



Request for Information

For: State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division on Civil Rights

Event	Date	Time
Request for Information Submission Due Date	August 23, 2024	3:00 PM

Dates are subject to change. All times contained in the Request for Information refer to Eastern Time.

Request For Information Issued By:
State of New Jersey
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division on Civil Rights

Using Agency:
State of New Jersey
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division on Civil Rights

Date: July 25, 2024

1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

This Request for Information (RFI) is issued by the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety (Department), Division on Civil Rights (Division).

The Division is responsible for enforcing New Jersey's Law Against Discrimination (LAD), which makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, gender, religion, and more in employment, contracting, housing, and places of public accommodation. The Division also enforces the New Jersey Fair Chance in Housing Act (FCHA), which limits housing providers' ability to consider a person's criminal history in deciding whether to extend an offer of housing or whether to rent a home after extending an offer. It also enforces the Family Leave Act (FLA), which requires covered employers to grant time off from work to employees to care for or bond with a child within one year of the child's birth or adoption, to care for a family member or the equivalent of a family member with a serious health condition, and for certain other reasons. For more information about the Division as well as the Department's focus on eradicating hate, bias, and discrimination please see the recently released [2023 Year in Review Report](#) and the [Division website](#).

The purpose of this RFI is to gather information regarding tools and technologies the Division could use to aid in its efforts to enforce the LAD, FCHA, and FLA in New Jersey. Specifically, DCR is requesting feedback on how advances in large language models and natural language artificial intelligence processing (LLM/AI) can support its efforts to identify and gather advertisements, posts, and other online material that may violate New Jersey's civil rights laws. Many websites have business models where users place advertisements, posts, or messages with employment opportunities and housing vacancies. While the terms of these services routinely prohibit posts that violate the LAD, FCHA, or FLA, examples of posts that blatantly violate New Jersey's laws are readily apparent on these sites. The Division is requesting information on how LLM/AI technologies could be leveraged to search for and identify potentially offending material so that Division investigators and staff can consider undertaking enforcement action.

This RFI is not soliciting proposals and no contract will be awarded based on responses received. Also, background information is provided simply for context of the RFI.

Any Respondent who submits information does so voluntarily and with the understanding that a formal Bid Solicitation {Request for Proposal (RFP)} may or may not be issued as a result of, and subsequent to, this RFI.

The State reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to contact Respondents for additional information.

2. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SUBMISSION

Responses to the State's RFI should be submitted electronically via email to procurement@njoag.gov no later than **August 23, 2024 at 3:00PM**.

There is a twenty-page limit on all responses. The State will also accept hyperlinks to marketing and other standard literature.

3. CONTENTS OF RFI SUBMISSIONS

Responses to this RFI can be released by the State to the public pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA), N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 et seq., or the common law right to know.

All information submitted to the State in response to this RFI is considered public information notwithstanding any disclaimers to the contrary submitted by a Respondent. Proprietary and confidential information may be exempt from public disclosure by OPRA and/or the common law.

As part of its response, a Respondent may designate any data or materials it asserts are exempt from public disclosure under OPRA and/or the common law, explaining the basis for such assertion. The location in the response of any such designation should be clearly stated in a cover letter. The State reserves the right to make the determination as to what is proprietary or confidential, and will advise the Respondent accordingly. Any proprietary and/or confidential information in a response will be redacted by the State. The State will not honor any attempt by a Respondent to designate its entire response as proprietary, confidential and/or to claim copyright protection for its entire response. Copyright law does not prohibit access to a record which is otherwise available under OPRA. In the event of any challenge to the Respondent's assertion of confidentiality with which the State does not concur, the Respondent shall be solely responsible for defending its designation, and in doing so, all costs and expenses associated therewith shall be the responsibility of the Respondent. The State assumes no such responsibility or liability.

4. AREAS OF INQUIRY

The State is interested in information from Respondent regarding the use of LLM/AI technologies to locate postings in housing and employment websites that may violate New Jersey laws.

Detailed questions are set forth below to help frame the general scope of the inquiry. A point-by-point response is NOT required.

4.1 Respondent Background & Information

- A. Respondent's name.
- B. Respondent's address.
- C. Respondent's point of contact for RFI response including name, title, phone number, and email address.
- D. Respondent's area(s) of expertise.
- E. Other general information about the Respondent.

4.2 Substantive Response

The State is investigating the technological viability of leveraging LLM/AI technologies to support enforcement activities within the Division.

- A. Do commercial off-the-shelf solutions exist that could support the Division's enforcement activities described in this RFI?
- B. Are custom LLM/AI search and web scraping tools available to assist with enforcement activities?
- C. If there are commercial or custom-developed tools available to assist the Division's enforcement efforts:
 - i. How would the Division train the LLM/AI to identify posts that may violate New Jersey law?
 - ii. How would Division staff be presented with the "hits" returned by the tool?
 - iii. How would the LLM/AI be refined over time to reduce the burden on Division staff reviewing false-positive material?
 - iv. How would the solution continue to be effective in light of bot activity blockers and other tools that scan for and screen automated web activity?
 - v. What are the general pricing methodologies the Division can expect to meet the proposed use case?
- D. Search engine providers (E.g. Google, Bing) already index the web and make it available for manual searching, which are now augmented by LLM/AI technologies. Are search engine providers willing to partner with the Division to meet this use case?

4.3 Documents Requested

Respondents are encouraged to submit any other relevant or pertinent information related to the scope of this RFI including:

- A. Any data sheets or other literature about Respondent's LLM/AI technology or tools.
- B. Copies of any relevant marketing literature.