



**Request For Information (RFI)**

Solicitation Number: 752-21-959-JD

Procurement Administrator: James Doss, Senior Buyer

RFI Title: Public-Facing Web Application for Estimating University Tuition and Fees

Date of Issue: December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**SECTION ONE  
INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

**1.01 Purpose of the RFI**

The University of North Texas System (UNTS) desires to receive information regarding vendors of services to create a new online, public-facing tuition and fees estimator for upcoming semesters (NIGP code 208-54). We are specifically NOT seeking information about FAFSA-related "[net cost calculator](#)" solutions which provide an estimate of the total cost of attendance and take into consideration financial aid that might offset tuition and fees.

The information, data, comments, or reactions obtained may be used as research for a future solicitation. This RFI does not constitute and Invitation for Bid, Request for Proposal, or Informal Request for Bid or Proposal and is not to be construed as a commitment by University of North Texas System.

UNTS will review all responses received. If UNTS decides to issue a solicitation for commodities or services, the procurement will be conducted in accordance with the University of North Texas System Procurement laws, rules and guidelines.

**1.02 Contact and Response Information**

The procurement officer is the point of contact for this RFI. Please submit responses to the procurement officer by the deadline specified in the RFI Schedule. Please reference the Solicitation Number and Title. You may submit your response by mail, or by email to the procurement officer at:

**Address: University of North Texas System  
Procurement  
Attention: James Doss, Senior Buyer  
RFI 752-21-959-JD Public-Facing Web Application for Estimating University  
Tuition and Fees  
1112 Dallas Drive, Suite 4000  
Denton, Texas 76205**

**Email: james.doss@untsystem.edu**

**1.03 RFI Schedule**

EVENT	DATE
RFI issued	<b>12/18/2020</b>
Deadline for Submission of Questions and Requests for Clarification by <b>2:00 PM, C.T.</b>	<b>01/08/2021</b>
Amendment with Responses to Questions and Requests for Clarification issued approximately (if required)	<b>01/14/2021</b>
Deadline for Submission of Responses by <b>2:00 PM, C.T.</b>	<b>01/21/2021</b>

#### **1.04 Questions and Requests for Clarification**

Please submit any questions or requests for clarifications about this RFI in writing to the procurement officer by the deadline identified in the RFI Schedule. **Preferred method of submission is email.**

#### **1.05 Notice Provided – University and State Procurement Website**

This RFI and any related amendment and notices will be posted on the UNT System Procurement website at: <https://www.untsystem.edu/bid-opportunities> and the State of Texas Comptrollers website <http://www.txsmartbuy.com/esbd>

Additionally, vendors may request to receive notices related to this RFI by contacting the procurement officer in writing with the following information: RFI title, business name, contact person, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email address.

#### **1.06 Respondents Responsible for All Preparation Costs**

Respondents are responsible for all costs associated with the preparation, submittal, and presentation of their response to this RFI.

#### **1.07 Disclosure of Information and Compliance with The University of North Texas System Public Information**

##### **Public Information**

Respondents is hereby notified that UNTS strictly adheres to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information.

All information, documentation, and other materials submitted in response to this RFI is subject to public disclosure under the *Texas Public Information Act (Government Code, Chapter 552.001, et seq.)*. Respondents will be advised of a request for public information that implicates their materials if those materials are marked “Confidential and Proprietary” and will have the opportunity to raise any objections to disclosure to the Texas Attorney General.

## SECTION TWO GOAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 2.01 Goal and Background Information

#### Background

1. Currently, UNT uses an [html-driven approach](#) that requires the manual calculation of several possible combinations (Residency, Academic Level, Tuition Plan, College, Hours) and then stores those values into arrays to be returned to the user based on the selections made. The user has limited options to choose from. Based on the way we charge tuition and fees, the calculator has become increasingly obsolete due to the endless combinations a student could realistically choose. Please refer to the following websites to see how tuition and fees are charged for an idea of the complexity of the project:
  - a. <https://sfs.unt.edu/tuition-and-fees>
  - b. <https://sfs.unt.edu/full-time-flat-rate-tuition>
  - c. <https://sfs.unt.edu/explanation-fees>

The current approach is challenging to update and does not provide results based on student characteristics and course options at the level of detail needed. UNT desires a replacement that will provide current and prospective students and their parents with much more accurate and transparent tuition and fee information as they make budgetary decisions involving course and program selections. The new Tuition and Fee Cost Estimator will be a stand-alone online tool which will not require support from UNT System IT Shared Services, nor be directly connected to our PeopleSoft ERP implementation. The tool will allow tuition and fee schedules to be updated well before they are made live in the enrollment system for an upcoming semester. In addition, by not integrating with our ERP system, we expect to avoid a number of security concerns and the need to address business logic that is deeply coded therein. This project will address a gap related to providing accurate tuition, fee, waiver, and exemption information for schedules that include online courses including those taken by students outside of Texas and for enterprise programs with negotiated rates. Ease of use and UX design are important components of this tool. Our current CMS is Drupal 7; however, there is a decision expected in early Spring 2021 about our CMS going forward.

There are four areas of expertise related to this project. We are seeking responses related to any combination of expertise in the following three areas 1) technical project management 2) software systems design and programming and 3) UX design with the software programming component being the most important. The fourth area of expertise (subject matter) will be provided by Student Financial Services, the area that administrates tuition and fees at UNT. The end product must be easily modifiable to

accommodate future changes in tuition and fee structures on an at least annual update cycle and must be highly available to end-users. The solution would need both a production and a test environment.

Texas Tech University has internally developed a [tuition estimator application](#) that reflects the type of tool we desire to have developed for UNT. We have informally consulted with the Texas Tech IT team that developed their tool and this RFI draws on what we learned from them. Their system is built as completely stand-alone application using Angular JS and Angular 6.1 – a component-based architecture using a PHP service to integrate with a back-end Oracle store procedure.

## **2.02 Information Requesting**

It is important to note that no award will be made from this RFI; however, companies submitting information will have a strong likelihood of receiving an invitation to participate in an eventual request for proposal for this service should UNT issue one. Financial information such as cost and fees are not necessary; however, the scope of service that your company provides in connection with the services requested as well as any hardware, software or networking requirements would be beneficial. We would also be interested in receiving a list of references where you currently provide these services. References should include company/institution name, point of contact, and an email address

## **SECTION THREE RESPONSE FORMAT AND CONTENT**

### **3.01 Response Preparation Instructions**

Respondents are asked to provide a response in the following format:

#### **A. Introduction**

Please provide:

1. Contact name, phone number, and email
2. Business name, address, and phone number

#### **B. Technical Response**

Respondents are asked to provide the following information:

1. Scope of services that your company provides in connection with the services requested.
2. Any hardware, software, or networking requirements.
3. A list of references where your company currently provides these services. References should include company/institution name, point of contact, and an email address.