CORPORATION FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (CSH)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR
WEB GIS DEVELOPER

Date Issued: March 27, 2025

Date Proposals are Due: June 6, 2025

Issued by Corporation for Supportive Housing

(CSH) 55 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10006

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SECTION I – RFP OVERVIEW

Corporation for Supportive Housing ("CSH") seeks proposals from qualified consultants/firms to develop public-facing web-based interactive GIS data tools and data sets. Key activities to be undertaken include:

- **Collecting and integrating diverse datasets** related to housing, demographics, and socio-economic factors.

- **Using GIS (Geographic Information Systems)** to visualize and analyze spatial data.

- **Creating interactive maps and dashboards** that allow users to explore data in a user-friendly manner.

RFP Timeline

We anticipate following the timeline below related to this RFP. CSH may amend the schedule as needed. CSH reserves the right to amend the timeline and RFP during and after the RFP issue period and will notify consultants/firms that opt-in.

Key Dates	
March 27, 2025	RFP Issued
May 12, 2025	Deadline to submit questions/inquiries
June 6, 2025	Proposals Deadline
June 9 – June 20, 2025	Select Vendor Interviews
On or about June 23, 2025	Notice of Acceptance
On or about June 30, 2025	Expected Contract Start Date

Applicant Eligibility

CSH will consider consultants/firms submitting proposals that demonstrate the following:

Key Experiences

1. **Web Development Projects**: Proven experience in developing web applications, preferably with a focus on geospatial data. Provide at least five examples.

2. **GIS Integration**: Hands-on experience integrating GIS platforms (e.g., Esri ArcGIS, QGIS, Carto) into web applications.

3. **Interactive Map Creation**: Experience in creating interactive maps and data visualizations that allow users to explore geospatial data.

4. **Cross-functional Collaboration**: Ability to work with data analysts, urban planners, and other stakeholders to understand requirements and deliver solutions.

5. **User-Centered Design**: Experience in designing user-friendly interfaces and conducting user testing to ensure the tool meets user needs.

6. **Project Management**: Experience managing or contributing to projects with clear timelines and deliverables.

Technical Knowledge

Note that all data tools must be compatible with WordPress.

1. **Web Development Languages**: Proficiency in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and frameworks like React or Angular.

2. **GIS Technologies**: Strong understanding of GIS platforms such as Esri ArcGIS, QGIS, and their APIs.

3. **Data Integration**: Ability to integrate various datasets (e.g., housing, demographics) into web applications.

4. **Database Management**: Knowledge of database systems (e.g., SQL, NoSQL, PostGIS) for storing and retrieving geospatial data.

5. **Mapping Libraries**: Familiarity with mapping libraries such as Leaflet, OpenLayers, or Mapbox.

6. **Responsive Design**: Skills in creating responsive web applications that work across different devices and screen sizes.

7. **Version Control**: Proficiency in using version control systems like Git for collaborative development.

8. **Security Best Practices**: Understanding of web security principles to protect user data and ensure secure access to the tool.

Preferred Qualifications

1. **Advanced GIS Certifications**: Certifications in GIS technologies or related fields.

2. **Experience with Housing Data**: Previous work with housing-related datasets and understanding of affordable housing issues.

3. **Machine Learning**: Knowledge of machine learning techniques for analyzing geospatial data.

4. **Cloud Services**: Experience with cloud services (e.g., AWS, Azure) for hosting and scaling web applications.

5. **Nonprofit/Government experience**: CSH prefers experience relevant to nonprofit organizations, local, state, or federal government agencies or elected officials, and/or healthcare institutions.

- Portfolio of at least five examples of web-based GIS data tool design
- Demonstrated ability to partner with nonprofit organizations to determine the best web-based tool designs to meet the goals of the project.
- We welcome proposals from all qualified applicants, including those owned by minorities and women. Our selection process is based on merit, ensuring that all proposals are evaluated fairly in accordance with federal guidelines.

If awarded:

- Please be prepared to submit information on the firm's liability insurance coverage. The selected firm shall carry and keep in force throughout the periods in which the services are provided, a comprehensive general liability, workers' compensation, employer's liability insurance, errors and omissions in the amounts and forms as required to do business in the State of New York. The awarded firm must furnish a Certificate of Insurance to CSH prior to commencement of services. The firm shall also furnish a certificate of said insurance to CSH certifying that CSH will be given thirty (30) days' written notice of non-renewal, cancellation, or other material change.
- The selected consultant/firm will agree to use CSH's secure file sharing system on Microsoft SharePoint.

