

# REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

## MULTISTATE REGISTRATION & FILING PORTAL

FEBRUARY 17, 2016

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Multistate Registration and Filing Portal, Inc. (MRFP)\*, a Delaware nonprofit corporation working with the National Association of State Charities Officials (NASCO), and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), currently represents an initial development group of 12 pilot states that will be expanded after platform launch to include all states that require charitable organizations and their professional fundraisers to register and provide annual filing information (currently 39 states require registration).

MRFP is issuing this **Request for Information (RFI)** seeking input from vendors, government officials, technology and public policy professionals and anyone with knowledge of platforms, processes, tools and/or methods to simplify the completion and submission of forms, including the submissions of relevant data and to allow charitable organizations and their professional fundraisers to comply with all states' registration and annual filing requirements through a unified "one-stop" solution. The project goal is to maximize efficiency, customer convenience, data transparency, and information sharing by enabling compliance with the registration and reporting requirements of any state, or any combination of multiple states, via a single online software product, without duplication of data entry.

The one-stop solution should be focused on a user-friendly design. The Beta testing process should include iterative development based on feedback from regulators, and from charities and their professional fundraisers and advisors to further system development.

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\* MRFP members are state agencies (Attorneys General, Secretaries of State, or other agencies) with direct oversight responsibility for charitable assets and charitable solicitations. The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) will serve as fiscal agent for the Single Portal operations and NAAG's offices in Washington DC will serve as headquarters for administration of the Single Portal system.

### IMPORTANT DATES

The RFI will remain open until **April 1, 2016**. The information gathered will contribute to a decision-making process that will lead to implementation of a working system in 2016 or the near future. Respondents should submit the proposal file in PDF format to **info@mrfpinc.org**. All respondents will be notified on or about **June 30, 2016** as to whether or not they will be invited to submit a proposal for development of the platform.

The MRFP will host a conference call on **March 15, 2016** from **3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST** to provide additional background information and answer questions from the public about the registration process. **Dial-in: (800) 232-9745; PIN: 3232959**. Charities, their registration services providers, and any other interested parties are welcome to participate.

# MRFP, Inc.

# SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

## THE SYSTEM SHOULD:

- Allow charitable organizations and their professional fundraisers to register and file annual renewals and reports with multiple state charity offices through a single process.
- Allow population of registration fields with data from electronically filed IRS 990 and 990EZ Tax Returns for tax exempt entities (Forms 990), and allow receipt of electronically filed 990s in machine-readable form from IRS, the user, or other sources.
- Allow registration service providers to transmit data for multiple registrant/clients electronically.
- Allow private foundations to file a copy of their IRS Form 990-PF with their state attorney general in machine-readable electronic form, if available, or as a PDF.
- Make the non-confidential collected registration data public in an open data format.<sup>1</sup> Confidential data and Personally Identifiable Information must be inaccessible to unauthorized users.
- Allow users to attach supporting documents as necessary.
- Provide analytic tools for charity regulators to identify outliers that will enable improved response by regulators to potential fraud prevention, negligence or poor governance practices that may lead to loss or waste of charitable assets.
- Use a transaction-based funding model.
- Accept payment of state registration fees from applicants and allocate them to the appropriate state(s).

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<sup>1</sup> Open data are data that are available to all, free of charge, in a standard format, published without proprietary conditions, and available online as a bulk download.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Respondents may also send questions in writing to [info@mrfpinc.org](mailto:info@mrfpinc.org) by 5 p.m. MST on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. The Point of Contact will post the questions and responses by 5 p.m. MST on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at [mrfpinc.org/rfi](http://mrfpinc.org/rfi). More information about this project and MRFP is available at [mrfpinc.org](http://mrfpinc.org).

Please note that responding to this RFI is not a prerequisite for responding to any future solicitations related to this project and a response to this RFI will not create any contract rights.

MRFP has selected Christopher Wong (Director of Product at The GovLab at NYU Tandon School of Engineering), as its project manager, and will consult with the Urban Institute through its Regulation of Nonprofits and Philanthropy Program for facilitation of input from all public and government stakeholders during testing and launch of the anticipated platform.