) or frameworks (e.g., ISO 9001) that we should adhere to?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	43
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Testing Requirements: What are the specific testing requirements for the project, including unit testing, integration testing, system testing, and user acceptance testing (UAT)? Are there any industry-specific regulations or standards that the testing processes must comply with?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Proposed Solution, Items A-Q, pages 11-12.
<b>Question ID:</b>	44
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Performance Metrics and Benchmarks: Can you detail the performance metrics and benchmarks that the final solution should meet or exceed? How will these metrics be measured and validated during the QA process?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days contract effective date.

<b>Question ID:</b>	45
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Defect Management and Resolution: What is the expected process for defect tracking, management, and resolution throughout the project lifecycle? How should defects be prioritized, and what are the timelines for addressing critical issues?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Quality Assurance (QA) within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	46
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Quality Control and Continuous Improvement: How do you envision the quality control and continuous improvement processes to be integrated into the project? Are there specific tools, technologies, or practices (e.g., automated testing, continuous integration/continuous deployment pipelines) that you expect to be utilized?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	47
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What specific data exchange protocols and formats (e.g., HL7 FHIR, HL7 V2.x) are required for integration with existing healthcare systems and the State HIE?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	TBD. Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution.

<b>Question ID:</b>	48
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you specify the security protocols and encryption standards required for data at rest and in transit within the proposed lab data integration solution?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section VIII, General Terms and Conditions Item A-F, Page 20-21.
<b>Question ID:</b>	49
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there any specific cloud platforms or technologies (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) preferred or mandated for the deployment of the solution?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No.
<b>Question ID:</b>	50
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the detailed scalability requirements to handle peak data loads, including expected transaction rates and data volume growth projections?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months. We expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.
<b>Question ID:</b>	51
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you provide detailed specifications or schemas for the lab data sets that will be ingested, including any custom extensions or mappings needed?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP page 12, Items A-Q for any applicable, standardized data formats/protocols/interfaces to be addressed in Vendor's response.

<b>Question ID:</b>	52
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the expected frequency and volume of data updates, and how should the system handle real-time data processing and batch processing requirements?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	At a minimum, frequency is monthly. The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months.
<b>Question ID:</b>	53
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there specific requirements or frameworks for API management, including rate limiting, access control, and monitoring?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	54
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you outline the compliance audit and reporting requirements, including any specific logs, metrics, or reports that must be generated by the system?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days contract effective date.

<b>Question ID:</b>	55
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the integration requirements with existing EMR/EHR systems, including any specific APIs or data exchange standards that must be supported?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	There is not an expectation of direct integration with EMR/EHR systems. However, Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution. Please refer to RFP page 12, Items A-Q for any applicable, standardized data formats/protocols/interfaces to be addressed in Vendor's response.
<b>Question ID:</b>	56
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What disaster recovery and data redundancy levels are required, including RPO (Recovery Point Objective) and RTO (Recovery Time Objective) targets?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Scope of Work, General and Planning requirement, pages 7-8, and General Terms And Conditions on page 20.
<b>Question ID:</b>	57
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How should the solution handle data quality and validation, including mechanisms for detecting and correcting errors in lab data submissions?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Data Quality (DQ) within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days contract effective date.



<b>Question ID:</b>	58
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there specific requirements for data anonymization or pseudonymization for use in analytics or reporting to ensure patient privacy?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Scope of Work, General and Planning, Implementation requirements, pages 7-9, and General Terms and Conditions, Items A-F, pages 20-21.
<b>Question ID:</b>	59
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the detailed architecture for the desired cloud infrastructure, including considerations for multi-tenancy, data segregation, and service orchestration?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	60
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the expectations for machine learning or AI capabilities within the system, including any specific models or algorithms that should be implemented?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with QA analysis within their proposed solution.

<b>Question ID:</b>	61
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How should the system support dynamic scaling and auto-scaling features to efficiently manage resources in response to varying load?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	62
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you provide details on the user authentication and authorization model required for system access, including integration with existing identity management systems?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	63
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the specific performance benchmarks for data processing latency, throughput, and system responsiveness under normal and peak loads?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA and platform performance within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality, the Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.