RFP Inquiries, Written Questions and Answers

Please send questions and requests for clarification about this RFP via email to gabriel.schuster@csh.org with the subject line "CSH Web GIS Developer." Kindly submit questions **by Monday May 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET.**

SECTION II – CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

About CSH and Data Tools

Founded in 1991, CSH is a national nonprofit intermediary and Community Financial Development Institution (CDFI). We help communities respond to visible and invisible homelessness by shifting investments to affordable and supportive housing and essential community services from a costly, ineffective, and trauma-inducing crisis response system – like policing, jailing, healthcare provided in emergency rooms and other institution-based responses. As an intermediary, we do not directly develop or operate housing but center our approach on collaboration with a wide range of people, partners, and sectors.

Guided by its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, CSH seeks to increase:

1. Affordable housing development with a portion of units for supportive housing,
2. Funding and capacity for coordinated and integrated health and community-based services, often adjacent to housing, which are delivered with awareness of the psychological and emotional impacts to people experiencing homelessness, and
3. Opportunities for supportive housing tenants and staff to build personal economic security.

Our workforce is central to accomplishing this work. We employ approximately 170 people across thirty states and U.S. Territories. We deliver our work through three business lines:

1. Building the field through technical assistance, training, and consulting,
2. Advancing non-partisan policies at the local, state, and federal levels, and
3. Increasing unit creation pipelines for multi-family properties through a range of pre- development and project-initiation loans and awarding New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocations that fund new health and community-based facilities.

CSH formed its Data & Analytics unit in 2017, and since that time has been on a journey of becoming a data-informed organization. In 2018, we conducted the first of its kind cross systems supportive housing needs assessment, which looked at people in the homeless, carceral, child welfare, mental/behavioral health, nursing and IDD systems that had needs consistent with supportive housing and estimated the total state-by-state and national need for supportive housing, creating a Tableau based web tool to allow the public to look at need by state and by systems. In 2019, we launched a tool that looks at demographic breakdowns by each system to better understand at the system level how populations in systems differ from the population at large. This was available on CSH's website until February 2025.

In addition to these tools, CSH maintains a number of mapping products demonstrating the national spread of CSH strategic initiatives, including FUSE, Medicaid waivers, and the Keeping Families Together Initiative.

SECTION III – SCOPE OF SERVICES

Purpose of Engagement

CSH seeks a consultant/firm to assist with designing and developing a web-based tool that will bring together various data assets CSH has into one geospatial interface with layers for viewing various data points.

Key activities and deliverables will include the following:

I. Define Objectives and Requirements

We seek your web-based GIS design expertise to guide what data goes into the final product and how it will ultimately function. You will design and conduct information gathering sessions with CSH's Data & Analytics team and other key stakeholders to understand our data assets, sources, and data management processes. You will provide key examples to learn and draw from that will provide context for our vision. As output, you will provide:

- A detailed description of data inputs, both that CSH manages internally and leveraging publicly available datasets such as census data, ACS, etc.
- Clearly defined objectives of the GIS tool.
- Requirements to ensure the tool meets CSH's needs.
- Recommendations for any new software, cloud storage, or other technology that CSH might need to adopt to "make it happen."

2. Data Collection and Preparation

- **Identify Data Sources**: Determine the datasets needed (e.g., housing, demographics, socio-economic data).
- **Data Acquisition**: Collect and acquire the necessary data from reliable sources.
- **Data Cleaning**: Clean and preprocess the data to ensure accuracy and consistency.

3. Technology Stack Selection

- **Choose GIS Platform**: Select appropriate GIS platforms (e.g., Esri ArcGIS, QGIS, Carto).
- **Web Development Framework**: Choose web development frameworks (e.g., React, Angular).
- **Database Management**: Select database systems (e.g., SQL, NoSQL) for storing geospatial data.

4. Application Development

- **Front-End Development**: Develop the user interface using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and chosen frameworks. Note that all data tools developed must be compatible with WordPress.
- **Back-End Development**: Set up server-side logic and database integration.

- **GIS Integration**: Integrate GIS functionalities and mapping libraries (e.g., Leaflet, OpenLayers).
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence**: Identify any aspects of application development or other components that will make use of AI tools and how those tools will be leveraged.

