

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Evaluation- Campus Response Efforts

RFP Release: July 28, 2025

Proposal Due Date: August 29, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

1. Overview and Scope

The State of Ohio is committed to changing the culture on Ohio's campuses, public and private, in regard to preventing and responding to sexual violence. To support a safer campus environment for all, the Ohio Department of Higher Education ("ODHE") encourages immediate and thoughtful action to help prevent the occurrence of terrible crimes and ultimately support every college and university's aim to provide an excellent and safe learning environment. With the goal of ending and preventing sexual violence on Ohio's campuses, the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education is issuing this RFP for technical assistance and consultive services to support campus leaders in the evaluation of current campus response efforts with a specific focus on the incorporation of trauma-informed care strategies. These services will primarily support the work related to the following recommendations from the Changing Campus Culture report:

- Use data to guide action.
- Empower staff, faculty, campus law enforcement, and students to prevent and respond to sexual violence through evidence-based training.
- Adopt survivor centered strategies.

The report can be found [here](#).

The Chancellor is seeking proposals from qualified vendor(s) and will evaluate current efforts related to response efforts, including any current trauma-informed care strategies, specific to sexual and intimate partner violence through an evaluation and consultation service model. The final report provided to institutions participating in the vendor services will be the basis for the consultive services which will seek to guide future campus-based strategies, or initiatives, needed to effectively strengthen and improve campus response efforts as well as to implement and/or expand trauma-informed care strategies in an evidence-informed manner. The award of this RFP will result in a contract for up to \$125,000 with the Chancellor.

The Chancellor's actions and this RFP are in accordance with the state biennial operating budget of the 136th General Assembly which includes language directing the Chancellor to develop model best practices for preventing and responding to sexual violence on campus and protecting students and staff who are victims of sexual violence on campus. The Chancellor is also directed to convene state institutions of higher education and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the training and implementation of best practices regarding campus sexual violence.

2. Program Process

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| • RFP release date | July 28, 2025 |
| • Questions due by 12:00 p.m. | August 6, 2025 |
| • Proposals Due by 12 p.m. | August 29, 2025 |
| • Review, score, and select vendor(s) | September 2 – September 30, 2025 |

- a) Release of the RFP from the Ohio Department of Higher Education posted at (<https://rfp.ohiohighered.org/>) on July 28, 2025.
- b) Responsive proposals should be submitted through the [ODHE RFP portal](#). See section 6 for detailed submission instructions.
- c) The cost of preparation and delivery of the proposal are solely the responsibility of the applicant.
- d) The Chancellor will provide an opportunity for interested parties to submit questions in writing via email to Kerry Soller, ksoller@highered.ohio.gov, by August 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Additional information, including responses to the questions will be posted online at <https://rfp.ohiohighered.org/> by August 15, 2025.

3. Proposal Criteria

Respondents are required to address and demonstrate expertise in the initiative areas regarding conducting an evaluation of current response efforts specific to sexual and intimate partner violence and providing consultive services to develop evidence-based, trauma-informed care strategies. It is preferred that respondents also demonstrate subject matter expertise and experience with regards to the prevention of and response to sexual and intimate partner violence in a college/university campus environment.

RFP response may consist of two or more parties with shared capabilities and capacity partnering to provide the requested services. This RFP indicates the respondent as “vendor.” The vendor may identify as for-profit or non-profit organizations. The Chancellor may make one award to a lead party on behalf of a consortium or partnership.

4. Project Term

The project term will commence upon approval of Ohio Controlling Board, when required, and execution of an agreement with the Chancellor. Services rendered in accordance with this RFP and the subsequent agreement must be completed by June 30, 2027. A final program and reporting will be due from the vendor 30 days after the funds are spent in full, or June 30, 2027, whichever occurs first.