<b>Question ID:</b>	64
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there any requirements for integrating with public health databases or other external data sources for enhanced data analysis or reporting?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No.
<b>Question ID:</b>	65
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What mechanisms for data backup and restore are required, and how frequently should backups be taken to meet data durability requirements?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for data protection, availability, DR in their response.
<b>Question ID:</b>	66
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you elaborate on the version control and deployment strategy for the lab data integration solution, including CI/CD processes and environment management?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section II, Scope of Work, General and Planning, Implementation, and On-going operational requirements, pages 7-9, and General Terms and Conditions, Items A-F. pages 20-23.

<b>Question ID:</b>	67
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What specific data integration patterns (e.g., batch processing, real-time streaming, API-based integration) are preferred for this project?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution. Please refer to RFP page 12, Items A-Q for any applicable, standardized data formats/protocols/interfaces to be addressed in Vendor's response.
<b>Question ID:</b>	68
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you detail the data quality and validation rules required for incoming lab data, including any specific algorithms or processes for error detection and correction?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA and platform performance within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality, the Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	69
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there predefined data models and schemas for the lab data to be integrated, or will part of the project involve developing these models?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No. Use case(s) will be determined upon contract effective date.

<b>Question ID:</b>	70
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How should the proposed system manage and monitor data lineage and metadata to support traceability and auditing requirements?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Data Management within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality, the Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	71
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the specific requirements for data transformation and normalization to ensure consistency across different lab data formats?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Data Management within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality (DQ), the Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	72
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you specify the data retention policies and mechanisms required for compliance, including any data archival and purging processes?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Agency Data retention policies are outlined in the Records Disposition Authority (RDA) and applicable Interoperability requirements and will effective upon contract start date.

<b>Question ID:</b>	73
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the expectations around data governance, including data ownership, access controls, and change management procedures?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Data Management within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality, the Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	74
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How will the system need to integrate with existing data warehouses or data lakes, including any specific protocols or formats for data ingestion and extraction?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	75
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there specific requirements or preferences for data pipeline orchestration tools and technologies (e.g., Apache Airflow, AWS Step Functions)?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No, except for those called out in the RFP. However, Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration within their proposed solution.

<b>Question ID:</b>	76
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the detailed specifications for the API layer, including RESTful APIs, GraphQL, or other interfaces for data access and manipulation?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	77
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you provide details on the expected volume and velocity of data through the proposed data pipelines and how the system should scale to accommodate growth?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	At a minimum, frequency is monthly. The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months. We expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.
<b>Question ID:</b>	78
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the technical requirements for ensuring data consistency and integrity across distributed systems and databases?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Data Management within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality, the Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.

<b>Question ID:</b>	79
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How should the solution facilitate data exploration and analysis, including any requirements for ad-hoc querying and reporting capabilities?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to DQ data analysis and reporting within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	80
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Are there specific frameworks or platforms preferred for developing and deploying microservices as part of the system architecture?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No, except for any called out in the RFP. However, Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	81
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the requirements for system and data monitoring, including tools and metrics for performance, availability, and usage analysis?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to QA and platform performance within their proposed solution. Regarding Data Quality, the Agency will provide a template the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.



<b>Question ID:</b>	82
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you outline any specific requirements for implementing data encryption, both at rest and in transit, within the data pipelines and storage layers?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Currently, monthly file transfers to the Agency's Data Lake with the current platform are via SFTP. Please refer to RFP Section II, Scope of Work, General and Planning, Implementation, and On-going operational requirements, pages 7-9, and General Terms and Conditions, Items A-F. pages 20-23. Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to requirements within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	83
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the desired approach for managing schema evolution and versioning for the integrated data, especially in the context of backward compatibility?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration within their proposed solution.
<b>Question ID:</b>	84
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How will the solution need to accommodate the integration of future data sources or expansion of data types without significant re-architecture?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current lab database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months. We expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.

<b>Question ID:</b>	85
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What are the requirements for data deduplication and entity resolution across disparate data sources to ensure accurate data integration?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate their standardized approach to Data Quality analysis and reporting within their proposed solution. The Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	86
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Can you provide details on the expected use cases for machine learning or advanced analytics within the integrated data environment, including any specific data preparation or feature engineering needs?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Use case(s) will be determined upon contract effective date. We do expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.
<b>Question ID:</b>	87
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Long-Term Vision: How does this project align with your organization's long-term strategic goals and objectives?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Data utilization to improve health outcomes.

