

- 1. For purposes of this analysis, what is the definition and scope of “Life Sciences?” Is it to be analyzed as a sector distinct from health care, including the biopharmaceutical industry, or limited to life sciences-related occupations within health care?**

For the purposes of this analysis, the analysis of life sciences occupations is limited to those life-sciences related occupations within health care.

- 2. What is the relevant geographic scope of the analysis—for the population to be served, and for the relevant industries and employers? (i.e., the City of Boston, and/or a broader labor market area?)**

The geographic scope of the analysis both for the population to be served and relevant industries and employers is the Metro Boston area encompassing areas serviced by the MassHire Boston, Metro North, and Metro South/West Workforce boards

A map of these areas is linked below for reference:

<https://masshiregreaternewbedford.com/resources-portal/state-regional/>

- 3. While the RFQ emphasizes sub-Baccalaureate occupations, to what extent should positions and programs associated with 4-year degrees be included in the analysis?**

While we are not requesting an in-depth study of all programs associated with 4-year degrees, OWD’s goal is to get a general sense of the whole labor market demand and projected supply in the Metro Boston area.

- 4. In the revised timeline, the draft study report is to be submitted for review “May 5, 2025 – July 3, 2025.” When is the draft report due: on May 5, with review to follow, or by July 3?**

Under the revised timeline, the draft report is to be submitted for review on May 5 with review to follow.

- 5. Is there an expectation that bidders will use real-time labor market data to analyze labor market demand and skills required?**

There is an expectation that bidders will use the most up-to-date labor market data to analyze labor market demand and skills required to the extent practicable.

- 6. In assessing the capacity of area programs to meet labor market demand, to what extent should programs outside of the City of Boston be studied? (For example, sub-Bachelor’s life sciences programs in Cambridge, including those offered by MassBioEd and Just-a-Start).**

Programs outside of the City of Boston should be studied so long as they are located within—or serve individuals living in—the geographic scope of the analysis. Please refer to the answer to Question 2 for the geographic scope.

7. Do you have a set limit for overhead/admin we can include in the budget?

We do not have a set limit on overhead. If the rate you are requesting is not the de minimis (10%), we will require that you submit the approved rate agreement prior to contracting. In the fee proposal, please also provide an explanation that you have an approved rate agreement for contracting.