Request for Proposals

Research Project, Open Source for the Social Sector

GitHub Inc, in partnership with The Case Foundation

Original Call: Wednesday, 31 July 2019

Deadline to Submit Clarifying Questions: None (please send as needed)

RFP Closes: Close of business (US Eastern) Wednesday, 21 August 2019

Please send any clarifying questions and proposals to:

Mala Kumar, malakumar85@github.com
Admas Kanyagia, admaskan@github.com
John Jones, johnj@casefoundation.org
Request for Proposals – Open Source for the Social Sector

Disclaimer: Please note that a GitHub NDA must be signed and submitted upon or before submitting a response to this Request for Proposal. Please request NDA and send signed copies to malakumar85@github.com.

Context

The open source ecosystem, which includes software, data and methodologies, is a driving force behind many breakthrough achievements in digital technology in the private sector. However, in the social sector, the core concepts behind open source – sharing and collaboration – are largely missing.

To this aim, GitHub Inc. and The Case Foundation (collectively hereafter, “Partners”) are requesting proposals from qualified individuals or organizations (hereafter, “Researcher”). The goal of the research is to explore why the open source ecosystem is not as robust as it could be in the social sector, and what can be done to spur adoption. It is the aim of this research initiative to answer the overarching question, “What is preventing the social sector from better engaging with the open source ecosystem?”

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this research project will be to produce a 15 to 20-page paper that answers the overarching question – What is preventing the social sector from better engaging with the open source ecosystem? As the world’s largest code hosting service of the open source ecosystem, GitHub is interested in answering this question to better support the OS ecosystem and define product offerings to the social sector. The Case Foundation sees the sharing of open source products within the social sector as a new form of philanthropy and wishes to answer this question to understand how to best support and promote open source technology within the sector.

Eligibility and Performance Standards

Successful candidates may possess the following skills and experience:

- Significant qualitative research in a tech for social good vertical, such as tech for international development, philanthropic giving in technology, open source for education/research, etc.
- Familiarity with the open source ecosystem
- Strong understanding of how diversity affects tech for social good
- Professional proficiency in English. Other languages are encouraged but not required
- An extensive network in tech for social good verticals
- Strong project management, interviewing, communication and facilitation skills
- Excellent research synthesis and writing skills
- Optional – quantitative research experience
- Individual researchers and organizations are encouraged to apply. Non-profit and for-profit organizations are eligible.
- The Researcher may be based anywhere in the world and must be available for remote weekly meetings with the Partners’ staff located on the US East and US West coasts. A stable internet connection is therefore required.
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- The Researcher will need to quickly onboard to the project in early September in order for the Partners to meet an end of year deadline for the research.

Proposed Timeline of Deliverables

*NOTE: The Partners will complete a literature review that will be accompanied by a list of key questions this research project should address. Both will be completed by August 30th and provided to the Researcher.*

**Phase 1: Surveys & Interviews (September - October 2019)**

1. A summary of trends, patterns, and other insights related to each of the key questions based on the above referenced literature review / research base.
2. Any supplemental literature or media the Researcher would like to consider.
3. Respondent personas (user personas) for in-depth interviews and a widely disseminated survey.
4. An interview protocol that includes a business logic and questions for each persona.
5. Based on an existing survey developed by the Partners, recommendations and a testing plan to evaluate survey questions for each respondent persona. After partner approval, a completed testing of survey questions.
6. Additions to both the survey and interview dissemination lists that the Partners will provide.
7. Completion of 2-4 in-depth interviews for each of the respondent personas. The Researcher may be asked to provide raw notes of interviews, transcriptions of recordings, interviewee research and follow-ups with interviewees.
8. Assistance with dissemination of survey.
10. If directed by Partners and if available, assistance in hosting a convening of open source for social good experts in Washington DC in September 2019.

**Phase 2: Synthesis & Report Generation (October - December 2019)**

1. A brief outline of the research synthesis process, including but not limited to software, methodologies and frameworks employed.
2. An annotated outline of the final paper for review, with one round of Partner edits.
3. Two rounds of edits / revisions of the final paper.

**Project Management (ongoing)**

1. The Researcher is expected to set the agenda and lead the weekly meetings with the Partners.
2. At the end of each month, the Researcher will provide high level recaps of work progress to-date, upcoming deliverables, roadblocks and opportunities.
3. Similarly, the Researcher will communicate challenges faced, opportunities met, and lessons learned at the end of Phase 1 and 2.
4. The Researcher may be required to periodically liaise with the Partners communications officers that are leading external comms efforts for the work.
5. Partners will provide monthly feedback to the Researcher on ongoing performance.
Proposal Requirements

1. High-level workplan, including methodologies, approach, and anticipated software packages to use, if any
2. Previous examples of work in alignment with deliverables
3. At least two references
4. A budget

Contacts

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