Request for Proposals: Professional Technical Services
Secure Borders Initiative Analytics Platform
DHS Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant-Funded Contract

Solicitation Number: CSPI-TVTP-2025-01
Issue Date: December 23, 2025
Proposal Due Date: January 6, 2026, 5:00 PM EST

The Common Sense Policy Institute (CSPI), a nonprofit organization located in Fairfax, VA, solicits proposals for professional technical services to design, build, and operate a prevention-focused analytics platform. Funding comes from the DHS Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant Program (FY2025). This procurement fully complies with 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance), §§ 200.317-200.327, including full and open competition requirements. The project is subject to availability of grant funding.

Project Overview
CSPI received award to execute The Secure Borders Initiative: Exposing Cartel Efforts to Undermine Immigration Law. Core goals center on identifying early-warning indicators of targeted violence and terrorism facilitation by transnational criminal organizations through research, analysis, and public education.

Every activity remains strictly prevention oriented. Outputs target population-level risk signals, behavioral typologies, and aggregated patterns only; no deliverables support investigative, prosecutorial, or enforcement purposes. No deliverables are designed, packaged, structured, or optimized for investigative, prosecutorial, enforcement, or litigation purposes. The project does not conduct attribution, targeting, evidentiary assessment, or development of materials intended to meet legal or investigative thresholds.

The selected contractor would provide AI/ML expertise and cloud infrastructure services over 24 months of performance.

Statement of Work
Contractor delivers a complete, prevention-focused, research-validated analytics environment capable of processing heterogeneous open-source and de-identified public-safety datasets to generate statistically valid early-warning indicators.

CSPI intends to award a single contract structured as either a firm-fixed-price agreement or a time-and-materials agreement with a not-to-exceed ceiling, as proposed by the offeror. For evaluation purposes, CSPI will normalize all cost proposals to a total evaluated price to ensure fair and consistent comparison across contract types. Cost-plus-percentage-of-cost and percentage-of-construction-cost contracting are expressly prohibited under this solicitation in accordance with 2 CFR §200.324(c).

Key requirements include:

- Senior data scientists and machine-learning engineers deliver 2,400 total labor hours. Tasks cover model development for cartel logistics detection, cryptocurrency flows linked to terrorism risk, cross-platform recruitment clustering, and coordinated influence campaigns; construction of reproducible ETL pipelines; quarterly retraining cycles with automated drift monitoring; adversarial robustness testing (poisoning, evasion, extraction attacks); SHAP/LIME explainability reports; bias and fairness audits using AIF360 toolkit; full documentation compliant with NIST AI RMF 1.0 and OMB M-20-10.
- Target performance metrics: ≥ 0.92 AUC on core models with ≤ 1% false-positive rate on high-confidence alerts, validated quarterly.
- Cloud hosting and machine-learning infrastructure in a FedRAMP Moderate Authorized environment (AWS GovCloud or Azure Government). Resources include dedicated GPU clusters (H100/A100-class), 50-100 TB encrypted storage, zero-trust micro-segmentation, FIPS 140-3 encryption at rest and in transit, continuous monitoring (GuardDuty/Security Hub equivalents), multi-AZ redundancy, and OSCAL-based continuous authorization artifacts.
- Mandatory integration of triple-lattice post-quantum cryptography: one lightweight 2D lattice signature (Falcon-1024 class) fused with two 3D lattices (ML-KEM-1024 encapsulation + ML-DSA-87 signatures) into a volumetric structure seeded by coupled chaotic-map entropy sources. Deployment occurs exclusively within attested enclaves (AWS Nitro or Azure Confidential VMs) with measured overhead <4% on TLS handshakes and <2% on GPU I/O.

Major milestones:

- Month 6: MVP platform with initial ingestion pipelines and baseline models.
- Month 9: First production models achieving target AUC.
- Months 10-23: Quarterly retraining, adversarial cycles, and bias audits.
- Month 24: Final handover package, including all code, models, documentation, and no-cost transfer to DHS CP3 and approved partners.

