



STATE OF INDIANA

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-85293

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

**ON BEHALF OF THE
INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**SOLICITATION FOR:
AGRICULTURE PORTAL**

**RESPONSE DUE DATE:
OCTOBER 27, 2025 BY 3:00 PM ET**

Robert Cohen, Procurement Consultant
rcohen@idoa.in.gov
Indiana Department of Administration
Procurement Division
402 W. Washington St., Room W478
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-85293

INTRODUCTION

This is a Request for Information/Innovation (RFI) issued by the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) on behalf of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture regarding the Agriculture Portal.

It is the intent of IDOA to solicit responses to this Request for Information/Innovation in accordance with the specifications contained in this document and associated attachments. Neither this RFI nor any response (proposal) submitted hereto is to be construed as a legal offer.

THE STATE MAY ELECT TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN ANY FUTURE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION TO VENDORS THAT RESPOND TO THIS RFI.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE RFI

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has been tasked by the Indiana General Assembly via House Enrolled Act 1149 to create an online agriculture portal to assist Indiana's farmers and agribusinesses in navigating federal and state regulations and finding funding opportunities from state and federal agencies.

Indiana is home to over 50,000 farms and agribusinesses, and the agricultural industry is impacted by nearly every state agency. It can be difficult for Indiana's farms and agribusinesses to find the necessary information regarding federal, state and local regulations and funding availability. The agriculture portal will provide information in one place and reduce the burden on farmers and agribusinesses to find the resources they need.

The portal must include the following elements:

1. Links/Connections to relevant local, state and federal agency programs that impact farmers and agribusinesses
2. Searchable database of funding opportunities (state and federal)
3. Connections to Purdue Extension, the USDA, and State Climate office
4. Regulatory checklists that assist farmers and agribusinesses in starting or running their operations
5. Inventory of lost farmland
6. Feedback mechanisms regarding federal regulations and the usefulness of the portal

A successful portal would be an interactive online resource that is easy to navigate with relevant and timely information, which meets the requirements of HEA 1149. The user interface must be mobile friendly and available to users with limited broadband connectivity. It should reduce the time and effort needed by farmers and agribusinesses to find information among many state and federal agencies. Resources will be organized into broad categories with a logical way to navigate to topics that users are interested in.

User feedback sessions have prompted a need for workflows (I have a ____, I want to ____, here are some resources). Users also desire an AI search similar to the Ask Indiana search bar on the in.gov homepage. Information should be accessible in two to three clicks.

Since this portal may be accessed via a State portal, please be aware of the following statement from IOT:

The State has robust and comprehensive security standards that permeate all levels of the organization. The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) has been tasked with establishing and maintaining these security standards. The security standards include assessing security risks, developing, and implementing effective security procedures, and monitoring the effectiveness of those procedures. If the proposed solution involves

information technology-related products or services, all such products or services are to be compatible with any of the technology standards found in the Information Security Framework (<https://www.in.gov/iot/iot-vendor-engagement/>) that are applicable, including the assistive technology standard. Respondents will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to access the IOT Information Security Framework; Respondent's should review the IOT Information Security Framework, and ensure any proposed solution meets all standards therein.

The goal of this RFI is to gather general functionality and general pricing structures from vendors for the development of a potential Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture is requesting information to formalize the scope of work for a potential RFP by allowing the vendor community to apprise the Indiana State Department of Agriculture on information that should be considered as part of the scope of work.

RESPONSE FORMAT AND ATTACHMENTS

Respondents should submit responses to the RFI describing how they will meet the specific requirements of this RFI. All narrative responses must be provided to the State in Microsoft Word format. **THE TOTAL RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN 15-20 PAGES IN LENGTH.**

If you would like to provide a response/feedback to this RFI for a potential RFP for Indiana State Department of Agriculture, you must provide your response to State as shown in the RFI Timeline and Response Submission section below.

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

A pre-proposal conference will be held following IDOA's Industry Day event at the Indiana Government Center South Conference Center on October 9, 2025 beginning at 11:45 a.m. At this conference, potential respondents may ask questions about the solicitation and the solicitation process. Respondents are reminded that no answers issued verbally at the conference are binding on the State and any information provided at the conference, unless it is later issued in writing, also is not binding on the State.

