



Request for Information (RFI)

For

Direct Connect Solution Implementation

Issued by:

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc.

Date Issued: May 15, 2025

Responses due by 11:59 p.m. EST on: May 30, 2025

Direct Connect Solution Implementation Request for Information (RFI)

Introduction

With this Request for Information (RFI), the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NRI) seeks to acquire the services of a consultant to help enhance the current Behavioral Healthcare Performance Measurement System (BHPMS), a surveillance system of quality-of-care measures, by implementing a direct data connect solution. NRI invites proposals from interested organizations and independent consultants with advanced experience utilizing secure file transfer protocols.

The deliverable product of this RFI is the implementation of an alternative solution for users of the NRI-BHPMS to securely transfer protected health information (PHI) patient-level data over a server network.

Background

The NRI-BHPMS provides benchmarking opportunities among inpatient psychiatric facilities and assist facilities in meeting external data performance measurement requirements of the ORYX® Initiative of The Joint Commission and of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) program. Participating facilities submit monthly ASCII files containing patient-level data in a specific format via a secure website.

As electronic health record (EHR) systems are increasingly adopted at the facility level, the overarching objective of the NRI-BHPMS is to offer a modernized alternative for submitting data files. This solution targets facilities that have implemented EHR systems or established secure file transfer protocols.

The main objectives are to:

- 1- Improve efficiency: server to server data transfer
- 2- Increase systems' integration and compatibility

3- Improve implementation of new data files

Project Considerations

The ideal secure file transfer protocol solution would:

- Continue to maintain or enhance the existing protocol for securely uploading data files, as these contain protected patient health information.
- Be HIPAA compliant.
- Ensure integration with the current user authentication method.
- Facilitate the integration of different Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems.

Project Deliverable

The selected candidate will implement a secure file transfer protocol with NRI-BHPMS staff and Ntiva, NRI's IT outsource company. It is expected that activities related to the selected proposal will begin within 15 business days of the contract award. Specific costs should be clearly and transparently documented. The selected candidate will also sign a Business Associate Agreement, as per HIPAA.

The end deliverable for this project will be a secure file transfer protocol, HIPAA-compliant, that will support NRI-BHPMS strategic goals. Elements to be included in the secure file transfer protocol implementation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- All costs for the implementation of a secure server
- Functionality for all end-user levels, including data file transfer, download, and alerts
- Potential short- and long-term challenges
- Best practices for server-to-server data file transfer

Submission of Proposals

Interested parties should submit written electronic proposals along with vendor qualifications and references to Glorimar.Ortiz@nri-inc.org.

Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on May 30, 2025. Any proposals received after this deadline will not be considered. The NRI-BHPMS retains the exclusive right to select a proposal, and the subsequent vendor based on its evaluation of submitted materials and additional information that may be gathered from external sources. The NRI-BHPMS reserves the right to accept multiple proposals or reject all proposals.

Proposal Requirements

1. Organizational Profile
 - a. Name of organization, contact person, and contact information: Provide address, telephone number, mobile telephone number, email address, and web address as applicable.
 - b. Statement of Ownership: Describe type of business.
2. Qualifications
 - a. Provide a brief description of your firm. Include its founding, history, and number of employees; combined years of experience for employees; service areas; and any information on awards, certifications, or other forms of recognition.
 - b. Provide a description of your work process.
3. Experience and Ability to Perform this Work
 - a. Describe your firm's approach to successfully completing the tasks described in the Project Deliverable.
 - b. Experience with protected health information (PHI) and data privacy/security protocols.
4. Pricing
 - a. Provide a breakdown of fees for all relevant consultation services needed to fulfill the project deliverable of this RFP.

Questions

- All questions must be submitted electronically to Glorimar.Ortiz@nri-inc.org.