5. Interactive Map Creation
- **Design Maps**: Create interactive maps that visualize geospatial data.
- **Data Visualization**: Implement data visualization techniques to make complex data accessible.
- **Compatibility with CSH Brand**: All content graphics must make use of CSH brand color palettes and align with the website's overall look and feel.

6. Advanced Features Implementation
- **User Authentication**: Implement user authentication and access control.
- **Search and Filter**: Add search and filter functionalities to explore data.
- **Analytics and Reporting**: Develop analytics and reporting features to generate insights.

7. Testing and Quality Assurance
- **Functional Testing**: Test the application for functionality and performance.
- **User Testing**: Conduct user testing to gather feedback and improve usability.
- **Bug Fixing**: Identify and fix any bugs or issues.
- **Security Testing**: Identify, test and address any security vulnerabilities with the tool(s) created.

8. Deployment
- **Hosting**: Deploy the application on a reliable hosting service (e.g., AWS, Azure).
- **Domain Setup**: Set up the domain and ensure secure access.
- **Launch**: Launch the application and make it accessible to users.

9. Maintenance and Updates
- **Regular Maintenance**: Perform regular maintenance to ensure the tool remains functional.
- **Updates**: Implement updates and improvements based on user feedback and changing requirements.
- **Support**: Provide ongoing support to users and address any issues.

10. Documentation and Training
- **User Documentation**: Create comprehensive user documentation to guide users.
- **Training Sessions**: Conduct training sessions for stakeholders to ensure they can effectively use the tool.

SECTION IV - CSH TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

CSH currently utilizes the following software and applications:

Data Management and Administration

- Microsoft 365 SharePoint
- Azure
- Tableau
- Microsoft 365 Planner (project tracking)
- WPEngine (website hosting and security)

SECTION V - BUDGET

For the work outlined in Section III – Scope of Services, we are offering a budget in the $25,000 to $40,000 range.

Anticipated Contract Type

CSH expects to negotiate a fixed fee and contract with a consultant/firm for services outlined in this RFP, including services that the consultant/firm may outsource. We prefer that the consultant/firm indicate which services they will outsource in their proposal and, if possible, the name and qualifications of these outsourced people or agencies.

We expect to begin the contract on or about June 19, 2025, with an end period scheduled up to 6 months, or upon mutual agreement that services are provided by the consultant/firm as satisfactory to CSH. Funding for these services will not exceed $40,000, including all fees and expenses. The award amount will be based on the proposal fee submitted by the consultant/firm. Additional services may be contracted, based upon performance and need.

SECTION VI - PROPOSAL FORMAT AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal. We want to make this process undemanding for you to compile as much as possible. With that goal, please organize your proposal in the following format.

1. **Company Background** - Please provide information about your history, experience, and expertise, particularly any work relevant to nonprofits, government, policy change, and/or the housing, homelessness, justice, or healthcare sectors.
   a. Include brief bios of key staff and if possible, any subcontractors you expect will work with CSH on this project.
   b. Include at least five examples of projects you are most proud of and why.

2. **Scope of Work** – Please outline your understanding of the scope of work along with your capabilities. Please follow the steps outlined in the scope but feel free to expound or add where necessary. Please include your recommended timeline. We prefer a brief paragraph for each deliverable.

3. **Your Projected Fees/Budget** - Please include your projected fees/budget and if possible, itemize the deliverables. Feel free to include add-on fees for ongoing collaboration or work you recommend beyond the scope of this RFP.

Submission Instructions

Please send your proposal in PDF format by Friday, June 6, 2025, 11:59 pm EST by email to gabriel.schuster@csh.org with the subject line "Web GIS Developer Services."

RFP Inquiries, Written Questions and Answers
If you have questions and requests for clarification about this RFP, please send them by email to kim.keaton@csh.org and Gabriel.schuster@csh.org with the subject line "Web GIS Developer Services." Please submit questions **by Monday May 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET.**

SECTION VII - EVALUATION PANEL AND OUR PLANNED APPROACH

CSH seeks to ensure fairness in our procurement decisions and as such, we have compiled a panel of staff and leadership who will evaluate proposals and participate in select interviews. The panel will score proposals based on agency or consultant experience and technological expertise, but also originality in your approach to working with thought partners on outside of the box projects.

Thank you for reviewing and considering this proposal and we look forward to hearing from you.

CSH

CSH is a 501c3 nonprofit.

National Headquarters

55 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10006