<b>Question ID:</b>	88
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Success Metrics: Beyond the immediate project deliverables, what are the key performance indicators (KPIs) you will use to measure the success of this initiative in the context of your business objectives?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Future KPI's will be determined upon contract effective date as we expect the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract.
<b>Question ID:</b>	89
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	User Involvement: How do you envision the involvement of end-users in the project's development lifecycle, particularly in requirements gathering and UAT phases?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid user involvement will be minimum at the platform level.
<b>Question ID:</b>	90
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Stakeholder Communication: What are the preferred channels and frequency for stakeholder communications and updates throughout the project lifecycle?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	This contract and communications will be managed and administered by the Agency's Chief Data Officer, Data Governance Office, under the IST Department.
<b>Question ID:</b>	91
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Budget Flexibility: Is there any flexibility in the budget outlined in the RFP, or are there specific financial constraints we should be aware of while preparing our proposal?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Budget information for this procurement will not be provided. The Agency requests all prospective proposers to submit their best and final price.

<b>Question ID:</b>	92
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Contractual Terms: Are there any non-negotiable contractual terms or conditions that bidders should be aware of when responding to this RFP?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Refer to the STAARS Document and the VIII. General Terms and Conditions.
<b>Question ID:</b>	93
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Integration with Existing Systems: Can you provide more details about the existing systems and technologies with which the new solution must integrate?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Vendor response must demonstrate all their standardized approach(s) and capabilities for clinical data integration with both the Agency Data Lake and Alabama's HIE, One Health Record® within their proposed solution. The Agency's Data Lake resides in their Microsoft Azure cloud. Alabama One Health Record® platform is the Intersystems Healthshare version 2023.1.
<b>Question ID:</b>	94
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Data Migration Needs: Are there specific requirements or challenges related to data migration from legacy systems to the new solution that we should consider?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	No. There is not an expectation of data migration from legacy systems.

<b>Question ID:</b>	95
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Training Requirements: What are your expectations regarding training for users and administrators of the new system? Are there preferences for on-site versus remote training sessions?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	However, Medicaid user involvement will be minimum at the platform level and training sessions approach will be discussed after contract effective date.
<b>Question ID:</b>	96
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Post-Implementation Support: What level of post-implementation support and maintenance are you looking for? Are there specific SLAs (Service Level Agreements) you have in mind?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The Agency will provide a template of the Data Management Plan within 30 days of contract effective date. Please refer to the RFP Scope of Work, On-going Operational work requirements on page 9.
<b>Question ID:</b>	97
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	What is the budget for this project?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The estimated budget for this procurement will not be provided. The Agency requests all prospective proposers to submit their best and final price.
<b>Question ID:</b>	98
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Is it the program's intention to reprocur after five years?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	However, there is an expectation the data integration project and minimum data set to continue to grow and evolve with gradual maturity during the life of the contract and beyond.

<b>Question ID:</b>	99
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Is there an expected implementation date?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Please refer to RFP Section B, Schedule of Events on Page 3.
<b>Question ID:</b>	100
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	On page 9's "Ongoing work Requirements" – Regarding the "periodic basis" (mentioned in points A, B and G), what is the period (daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.), and is this flexible, based on project requirements?
<b>Section Number:</b>	II. A. B. G
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	9
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Currently, monthly file transfers to the Agency's Data Lake with the current platform are via SFTP. There is not a current integration with Alabama One Health Record®.
<b>Question ID:</b>	101
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	How many labs will be included in the project scope (e.g., the number of labs currently and not currently participating)?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	The current lab group count is 10, and the present database is approximately 42,000 MB. The average file size is 1,067 kb over the last 12 months. Alabama Medicaid will provide a lab listing within 30 days of contract award.
<b>Question ID:</b>	102
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	Who is the incumbent for the work, and can AMA provide the amount paid to the incumbent in the last fiscal year?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid will not disclose this information through the procurement process.

<b>Question ID:</b>	103
<b>Date Question Asked:</b>	02/27/24
<b>Question:</b>	In the Background section, there's a statement "RFP should be considered as a takeover proposal with enhancements". Will AMA provide the codebase for the takeover? If so, what is the programming language, environment, and architecture for the current system? Approximately how many lines of code is the current system?
<b>Section Number:</b>	N/A
<b>RFP Page Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Agency Answer:</b>	Medicaid will not disclose this information through the procurement process.