



REQUEST FOR BID

Opportunity Young Adults Program
**Virtual Reality (VR) Learning Platform
and Technical Assistance**

Introduction and Background

NextGen Policy is a California-based, Black-led, non-profit organization fighting for progressive, justice-centered policies and programs that positively impact all Californians. NextGen Policy's work advances environmental, social, gender, racial, and economic equity through legislative advocacy, grassroots partnerships, strategic communications, and democratic civic engagement. For more information, visit www.nextgenpolicy.org.

NextGen Policy is seeking proposals from qualified service providers to work on behalf of state and federal grant projects.

Interested parties are invited to submit a bid. Small businesses, minority-owned firms, veteran-owned businesses, and women's business enterprises are strongly encouraged to submit.

Project Overview

Through strategic partnerships and innovative programming, NextGen Policy will run a program to serve the Sacramento County region's underserved, low-income communities with a focus on opportunity young adults (OYAs) -- bridging gaps and empowering young adults to access sustainable employment pathways, promoting economic resilience and prosperity in the region. The program will specifically focus on serving formerly incarcerated individuals within the Sacramento County region who are reentering society after completing their sentences.

Formerly incarcerated individuals often face systemic barriers that hinder their ability to secure stable employment, housing, and support services upon release. Discrimination in the job market, limited access to education and vocational training programs, and challenges accessing social services contribute to high rates of recidivism among this population. Additionally, the lack of coordination between correctional facilities and community-based organizations exacerbates the reentry process, making it difficult for individuals to access the resources and support they need to successfully reintegrate into society.

The project aims to address these challenges by providing wraparound services tailored to the unique needs of formerly incarcerated individuals, and ensure all efforts are culturally competent and inclusive. By implementing targeted workforce development programs, apprenticeships, and vocational training initiatives tailored to the needs of the public sector and manufacturing industries, NextGen Policy and partners can bridge the skills gap, create pathways to employment, and support economic growth in Sacramento County.

Moreover, fostering partnerships between employers and training providers will facilitate the development of industry-relevant curriculum, hands-on training opportunities, and career advancement pathways, ultimately strengthening the workforce and positioning Sacramento County as a hub for public sector and manufacturing excellence.

Scope of Work

- **Immersive Career Exploration:** Vendors are required to provide a VR platform offering realistic career simulations, allowing users to explore career paths and perform job-specific tasks. Proposals should demonstrate how this will make career exploration interactive and engaging.
- **Focus on Technical Skills Training:** The VR platform must cater to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, with simulations reflecting the needs of industries like manufacturing, healthcare, and construction. Bidders must provide details on industry partnerships that support this alignment.
- **Data-Driven Insights and Analytics:** Proposals must include robust analytics tools to track learner engagement and progress. Vendors should detail how educators and administrators can use these insights to improve curriculum effectiveness.

Proposal Requirements

Applicants should submit a bid that includes the following sections:

- **Company Information:** Provide a brief description of your company, including your experience in providing similar services, company size, and key personnel.
- **Technical Proposal:** Describe your approach to delivering the requested services. Include your methodology, project management processes, timeline and milestones, and any technology or tools that will be used.
- **Pricing:** Provide detailed pricing for the project, including all costs associated with delivering the services (labor, materials, travel, etc.). Please indicate whether the pricing is firm or if there are any conditions that may lead to changes in cost. Additionally, where applicable, please indicate the measures to be taken to ensure cost efficiency and savings.
- **Past Performance:** Provide description(s) of relevant past projects and outcomes, particularly in workforce development, education, and technical assistance, with additional examples of scalability and customization based on the needs of diverse populations.
- **References:** Provide at least three references from similar projects or clients that you have worked with. Include contact information and a brief description of the work performed.

Experience and familiarity with Uniform Guidance for Federal Awards is not required but is preferred.

Note – By submitting a formal proposal, applicants are confirming that neither the organization nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation by any federal department or agency, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.213 and 2 CFR 180.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Experience and qualifications (25/100 points)
2. Pricing and overall value (40/100 points)
3. Approach to meeting project goals (25/100 points)
4. References and past performance (10/100 points)

Submission Instructions

All proposals must be submitted electronically to Sandra Lyon at sandra@eliostrategies.com. Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis.