

Category	Questions	Responses
About Frederick County	How many social service agencies are currently involved in the Community Partner Council for Family Connects Frederick County? Are any social service agencies primarily serving families in languages other than English?	The Community Partner Council currently has 19 active community organizations and social service agencies participating. Many agencies provide services in languages other than English.
About Frederick County	What languages should the research team be prepared to use?	The primary languages in Frederick County are English, Spanish and French. There is also a Deaf community in Frederick because of the Maryland School for the Deaf.
Data	Are there any plans to collect data that align with the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program performance measurement system?	Frederick Health is not planning to align with the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program performance measurement system at this time. Frederick County has not been identified as a priority for MIECHV funding by the Maryland Department of Health.
Data	Will the evaluator get direct access to the Salesforce implementation for FC Frederick?	The evaluator will have access to the Frederick County data in the Family Connects International Salesforce database through Business Associate Agreements (BAA) with Family Connects International and Frederick Health. The method of access will be determined during the development of the BAA.
Data	Will it be possible to access data from other providers aside from Frederick Health before the program launches for the whole County?	Frederick Health will work with the evaluator to develop data access agreements with other entities to address the research questions that are developed in cooperation with the evaluator.
Data	What quantitative data will you provide for the quasi-experimental analysis?	Frederick Health will share data as needed to complete the evaluation. The selected evaluator will be expected to execute an agreement and Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with Frederick Health, during which time we will agree upon what data will be shared and the method through which we will share.
Data	Will Frederick Health facilitate access to birth records data and other hospital records data, and if so, will these data be available for the county or just Frederick Health families?	<p>Frederick Health will facilitate access to birth records data available through its Electronic Medical Records in Meditech and the Family Connects Frederick County records in the Family Connects International Salesforce database through a Business Associate Agreement (BAA).</p> <p>Frederick County birth record data is available for research. See the Maryland Department of Health instructions at https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Pages/data.aspx. After MDH Vital Statistics has approved the request, evaluators will be required to obtain approval from the Institutional Review Board of the Maryland Department of Health before obtaining data. Information on IRB requirements is available at: health.maryland.gov/iac/IRB/Pages/Home.aspx.</p>
Data	Can you share a copy of the data use agreement?	The data use agreements to access the Family Connects International Salesforce database and Frederick Health

		data will be available once the evaluator has been selected.
Data	Will Frederick Health provide the evaluator access contact information for mothers and, more specifically, to determine some health outcomes, access to or a summary of Electronic Medical Records (EMR) for specific program and non-program participants (email, cell phone number, race, zip-code, age, ethnicity, etc.)?	Frederick Health will provide access to patient data within its control as needed to complete the evaluation. The selected evaluator will be expected to execute an agreement and Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with Frederick Health, during which time we will agree upon what data will be shared and the method through which we will share.
Data	We're interested in learning the data sources that may be available from Fredericks to help inform the evaluation. Examples of these sources may include program delivery records, program assessment data, EMR data, health insurance claims data (commercial and Medicaid), or any other county program data that might be relevant. What types of data, if any, does Frederick Health plan to make available to the selected evaluation team?	Frederick Health will provide access to data related to program delivery records, program assessment data, EMR data, health insurance claims within its control. Frederick Health will share data as needed to complete the evaluation. The selected evaluator will be expected to execute an agreement and Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with Frederick Health, during which time we will agree upon what data will be shared and the method through which we will share.
Data	Is individual-case Child Protective Services (CPS) data readily available in order to complete part of the evaluation. What costs might be expected from CPS to breakdown and provide this information? What Data Use Agreement is envisioned?	The evaluator will need to submit a data request to Maryland Department of Social Services. Frederick Health cannot provide an estimate of the costs.
Meetings	Related to the meetings referenced in sections 3.3 and 3.5, what are the expectations related to in-person vs. virtual attendance?	Virtual attendance is acceptable at most types of meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weekly team meetings (Tue 9-10 am) • weekly nurse case conferences (Wed, 2:30-4:30) • the Community Partner Council (4th Friday of most months -- approximately 8 times per year). The Leadership Advisory Council meets quarterly in-person. The implementation team holds in-person half-day retreats quarterly. The evaluator will have the opportunity to develop items on the agendas for these meetings in collaboration with the team to accomplish its work plan. The evaluator can also propose other meetings with the implementation team to accomplish its goal.
Methodology	With the tight timeframe, it possible to compare to families who don't receive Family Connects before it launches for the whole county?	For a quasi-experimental design, comparisons could be made with birth populations prior to January 2023.
Methodology	Can you clarify if the evaluation contractor is expected to conduct surveys/ interviews, or just use	The evaluation contractor is expected to conduct the research for the evaluation including any surveys, interviews and focus groups.