Acceptance criteria tie directly to demonstrated performance metrics, compliance artifacts, and independent validation of prevention-only focus.

<u>Procurement Method and Competition</u>

This best-value competitive proposal process applies because the estimated value exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold ($350,000 as of October 1, 2025). CSPI promotes full and open competition and actively encourages participation by small businesses, minority-owned firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms per §200.321. CSPI has prepared an independent cost estimate prior to solicitation and will use it as a benchmark for evaluating price reasonableness under 2 CFR §200.324.

This solicitation does not apply any geographic preference and does not restrict competition based on location. Technical specifications are stated in functional and performance-based terms. Where specific technologies or standards are referenced,

functionally equivalent solutions meeting the stated requirements will be considered unless otherwise justified in writing.

Solicitation distribution

CSPI will post this RFP on its website at functionalgovernment.org/secure-border-initiative, in addition to rfpdb.com and possibly other postings that CSPI may decide are warranted. Amendments and questions/answers will be distributed to known interested parties.

Evaluation Criteria (100 points total)

A three-member evaluation committee will review proposals. Each member of the committee will sign a conflict-of-interest disclosure before participation. The scoring is as follows:

1. Technical Approach & Understanding (30 points): Clarity, feasibility, innovation, and alignment with SOW requirements.
2. Past Performance & Relevant Experience (25 points): Demonstrated success on similar FedRAMP Moderate analytics platforms, especially prevention or security-focused efforts.
3. Key Personnel Qualifications (20 points): Resumes, certifications, and direct experience with required technologies.
4. Mission Alignment & Prevention Focus (15 points): Alignment with the mission of CSPI and understanding of TVTP's prevention mandate and mission.
5. Cost Proposal & Price Reasonableness (10 points): Competitiveness, realism, and alignment with CSPI's independent cost estimates.

Award goes to the offeror whose proposal represents best overall value. CSPI conducts price analysis against an independent cost estimate and market benchmarks; additional breakdowns may be requested. CSPI will perform and document a detailed cost analysis in accordance with 2 CFR §200.324 to determine price reasonableness prior to award, in the event that only one responsive proposal is received.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must be submitted in PDF format and organized into clearly labeled sections corresponding to the submission requirements listed below. Technical and cost proposals may be submitted as separate documents or as a single combined document, provided sections are clearly delineated. Offerors are encouraged to be concise and focused, not to exceed 15 pages. File names must clearly identify the offeror and proposal type.

Submit one electronic copy to secureborders.cspi@functionalgovernment.org by the deadline. Include the following:

- Technical proposal: detailed approach, work plan, timeline, personnel resumes/CVs.

- Past performance: at least three references with contact information.
- Cost proposal: firm-fixed-price or hourly rates with not-to-exceed cap; detailed breakdown by labor category, hours, and cloud consumption.
- Required certifications: debarment/suspension, Byrd Anti-Lobbying, Section 889 telecommunications.

Required Federal Contract Provisions

The resulting contract will incorporate all applicable provisions from Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200, including but not limited to remedies for breach, termination for cause/convenience, equal employment opportunity, debarment and suspension, Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, Section 889 prohibitions, and domestic preferences (§200.322). These clauses will flow down to any subcontractors.

Questions and Amendments

Submit questions in writing to secureborders.cspi@functionalgovernment.org by January 6, 2026, at 5pm EST. CSPI issues written responses and any amendments to known offerors. Any procurement protests will be handled in accordance with CSPI's written protest procedures and applicable federal guidance.

The project is subject to availability of grant funding.

Any protest related to this solicitation must be submitted in writing to secureborders.cspi@functionalgovernment.org within five business days of the protestable event. Protests will be handled in accordance with CSPI's written procurement protest procedures.

CSPI will verify the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) exclusion status of the apparent successful offeror prior to award and may verify the status of any offeror during the evaluation process.

CSPI reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, cancel the solicitation, or award without discussions. Selected contractor must verify active SAM.gov registration (no exclusions) prior to award.