5. Evaluation & Proposal Scoring Criteria

The cost of preparation and delivery of the proposal are solely the responsibility of the respondent. The Chancellor's staff and appointed review team will evaluate RFP responses based on predetermined criteria. The Chancellor reserves the right to contact any reference to assist in the evaluation of the proposal, to independently verify information contained in the proposal, and to discuss the vendor's qualifications with any person or entity not affiliated with the Chancellor's office. Finalists may be required to make a presentation of the proposal, which would occur in person or virtually. The presentation cannot materially change the information contained in the proposal. The Chancellor shall evaluate the candidates and exercise independent judgment in making the final decision.

6. Proposal Contents & Page Limits, Format & Submission Instructions

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is designed to furnish detailed information regarding the responder's ability, expertise and capacity to provide technical assistance in setting up, disseminating, and collecting data to evaluate campus response efforts, completing data analysis, developing a report, and providing consultive services to the campus to inform future campus response practices and the implementation or expansion of trauma-informed care into those efforts. Additional information may be requested. All information submitted in response to this RFP is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release. Responses that are poorly formatted or submitted, incomplete or otherwise determined to not meet the format and submission guidelines may be removed from the pool for review. Proposals shall not contain promotional or display materials.

Contents should be arranged in the following order and be at or less than the noted length:

1. **Cover Page (optional)**
2. **Abstract** – One page or less
3. **Proposal Questions** – Responder should respond to the questions set forth in Exhibits I & II – 30 pages or less
 - a. Resumes and other supporting material are not included in the page length.
4. **Budget & Budget Narrative (3 pages maximum)** – In a narrative and summarized in an excel spreadsheet, the budget and budget narrative will document:
 - a. Costs for each step of the process.
 - b. The underlying assumption for each cost (i.e. base cost for item or service, number served, etc.)

Submission Instructions: One PDF in 11 pt. Arial font with normal margins, single line spaced on 8.5 x 11-inch paper. In the footer all pages must be numbered consecutively using the format page x of y' (e.g., page 3 of 30) with the responder name. Consecutive page numbering applies to all pages of the proposal including any appendices.

Submit one PDF, as detailed above, through the ODHE RFP portal (<https://rfp.ohiohighered.org/>) by 12:00 p.m. on August 29, 2025.

7. Legal Notice & Disclaimers; Obligations to Local, State & Federal Governments

All information submitted in response to this RFP becomes property of the Chancellor and is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release under the Ohio Public Records Act, as defined in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The Chancellor reserves the right to request or use additional information to assist in the review process, to require new proposals from interested parties, to reject any or all proposals responding to this RFP, or to re-issue, modify or cancel the RFP if it is determined that it is in the best interests of the institutions and/or the state. Issuing this RFP does not bind the Chancellor to issuing a contract. The Chancellor administers the process and reserves the right to adjust the dates for this process for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate. All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal shall be borne by the respondents and are not recoverable under an award. The decisions of the Chancellor are final. Respondents will be notified of the outcome of their proposal at the conclusion of the review process.

The respondents understand that the information provided in this RFP is intended solely to assist in the proposal submission process. To the best of the Chancellor's knowledge, the information provided is accurate; however, the Chancellor does not warrant such accuracy and any errors or omissions subsequently determined will not be construed as a basis for invalidating this RFP. Interested parties bear the sole responsibility of obtaining the necessary information to submit a qualifying proposal. By submitting a proposal, respondents expressly agree to these terms.

- a. Obligations to Local, State & Federal Governments:** The contract between the Chancellor and the chosen applicant ("vendor") will require the vendor to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws in the performance of the project. Vendor(s) must accept full responsibility for payments of all unemployment compensation, insurance premiums, workers' compensation premiums, income tax deductions, social security deductions and any and all other payroll

deductions required for all employees engaged on the performance of the work authorized by the contract.

Vendor(s) will be required to certify in the contract, among other things, that they do not owe any delinquent taxes or money to the state or a political subdivision of the state whether the amounts owed are being contested in a court of law or not.

