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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Economic Mobility Research

Issued by: RISE Together Innovation Institute

Release Date: March 30, 2026

Proposal Due Date: April 12, 2026

I. Introduction

RISE Together Innovation Institute (RTII) invites qualified researchers, research institutions, and interdisciplinary teams to submit proposals to support the development of a foundational Economic Mobility Research agenda for Franklin County.

This research will provide data, analysis, and evidence-based insights to support public understanding and decision-making by public agencies, funders, and community partners.

II. Purpose

RTII operates as an applied learning and innovation lab focused on advancing economic security and mobility in Franklin County. Through cross-sector collaboration and pilot investments, RTII supports initiatives aligned with the Rise Together Blueprint to Reduce Poverty.

The purpose of this project is to produce data-informed research and analysis that:

- Establishes a baseline understanding of economic mobility in Franklin County
- Identifies key indicators and trends across core pillars (income & wealth, housing, health, youth & education)
- Supports alignment around measurable outcomes
- Informs policy, investment, and programmatic decision-making

RTII will lead overall strategy, narrative development, and stakeholder alignment. The selected partner will focus on research, analysis, and evidence-based solutions.

III. Project Goals

The selected research partner will:

1. Establish Baseline Data and Trends

- a. Compile and analyze publicly available data to describe current conditions related to economic mobility in Franklin County
- b. Identify trends over time, where data is available

2. Identify and Define Key Indicators

- a. Identify a set of evidence-based indicators aligned with economic mobility
- b. Ensure indicators are:
 - i. measurable
 - ii. available at the county level (and sub-county where feasible)
 - iii. useful for informing policy and investment decisions

3. Conduct Pillar-Level Analysis

- a. Analyze economic mobility across four core areas:
 - i. Income & Wealth (Jobs)
 - ii. Housing
 - iii. Health
 - iv. Youth & Education
- b. Identify key drivers, disparities, and trends within each pillar

4. Identify Evidence-Based Strategies and Policy Considerations

- a. Summarize relevant research on interventions and policy approaches that improve economic mobility outcomes
- b. Highlight opportunities to inform:
 - i. public policy
 - ii. funding strategies

IV. Deliverables and Timeline

Estimated project duration: 9 months

Core Deliverables

- **Economic Mobility Research Report**



- Summary of baseline conditions and key indicators
- High-level analysis of economic mobility in Franklin County
- A report that includes the pillar research briefs (see below)
- **Baseline Data and Indicator Set**
 - Core indicators aligned with economic mobility
 - Supporting data tables and documentation
- **Pillar Research Briefs (4)**
 - Income & Wealth (Jobs)
 - Housing
 - Health
 - Youth & Education
- **Policy and Strategy Summary**
 - Summary of evidence-based strategies and policy considerations
 - Relevant local examples

V. Budget

Proposals should include:

- Total cost and pricing structure (e.g., fixed fee, monthly retainer, hourly, or phased)
- Payment milestones tied to deliverables or phases

VI. Desired Qualifications

RTII seeks researchers or teams with:

- Expertise in economic security, economic mobility, housing, education, labor economics, and health
- Strong data analysis and research capabilities
- Experience producing policy-relevant research
- Experience working with public-sector or cross-sector initiatives
- Ability to translate data into clear, actionable insights
- Experience facilitating stakeholder feedback processes

Academic institutions, research firms, and collaborative teams are encouraged to apply.

VII. Proposal Requirements

Proposals should include:



1. Cover Letter
2. Organizational Background and Relevant Experience
3. Proposed Approach and Methodology
4. Work Plan and Timeline
5. Staffing Plan and Key Personnel
6. Budget and Pricing Structure
7. Examples of Similar Work

Suggested length: 6-10 pages (excluding examples of similar work)

VIII. Submission Instructions and Engagement Timeline

Proposal must be submitted electronically in PDF format to info@rtiico.org with the subject line: **Economic Mobility Research RFP**

Any questions must be submitted to info@rtiico.org by **11:59 pm on Apr 5, 2026** with the subject line: **Questions - Economic Mobility Research RFP**

Proposal Deadline: 11:59 pm on April 12, 2026 (late proposals will not be accepted)

Proposal Release Date	March 30, 2026
Q & A Period	March 30 - April 5, 2026
Responses Shared to all Questions	April 6, 2026
Proposal Deadline	April 12, 2026
Interviews with Finalists	Week of April 20 th
Vendor Selection	April 24, 2026
Project Kickoff	Late April / early May 2026
Implementation Period	May - Dec 2026

IX. Scoring Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following scoring framework:

Criteria	Description	Total Points
Alignment	Alignment with project scope and deliverables	5
Overall approach	Demonstrated expertise, methodology, and work plan	5
Local presence / community economic impact	Demonstrated local business presence and contribution to local economic opportunity	2.5



Experience	Relevant examples of similar deliverables / work	5
Budget / Cost Effectiveness	Overall alignment to budget and value delivery	5
Community responsiveness and accessibility	Ability to engage intended communities, reduce barriers to access, and deliver services in an accessible and culturally responsive manner	2.5

Total possible points: 25

X. Rights Reserved

RTII reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals
- Request additional information
- Negotiate scope or budget
- Award in part or in whole

RTII will make reasonable efforts to solicit qualified local businesses and may apply a local business preference as part of best-value evaluation. Local preference will not supersede funder requirements, competition requirements, or the obligation to select the proposal that offers the best overall value to the organization.

RTII seeks competitive proposals that reflect best value for the services requested. Proposers must submit a detailed cost proposal by lot, including fixed fees, hourly rates, assumptions, and any optional or implementation-related costs. RTII reserves the right to negotiate final scope, staffing, and price, to reject proposals deemed not cost-reasonable or outside available funding, and to make one or more awards in its best interest.

The work of RTII is made possible through the generous support of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and their commitment to advancing the [Rise Together Blueprint to Reduce Poverty](#).

