



# Digital Square Fact-Finding Questions

## RFA #2020-046: Facility Registries

August 31, 2020

Q. Page 3 of the RFA states that Phase 1 will be for approximately eight months and requests that applicants “must provide an estimate for phase 2 to create an annual estimate.” Are Phase 1 and Phase 2 required to add up to 1 year in total, in order to create an annual estimate, or are applicants able to propose a duration for Phase 2 at their discretion?

A. We request that applicants create a phase 2 of 4 months to create an annual estimate but would ask that if additional time is required, the applicant indicates such in the potential obstacles of the technical application. The applicant has the option to provide additional summary level budget information for the remaining phase 2 costs that would exceed the annualized estimate for our information but it is not required.

Q. On page 4 the RFA states “In both phases...third tier helpdesk support should be provided to implementers of the tool.” On page 6 the RFA states “this RFA is not to fund implementation activities.” Given that the tool will be in development during both phases of this award and the award will not fund implementation activities, can Digital Square kindly confirm that applicants are not expected to provide implementers with third tier helpdesk support?

A. The applicant should describe the third-tier helpdesk support needs and processes that would need to be established for a multi-year effort in the deployment of the facility registries (FR). Although funding for implementation is not covered within this award, it is expected that such funding opportunities will be appear and the applicants should plan on supporting a diverse team of implementation partners.

Q. On page 5 the RFA includes “integrate new data sources systems within the Instant OpenHIE platform through OpenHIM mediators” as expected functionality. Can Digital Square clarify the extent to which this activity requires creating, maintaining, or providing support to mediators?

A. The applicant should discuss which source data systems would have high value and be feasible in integrating with the FR tool. High priority data sources should be integrated with the FR through mediators and should be considered a part of the broader FR support platform. Some source data systems already have plans and/or source code to align to the mCSD specifications and the applicant should describe how they would support these efforts to bring into the FR platform.



Q. On page 5 the RFA includes “resolve data inconsistencies between facilities and facility lists” as expected functionality. This activity would imply the requirement for the facility registry to push data into source systems, which involves in-depth coordination with owners of source systems to clarify governance. An alternative is to provide a report on inconsistencies between sources to facilitate human curation before making changes to a source system. Could Digital Square please clarify which approach they are envisioning?

A. The primary focus would be on resolving data inconsistencies at the FR or HIE level. There is not any expectation to always push data into a source system, though there are scenarios in which this is feasible and desirable.

Q. Page 7 references that Digital Square will evaluate the quoted prices and hourly rates and page 8 references all proposed staff/positions with daily rates. Does Digital Square prefer for the staff rates to be presented as hourly or daily?

A. We do not have a preference but acknowledge that difference expense types generally lend to these varying units (i.e., contractors may provide hourly rates whereas internal staff rates may most reasonably be reduced to daily).

Q. Can Digital Square clarify if the funding for this award is USG, non-USG, or a combination of funding?

A. As an initiative supported by multiple donors, we identified funding from United States Government (USG) and non-USG funding for this solicitation objective.

Q. RFA page 3: States the duration for phase I is eight (8) months with possibility for extension subject to funds and/or performance. The RFA asks applicants to provide an estimate for phase II to create an annual estimate. Would phase II be four (4) months funded extension of phase I approved subject to availability of funds and performance OR is phase II anticipated to be twelve (12) months? What period of performance should applicants base phase II on?

A. We would ask that phase 2 be programmed as 4 months to create an annual estimate. However, if additional time is required for phase 2 activities, we would ask that this is identified in the potential obstacles of the technical application.

Q. RFA page 3: States “As part of Digital Square's due diligence, we will conduct pre-award evaluations of all shortlisted candidates.” Should applicants anticipate the proposal review process and pre-award evaluations to be complete within ten (10) workdays between September 11th and 25th?

A. Digital Square would ask that shortlisted candidates be prepared to answer clarifying questions from the technical evaluation committee regarding their submitted application, technical and cost, during the aforementioned period, if necessary.



Q. As a part of this grant, would Digital Square potentially be interested in the creation of a standalone FHIR resource map widget as a common good? An open-source web map currently used by a geo-registry could be repurposed by changing the interface with a backend from GeoJSON to FHIR. In addition to meeting the search, edit, mapping requirements for this grant, as a standalone common good it could be repurposed for other FHIR-based applications.

A. We would consider such solution as part of the FR package.