RFI TIMELINE

The following timeline is only an illustration of this RFI process. The dates associated with each step are not to be considered binding.

Anticipated RFI Dates:

Activity	Date
Issuance of RFI	September 25, 2025
Deadline to Submit Written Questions (3:00PM Eastern Time)	October 2, 2025
Response to Written Questions/RFI Amendments	October 9, 2025
Pre-Proposal Conference	October 9, 2025 8:00am – 12:30pm RFI specific session @ 11:45am Indiana Gov Center South Conference Center Room TBD
Due Date for Submissions (3:00PM Eastern Time)	October 27, 2025

QUESTION / INQUIRY PROCESS

All questions/inquiries in regards to RFI 26-85293 must be submitted in writing via email using **Attachment A**, Questions and Answers Template, by the deadline of **October 2, 2025 by 3:00PM ET** to rfp@idoa.IN.gov. The email subject line should contain the following phrase:

“REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-85293, QUESTION AND INQUIRIES.”

Following the question/inquiry due date, IDOA will compile a list of the questions/inquiries submitted by all Respondents. The responses will be posted to the IDOA website as soon as possible. Only answers posted on the IDOA website will be considered official and valid by the State. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any State employee.

Please note that Robert Cohen is the State’s single point of contact for this RFI. **Inquiries are not to be directed to any other staff member of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.** Such action may disqualify respondent from further consideration in this RFI and any subsequent RFP process.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFI prior to the due date for submissions, an addendum will be posted on the IDOA website.

CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The State reserves the right to request clarifications on information submitted to the State. The State also reserves the right to conduct discussions, either oral or written, with the Respondents. These discussions could include requests for additional information, requests for cost information or technical requirements response attachment revision, etc. Additionally, in conducting discussions, the State may use information derived from the responses submitted by competing Respondents only if the identity of the Respondent providing the information is not disclosed to others. The State will provide equivalent information to all Respondents which have been chosen for discussions.

The Procurement Division will schedule all discussions. Any information gathered through oral discussions must be confirmed in writing.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is important to note that all information submitted in Respondent’s proposals to this RFI will be kept confidential and will not be made available to the public unless this RFI does not result in the release of a solicitation at a later date. If a solicitation results from this RFI, then the information contained in the proposal submissions for this RFI must be made available to the public once the resulting solicitation has been awarded and the protest period has ended.

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 et seq., and, after award, the entire solicitation file may be viewed and copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors.

Please note citing “Confidential” on an entire section is not sufficient. The Public Access Counselor (PAC) provides guidance on APRA. Respondents are encouraged to read guidance from the PAC on this topic as this is the guidance IDOA follows:

- [18-INF-06; Redaction of Public Procurement Documents Informal Inquiry](#)

Respondents claiming a statutory exception to the APRA must indicate so on a separate attachment labeled **“Confidential Documentation Listing”**. That document should include the following information:

- List all documents where claiming a statutory exemption to the APRA;
- Specify which statutory exception of APRA that applies for each document;
- Provide a description explaining the manner in which the statutory exception to the APRA applies for each document.

When claiming confidential information, respondents should submit two versions of their response:

- 1) A confidential version (for the State’s review and evaluation)
 - a. Confidential Information must be clearly marked in a separate folder.
- 2) A redacted version (for public records requests)

If the Respondent does not identify the statutory exception, the Procurement Division will not consider the submission confidential. The State also reserves the right to seek the opinion of the PAC for guidance if the State has doubts the cited exception is applicable.

Prices are **NOT** confidential information.

RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Firms interested in providing information to IDOA should submit responses via email to rfp@idoa.IN.gov. All responses must be received no later than **October 27, 2025 by 3:00PM ET**. The subject line of the email submission must clearly state the following:

“RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION/INNOVATION 26-85293”

Any information received after the due date and time may not be considered.

No more than one proposal per Respondent may be submitted.

Tempaltes outlined in this document should be returned in their native file format.

The State accepts no obligations for costs incurred by Respondents in anticipation of being awarded a contract.