- b. Trade Secret Language:** All information submitted in response to this RFP become property of the Chancellor and is public information unless a statutory exception exists that exempts it from public release under the Ohio Public Records Act, as defined in Section 149.43 of the Ohio Revised Code:

All Lead Respondents are strongly discouraged from including in a proposal any information that the Lead Applicant considers to be a “trade secret,” as that term is defined in Section 1333.61(D) of the Ohio Revised Code. The institution or business asserting trade secret bears the responsibility to take formal action if necessary and defend such assertion. Otherwise, public records laws may require disclosure.

If any information in the proposal is to be treated as a trade secret, the proposal must:

- a. Identify each and every occurrence of the information within the proposal with an asterisk before and after each line containing trade secret information and underline the trade secret information itself;
- b. Identify that the proposal contains trade secret information in the cover letter; and
- c. Include a summary page immediately after the cover letter that lists each page in the proposal that includes trade secret information and the number of occurrences of trade secret information on that page.
- d. To determine what qualifies as trade secret information, refer to the definition of “trade secret” in the Ohio Revised Code at 1333.61(D), which is reproduced below for reference:

(D) “Trade Secret” means information, including the whole or any portion or phase of any scientific or technical information, design, process, procedure, formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or improvement, or any business information or plans, financial information, or listing of names, addresses, or telephone numbers that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.

(2) It is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

- e. The Ohio Department of Higher Education requires non-disclosure agreements from all non-Department of Higher Education persons who may have had access to proposals containing trade secret information, including evaluators.
- f. If the Responder claims that a record is not subject to disclosure under the Ohio Public Records law based on trade secret, it will bear costs of defending this claim.

Questions should be directed to Kerry Soller, email at ksoller@highered.ohio.gov with the subject 'Evaluation – Campus Response Efforts RFP'.

EXHIBIT I

Selected vendor(s) must create a support services model to assist Ohio institutions of higher education as they work to evaluate current campus response efforts to incidents of sexual and intimate partner violence with a specific focus on the incorporation of trauma-informed strategies efforts. Upon completion of the data collection and analysis process, the vendor will also provide consultive services to assist the campus to identify practices which will seek to improve campus responses processes to reports of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. These practices should be rooted in evidence-based, trauma informed care strategies. The Chancellor is seeking parties who can provide the needed capabilities to Ohio's college and university campuses, up to 20 campuses, to implement the following:

- A. Technical assistance, sorting, formatting, analyzing data to evaluate campus response practices specific to sexual and intimate partner violence.
 - 1. Vendor shall have demonstrated experience in working with institutions of higher education to develop an evaluation tool. It is strongly preferred that the vendor has demonstrated experience in the evaluation of trauma-informed care and/or response strategies as related to incidents of sexual and intimate partner violence.
 - 2. Knowledge and experience with regards to assisting institutions of higher education in collecting and analyzing data from the campus community related to sexual and intimate partner violence.
 - 3. Vendor shall demonstrate the ability to conduct data analysis on results from an evaluation of campus culture, policy and/or procedures, related training and education efforts, and best practices for the mental health and wellbeing of community members. Preferred experience in evaluating trauma-informed care strategies specific to sexual and intimate partner violence in a higher education setting.
 - 4. Access and knowledge of SPSS and/or SurveyMonkeyPro or other appropriate survey tool or methodology.
 - 5. Demonstrate excellent data analysis skills and expertise.
 - 6. Ability to connect data to campus-specific action items related to the Changing Campus Culture initiative within the context of what institution can do per federal and state regulations and laws.
- B. Provide consultive services to each participating institution to identify outcomes, action steps, and key partnerships after the data analysis of current response efforts has been completed. The consultive services provided by the vendor should also support institutions in their efforts to implement and/or expand trauma-informed care strategies.

