



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

### Economic Mobility Evaluation Framework

**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, evaluators, and research institutions to submit proposals to a practical Economic Mobility Evaluation Framework for Franklin County and the Columbus Region.

This framework will provide a flexible, shared evaluation structure and common metrics that public agencies, funders, and partners can use to measure progress (of individual interventions and collectively) toward economic security and economic mobility.

#### 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.

Currently, the Central Ohio region lacks a shared evaluation framework that:

- Aligns economic security and mobility metrics across programs and systems from different sectors
- Aggregates impact across initiatives using shared language and standardized protocols
- Connects micro-level program outcomes to macro-level systems change
- Enables cross-sector social and economic ROI analysis

The purpose of this project is to:

- Design a methodology that standardizes the measurement and evaluation of economic mobility investments and interventions in the region

- Develop standard reporting outcomes and indicators of progress on economic security and mobility that can be measured, tracked longitudinally, and analyzed using standardized evaluation protocols
- Explore the feasibility of leveraging the CIE technology platform for standardized data collection, data analysis, and interactive reporting to support sustainable and scalable implementation of this framework

We hope organizations, public agencies, and funders implement this evaluation methodology to help them understand progress toward economic security and mobility.

### III. Project Goals

The selected partner will help RTII achieve the following goals:

**1. Design a collective impact economic mobility framework**

Design a framework that measures aggregated effects of programs on residents, families, businesses, and the broader community.

**2. Develop and recommend standard metrics for impact measurement**

Recommend shared economic mobility metrics that Franklin County and the City of Columbus (and other public and private sector funders and partners) could use or adopt for future program design, scaling, funding, and reporting. In the future, ideally collective metrics could be reported on an annual basis and measured using shared language and standardize data and evaluation protocols.

**3. Explore the feasibility of leveraging the CIE technology platform**

Convene collaborators and Smart Columbus to explore the feasibility of using the CIE technology platform to collect data, administer evaluation surveys, store and analyze evaluation data, outcomes and indicators of progress at multiple levels, including individual, neighborhood, zip code, sector, funder, administrative areas, and population.

**4. Systems-Level Alignment**

Ensure the framework connects program-level outcomes to systems-level change, including policy and institutional impact.

### IV. Deliverables and Timeline

Estimated project duration: 9 months



This project will be delivered in two phases, with an initial methodology developed by June 30, 2026, followed by refinement and full framework development through December 2026.

### **Phase 1: Programmatic Review Methodology (Due June 30, 2026)**

The selected partner will develop an initial methodology for programmatic reviews that can be used to assess the impact of programs on economic security and economic mobility.

This phase is intended to produce a minimum viable, usable approach that can be tested and refined over time.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Draft programmatic review methodology: a clear, step-by-step methodology for evaluating programs and interventions on upward mobility indicators
- Initial set of economic mobility indicators: a proposed set of core indicators aligned with economic security and mobility outcomes

### **Phase 2: Evaluation Framework Development (July – December 2026)**

The selected partner will expand and refine the methodology into a comprehensive, scalable evaluation framework.

#### **Deliverables:**

- Economic mobility evaluation framework (formal written document and survey)
- Standard indicators of economic security and mobility
- Metric dictionary and data guidance manual
- Reporting & aggregation guidance for funders and public agencies
- Feasibility assessment for leveraging CIE technology platform
- Public facing executive summary

## **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 a partner with:

- Demonstrated expertise in economic mobility and economic security research
- Experience designing evaluation frameworks and strong evaluation experience
- Knowledge of collective impact and systems-level measurement
- Experience working with public-sector agencies and funders



- Ability to translate complex data into actionable insights
- Ability to develop practical, early-stage methodologies under tight timelines and iterate toward full framework development

## 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](mailto:info@rtiico.org) with the subject line: **Economic Mobility Evaluation RFP**

Any questions must be submitted to [info@rtiico.org](mailto:info@rtiico.org) by **11:59 pm on Apr 5, 2026** with the subject line: **Questions - Economic Mobility Evaluation 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 <sup>th</sup>
Vendor Selection	April 24, 2026
Project Kickoff	Late April / early May 2026
Implementation Period	May - Dec 2026
Phase 1 deliverables	June 30, 2026
Phase 2 deliverables	December 15, 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 or clarification from proposers
- Negotiate with one or more proposers
- Award a contract in whole or in part

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 the 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](#).

