



2020 Request for Information

Partnerships for Credential Transparency Publishing to the Credential Registry

Summary

In preparation for a two-year \$5 million dollar Phase 2 National Science Foundation [Convergence Accelerator](#) proposal, Credential Engine seeks information from potential subaward partners on their organizational capabilities for connecting data in states' learn-and-work ecosystems. Specifically, we seek information on actions organizations could take to accelerate the publication and management of credential information as linked open data on the web. Organizational responses should be submitted by March 4th, 2020 for full consideration.

Background

Through an increasing array of credentials – such as degrees, certificates, licenses, certifications, badges, and apprenticeships – job seekers, students, and workers have more options than ever. Yet, there has never been an efficient system to collect, search, and compare credentials and their competencies in a way that keeps pace with the speed of change, and is universally understood. With well over 730,000 [unique credentials offered in the U.S. alone](#), this lack of information contributes to confusion and uninformed decision making. Credential Engine is demystifying the credential marketplace for the first time by advancing [credential transparency](#) and thereby providing the information needed to make better credentialing decisions.

Credential Engine provides the following web-based tools and services to find, understand, and compare information about credentials in a user-friendly format:

- Two schema, the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) and the Credential Transparency Description Language profile of the Achievement Standards Network (CTDL-ASN) provide the “rules of the road” for how credentials, credentialing organizations, quality assurance information, and competencies are described both in the Registry and on the open Web.
- The Credential Registry houses, manages, connects, and shares up-to-date information on all types of credentials in the marketplace.
- Multiple application programming interfaces (APIs) are available for formatting and publishing credential information and managing account information.
- An [open applications marketplace](#) allows organizations to build customized applications that use the Registry's data to access tailored credentialing information for many different user groups, such as [TransferIN's program search](#) and [ValuedCreds](#).



In Indiana, for example, over 3,000 credentials have already been published to the Credential Registry, but much work remains to maintain these data and eventually [make sense of Indiana's credentialing marketplace](#).

More information can be found at www.credentialengine.org. You may also search credentials and competencies that have been published on the Credential Registry, and consider the range of information collected about credentials, by visiting Credential Finder (www.credentialfinder.org).

RFI Overview

In preparation for a two-year \$5 million dollar Phase 2 National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator proposal, Credential Engine seeks information from potential partners on their organizational capabilities for connecting states' learn-and-work ecosystem. This proposal will extend the work completed as part of Credential Engine's [Phase 1 grant](#) to produce specific deliverables completed and evaluated within the two year performance period of the cooperative agreement. The Phase 2 work will test a state-level model that is to be extended to other states and the nation to have a broader impact. All potential subaward funding will be subject to the governing Federal cost principles and procedures appropriate to the subaward type and organization involved.

Through this RFI, Credential Engine seeks organizational partners that can effectively address and scale at least one of the following goals:

1. Significantly advance publishing all credentials and competencies available in states to the Registry, including but not necessarily limited to diplomas, degrees of all levels and types, apprenticeships, badges, certificates, certifications, licenses, & microcredentials.
2. Significantly increase the richness of credential information published to the Registry via the development and documentation of curriculum, courses, assessments, learning opportunities, pathways, competencies, quality assurance claims, earnings and employment outcomes, and additional information;
3. Significantly enhance credential providers' management of credential and competency information via integrated authoring, approval, validation, publishing, & updating workflows leveraging open standards, schemas, and application programming interfaces (APIs).

We anticipate that multiple organizations will be recruited as Phase 2 partners through this RFI with additional interactions to define more detailed statements of work and budgets. A broad range of organizations have already partnered with Credential Engine in different ways, which you can learn more about at www.credentialengine.org/partner.



Eligible Partners:

Credential Engine welcomes responses from any organization that can advance the goals outlined in this RFI, including educational technology companies student information systems, learning management systems, curriculum and course management tools, assessment tools, education providers, human resource and talent management technology companies, job listing/career pathway services, major employers, non-profit organizations, standards organizations, regional and state government agencies, data integration companies, and others.

It is important to note that each provider of credentials, competency models, and quality assurance assertions will need to establish an approved account with Credential Engine and either publish their credentials directly, grant approval to the grantee to publish on its behalf, or identify a third-party data management vendor to publish for them. Exact arrangements and workflows for publishing will be determined with partners and credential providers. Additional information on publishing can be reviewed in the [Credential Engine Registry Handbook](#).

Submission Information:

Please submit a narrative response to each of the following questions. (up to 2,000 words total)

1. Explain how your organization could support at least one of the goals outlined in this RFI?
2. Which users do you target and how do you design for their experience?
3. Who from your organization will be involved and what are their qualifications?
4. Are there any licenses or restrictions on the deliverables or services that you may have described? If so, please describe how this work advances a connected learn and work ecosystem.
5. What business model supports the sustainability of your deliverables or services and the ability to scale across numerous states?
6. What evidence can you provide supporting the likelihood of completing the work you describe successfully?
7. What is an approximate timeline and budget for completing the work you described?
Note: This estimate is for information purposes and non-binding. The project team will refine, negotiate, & validate all partner subawards.

Submit responses to info@credentialengine.org by March 4th, 2020. The project team will read all responses to this RFI and follow-up with your organization. Applicants are encouraged to forward questions to Jeff Grann at jgrann@credentialengine.org.