1. Demonstrated subject matter expertise in college/university processes for sexual misconduct/Title IX response with an emphasis on understanding how to incorporate trauma-informed care strategies. This includes but is not limited to communication and training on campus policies and procedures, as well as reporting, investigation, and resolution processes.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and experience building plans, protocols or other efforts along a continuum of care for mental health and wellbeing which is trauma-informed in a higher education environment, including on residential and commuter campuses.
3. Experience in providing guidance to campus staff to translate data into action.
4. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in providing consultive services to assist campus professionals in making connections between prevention and response efforts through a trauma-informed lens.
5. Experience working collaboratively with campus and community partners to identify effective strategies at large public universities, small private institutions, and community colleges.

C. Costs and Timeline

1. Respondents are to provide detailed cost estimates related to the implementation of each of the initiatives the vendor(s) includes in its response and a total cost for the proposed program. The total cost for the proposed program should not exceed \$125,000.00 and must be spread out over Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) and Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).
2. Timelines are to be submitted in bar chart form such as the GANTT format for each major milestone in the project plan.

D. Deliverables

During the 2025-2026 academic year, vendor will begin to assist up to 20 campuses in designing and conducting their evaluations and providing data analysis of the results. Continued support through May 30, 2027, to assist both the initially enrolled campuses in consultive services based on the data analyzed. If the maximum number of campuses was not reached during the initial enrollment period, the plan should provide details as to how the vendor would or would not be able to support onboarding additional campuses during the 2026-2027 academic year. At no time should the vendor expect to assist more than 20 campuses for the duration of the award agreement.

1. The vendor(s) will be required to submit a monthly report following the approved application timeline. The report will include a list of activities and outcomes, status of work and planned activities/outcomes anticipated in the following month.
2. Vendor(s) must participate in a monthly phone call conversation to provide status updates to the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
3. The following activities may be completed for up to 20 institutions:
 - a. Port information from campuses' own data collection systems (i.e., SurveyMonkeyPro) into a statistical analysis system (i.e., SPSS) system.
 - b. Analyze data using a statistical analysis system (i.e., SPSS) and provide a report.
 - c. Provide up to 5 hours of in-person or virtual consulting to support campuses in using the data to:
 1. Establish response practices which incorporate trauma-informed care strategies for incidents of sexual and intimate partner violence based on data analysis.
 2. Identify and engage campus and community partners.
 3. Formulate next steps with campus and community partners.

The vendor(s) should have experience or expertise with data analysis, higher education institutions, sexual and intimate partner violence, sexual misconduct/Title IX response processes, and trauma-informed care evaluation strategies; access to SPSS or other statistical software; quality analysis to be provided; quality/robustness of consulting support through a sexual and intimate partner violence lens; capacity to provide support for up to 20 institutions.

EXHIBIT II

A. Respondent Information - The response needs to reference and address the proposal outline found in Exhibit I.

1. Describe the vendor and/or team. If your team is affiliated with two or more parties provide the following information for each party:
 - Name(s);
 - Address(es);
 - Name and Contact (e-mail and phone) for this RFP.
2. Describe the structure and composition of the team to provide the requested services.
3. For each participating vendor provide brief history of the vendor.
4. Detail team experience with documentation in the two targeted areas.
 - a. Analyzing data and developing recommendations related to campus response efforts for sexual and intimate partner violence.
 - b. Trauma-informed care strategies for campus response efforts to sexual and intimate partner violence service plans for public and private universities and colleges.
5. Identify and list any recognition from independent sources the vendor(s) received demonstrating the vendor's expertise and credibility.
6. List the types of services the vendor(s) offer for developing data-informed campus response efforts for institutions of higher education.
7. Describe the vendor's relevant experience providing advisory services to public (including both 4-year and 2-year campuses) and private colleges and universities.
8. Describe the vendor's approach to evaluating campus response efforts and providing consultive services to formulate evidence-based trauma-informed strategies in a campus setting.
9. Describe the vendor's experience in advising clients in order to assist them in their development of campus response efforts which are rooted in trauma-informed care strategies specific to sexual and intimate partner violence.
10. Please list one reference client similar to each of the following: a large public institution, a community or technical college, and a small, private liberal arts institution.
11. Describe the vendor's expertise. The information below must be provided for any individual who will be involved in the grant implementation.
 - a. Resumes demonstrating relevant experience and expertise.