	survey/interview data collected by others? thx	
Methodology	Has Frederick Health determined what calculations of cost savings should be included?	The evaluator can incorporate a literature review to propose relevant approaches to cost savings.
Methodology	Will the evaluator rely on forecasts of birth rates disaggregated by demographic and other socio-economic indicators developed by Frederick Health or will it need to provide its own forecasts?	Frederick Health will share any forecasts of birth rates it has developed and the evaluator should plan to confirm these with their own forecasts.
Methodology	Should the analysis incorporate weighting or be performed only with the response data?	The chosen methodology will ideally be a design with statistically significant results. The methodology will be selected in collaboration with the implementation team based on the prioritized research questions.
Methodology	To properly weight data, information from the Frederick County Planning office will most likely be required. If sufficient granularity is not available are other sources of data defining current and forecasted population statistics available?	The Maryland Department of Planning may be a resource.
Proposal Requirements	Question about this requirement: "MARYLAND REGISTRATION: Frederick Health requires that the awardee provide a certificate of good standing from the State of Maryland prior to execution of the Agreement. Executing and returning the acknowledgment below signifies that the certificate of good standing will be supplied upon request. " Does this preclude vendors from outside of MD?	Frederick Health will accept an organization or company's certificate of good standing from state governments other than Maryland as a substitute.
Proposal Requirements	Are there any preferences related to (1) page limits or other requirements for technical proposal format and (2) the presentation of the budget and payment schedules?	There is no page limit for the technical proposal. The requirements for the budget and payment schedules are included in the RFP in Section C 5 Project Budget.
Proposal Requirements	Are the following costs allowable: stipends or incentives for surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews, travel costs, software purchases and training?	Stipends and incentives for surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews as well as travel costs are allowable. Software purchases and training for vendor staff are not allowable.
Proposal Requirements	Is the project or any component set-aside for small business, minority-owned businesses, etc.?	Frederick Health welcomes proposals from small business and women and minority-owned businesses. Please refer to Section D for specific information about the Evaluation of proposals.
Proposal Requirements	Can the project manager requirements described on page 4 of the RFP be met by more than one individual (i.e., can multiple people	These requirements can be met by a team, rather than a single individual. In this situation, the proposal should explain how the team will divide the responsibilities.

	contribute those skills and experience rather than a single person)?	
Proposal Requirements	Is it acceptable to use loaded rates in pricing or must the pricing be based on salaries and fringe benefit costs?	Pricing should be based on salaries and benefits costs.
Support	Is domain-knowledge expertise from Family Connects International available? For example, their web-page links several random trial research results but provides no discussion of quasi-experimental design efforts. If so, will it be billed to EHS?	Domain knowledge from Family Connects International is available. The evaluator can propose a budget for specific-domain knowledge from Family Connects International or another resource. Please contact Family Connects International to review pricing.
Support	Is a copy of the Duke University random control trial analysis report available? Is the subsequent quasi-experimental supplementary report that specifically looked at racial disparity available?	Read the evidence here: https://familyconnects.org/impact-evidence/one-pagers-and-research/
Support	Are the bi-monthly and monthly data review presentations (gap analyses, etc.) available now or if not, will they be available after contract award but prior to methodology development?	See the gap analysis .
Support	We understand that external evaluators will likely take the lead in data collection, but we're curious about the role Frederick may see for internal staff since, in our experience, meaningful collaboration will be important. What role does Frederick envision for their staff as part of the evaluation? Examples might include helping with participant outreach, providing language and translation support, or assisting with the actual data collection.	Frederick staff and contractors can provide support with connections to key informants, list development for participant outreach, review translations, and enable data collection at community events. The evaluation partner will need to provide sufficient staffing to conduct the majority of the direct engagement with participants, as well as interpretation and translation services.
Timeline	What will be the time period of the evaluation?	The first report on findings for the evaluation is due October 31, 2024. The final report is due October 31, 2025. The timeline for the research will be developed by the evaluator in collaboration with the Family Connects Frederick County implementation team, considering the research questions that are identified and the need for data access.
Timeline	The deadline for questions says Friday, July 10 at 5 pm. Is the deadline Friday, July 7 or Monday, July 10?	The deadline is Monday, July 10 at 5 pm EDT. This was corrected on the web page.