



Scope of Solicitation – Acquire Services

The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) has convened the South Carolina Labor Force Participation Task Force to investigate the causes and impacts of our state’s relatively low rate of labor force participation (LFP)—57.2 percent as of March 2022, the fifth lowest in the country — and potential policy solutions. DEW is soliciting for a service proposal from Contractors who can provide survey research services. DEW seeks a Contractor to conduct a survey of individuals who were 1) in South Carolina wage records sometime in 2019, 2) filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits in 2020, and 3) were not found in South Carolina wage records in the most recently available quarter. The Contractor will then prepare, distribute, and summarize findings in a report to be prepared for DEW and presented to stakeholders as appropriate.

Scope of Work/Specifications – Statement of Work

The Contractor will work closely with DEW staff and Task Force members as appropriate to develop and design a survey instrument to elicit information from individuals who are potentially unemployed, underemployed, or out of the labor force. The information of interest includes geography, demographic characteristics, work history, education and training background, and barriers to employment.

The Contractor will develop a plan for survey design, implementation, data collection, and response rate monitoring. A detailed document will be produced for review by DEW that outlines the methodology to be implemented, including survey mode and peer-reviewed techniques for achieving a representative sample of the population and optimizing response rates. The final report should include comparison of respondents and non-respondents on key variables, recommend subset analyses, and recommend format for presentation of results.

The key objectives of the survey include:

- Documenting respondent’s ...
 - Demographic characteristics (e.g., age, race and ethnicity, sex, veteran status, educational attainment, South Carolina nativity, etc.)
 - Geography (e.g., county, ZIP code, etc.)
 - Labor force status (i.e., employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force, as well as other questions that can further clarify interest in work, as in the Current Population Survey)
 - Barriers to work, including but not limited to:
 - Broadband and transportation access
 - Caregiving requirements
 - Disability and health status
 - Discouragement over job prospects

- Enrollment in postsecondary education
 - Previous incarceration
- Understanding the respondent's ...
 - Reservation wages, wage expectations, and labor market expectations
 - Time use if not in the labor force
 - Means of financial support if not in the labor force
 - Policy or environmental changes that could influence labor force participation

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