- b. Table of organization for individuals involved in the project.
12. Provide a detailed implementation plan and narrative highlighting roles and responsibilities of team members to complete the proposed work.
13. Provide a description of the costs listed in the budget narrative.

B. Service Structure

1. Describe your proposed service model including staff, staff expertise and responsibilities, interactions with our plan, frequency of meetings (in-person or virtual) with clients, and other relevant information related to your service model.
2. List the primary contact for our relationship and address the following questions:
 - Overall experience with the type of support services sought in this RFP as related to evaluation, campus response to sexual and intimate partner violence, trauma informed care strategies, and/or data-to-action consultation;
 - Education, honors, designations and other credentials;
 - Regular activities to stay current on sexual and intimate violence research and programming;
 - Areas of expertise;
 - Years with the group/organization/firm;
 - Role at the group/organization/firm;
 - Number of plans supported; and
 - Average size of plans supported.
3. Will the primary contact be the only person with whom we will be working? Yes or No
If no, please list name(s), titles, contact information, and profile information for each person:
 - Overall experience with the type of support services sought in this RFP as related to evaluation, campus response to sexual and intimate partner violence, trauma informed care strategies, and/or data-to-action consultation;
 - Education, honors, designations and other credentials;
 - Regular activities to stay current on sexual and intimate violence research and programming;
 - Areas of expertise;
 - Years with the group/organization/firm;
 - Role at the group/organization/firm;

- Number of clients; and
- Average size of clients.

C. Conflicts of Interest

Do you foresee any conflicts of interest with entities who may seek to be designated as contractor(s)?

1. List potential conflicts of interest:

D. Vendor Certification Form

1. The vendor is not currently subject to an “unresolved” finding for recovery under Revised Code Section 9.24, and the vendor will notify the procurement representative any time it becomes subject to such a finding before the award of a contract arising out of this RFP.
2. The vendor certifies that its responses to the following statements are true and accurate. The vendor’s answers apply to the last seven years. Please indicate Yes or No in each column.
 - The vendor has had a contract terminated for default or cause.
 - The vendor has been assessed any penalties in excess of \$10,000.00, including liquidated damages, under any of its existing or past contracts with any organization (including any governmental entity).
 - The vendor was the subject of any governmental action limiting the right of the vendor to do business with that entity or any other governmental entity.
 - Trading in the stock of the company has ever been suspended with the date(s) and explanation(s).
 - The vendor, any officer of the vendor, or any owner of a 20% interest or greater in the vendor has filed for bankruptcy, reorganization, a debt arrangement, moratorium, or any proceeding under any bankruptcy or insolvency law, or any dissolution or liquidation proceeding.
 - The vendor, any officer of the vendor, or any owner with a 20% interest or greater in the vendor has been convicted of a felony or is currently under indictment on any felony charge.
3. If the answer to any item above is affirmative, the vendor must provide complete details about the matter. While an affirmative answer to any of these items will not automatically disqualify a vendor from consideration, at the sole discretion of the State, such an answer and a review

of the background details may result in a rejection of the proposal. The State will make this decision based on its determination of the seriousness of the matter, the matter's possible impact on the vendor's performance under the contract, and the best interest of the State.

4. The vendor certifies that neither it nor any of its people that may work on or benefit from the Contract through the vendor has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., employed by the State of Ohio, etc.) other than the conflicts identified immediately below:
5. The State may reject a proposal in which an actual or apparent conflict is disclosed. And the State may cancel or terminate the contract for cause if it discovers any actual or apparent conflict of interest that the vendor did not disclose in its proposal.