



END
FGM/C
U.S. NETWORK

sahiyo
United Against Female Genital Cutting



Collaborative in
Health Equity



Request for Proposals (RFP): Database Development

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maendfgmc.org



info@sahiyo.org

PROJECT OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

Sahiyo U.S., in partnership with UMass Chan Medical School's Collaborative in Health Equity and the U.S. End FGM/C Network, is implementing HOPE MA (Holistic Organized Partnerships to End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in Massachusetts). [HOPE MA](#) is a five-year, statewide initiative funded through the Massachusetts Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds (/MACHHAF) with the goal of building coordinated, survivor-centered, and culturally responsive systems for FGM/C prevention and care across Massachusetts. For more information, visit maendfgmc.org.

A core component of this project is the development and launch of a statewide FGM/C Resource Database. This database will serve multiple audiences, including survivors, frontline service providers, government officials, and allied community organizations. We are seeking an experienced developer or development team to help us build this tool. This RFP is an initial outreach to understand technical scope, pricing, architecture options, and security best practices before formally selecting a development partner.

PROJECT VISION

The database is envisioned as a two-tier resource: a publicly accessible directory for survivors and the general community, and a more restricted referral and provider-facing system for verified service providers and Coalition partners. Both versions must be trauma-informed in design, accessible across devices, and culturally responsive in content presentation.

Reference examples reviewed during planning include:

- [International Confederation of Midwives \(ICM\) - Data Hub](#)
- [AskMOVA](#)
- [Learning Community to End Violence](#)
- [Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Grantee Geo-Map](#)
- [Jane Doe, Inc. Public Directory](#)
- [Canada Network Service Provider Directory](#)

SCOPE OF WORK

A. PUBLIC-FACING DIRECTORY

A searchable, publicly accessible directory of FGM/C-informed services in Massachusetts. Key requirements include:

- Search and filter functionality by service type, geography, language, and population served
- Geographic/map-based interface (GIS mapping integration)
- Multilingual support
- Mobile-responsive design
- Mechanism for service providers to submit and update listings
- Community review or flagging feature for resource accuracy

B. PRIVATE REFERRAL AND PROVIDER SYSTEM

A gated version of the database with additional functionality for verified users (e.g., Coalition members, screened service providers). Key requirements include:

- User registration and login with identity verification workflow
- Role-based access controls (e.g., admin, provider, Coalition member)
- Staff-managed approval process for new account requests
- Ability to include more sensitive contact information not visible publicly
- Audit logging of access and activity
- Secure messaging or referral routing capability (to be scoped)

C. ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT

- Admin dashboard for Sahiyo staff to manage listings, users, and flags
- Bulk upload capability for initial data population
- Reporting and analytics on database usage
- Integration with existing WordPress website (maendfgmc.org) or hosted separately (see Section 5)
- Maintenance documentation and staff training materials

HOSTING DECISION: EMBEDDED VS. THIRD-PARTY

We are actively weighing whether to host the database within our existing website infrastructure or as a standalone third-party hosted tool. We welcome developer input on this decision. Considerations we are evaluating include:

Embedded (On Our Site) - Pros	Embedded (On Our Site) - Cons
Integrated user experience with existing HOPE MA site	May require significant custom development
Consistent branding without redirect friction	Security vulnerabilities could affect full site
Single point of administration for staff	May require more complex hosting/maintenance
May use existing site infrastructure if compatible	Limited to site platform capabilities

Third-Party Hosted - Pros	Third-Party Hosted - Cons
Purpose-built tools may offer stronger out-of-box features	Users leave our site to access the database
Security risk isolated from primary website	Branding and UX consistency harder to maintain
Potentially lower initial development cost	Ongoing platform dependency and subscription costs
Easier to scale independently	Data portability concerns if the platform changes

SUBMISSION QUESTIONS FOR DEVELOPERS:

The following questions are intended to help us evaluate proposals and understand technical options. Responses to each question are requested as part of your submission.

A. ARCHITECTURE AND HOSTING

1. Do you recommend hosting this database within our existing website (maendfgmc.org) or on a separate third-party platform? What are the tradeoffs in each approach?
2. What platform or technology stack do you propose (e.g., custom build, WordPress plugin, Airtable, Salesforce Nonprofit, purpose-built nonprofit database tool)?
3. What are the long-term hosting costs associated with your proposed solution?
4. Would this platform be user-friendly for our staff to maintain and update after the initial build? What ongoing technical support would be available?

B. SECURITY AND PRIVACY

1. How would you secure personal and organizational contact information for both public and private versions of the database?
2. What authentication method do you recommend for the private referral system (e.g., single sign-on, email verification, manual approval)?
3. What data privacy standards or frameworks do you follow (e.g., HIPAA-adjacent, GDPR-informed practices)?
4. What is your recommended approach to restricting access to sensitive listings (e.g., direct service organizations, legal advocates) while keeping general resources public?

C. FEATURES AND FUNCTIONALITY

1. Can you integrate geographic/GIS mapping functionality? What platforms or APIs would you use (e.g., Google Maps, Mapbox, ArcGIS)?
2. What filtering and tagging logic do you recommend for service type, language, population served, and county/region?
3. How would you build a community submission or update request workflow for service providers to maintain their own listings?
4. Is there a particular accessibility standard other comparable tools use / a minimum standard you want to guarantee eg. WCAG AA?
5. Can multilingual content be supported? Would adding a translation widget be sufficient?

D. PRICING AND TIMELINE

1. What is your estimated cost to build the public-facing directory (Phase 1) and the private referral system (Phase 2) separately and together?
2. What is a realistic timeline from contract signing to initial launch?
3. This is a multi-year project currently in Year 2 (ending June 30, 2026). We anticipate hiring a developer in Year 3 (July 2026 – June 2027), with initial database development and pilot testing occurring across Years 3 and 4, and an official public launch targeted for Year 5 (by June 2029). Given this framework, what is a realistic timeline from contract signing to initial launch? Please describe how you would structure your work across these phases, noting any constraints or dependencies that would affect your proposed timeline.
4. What would ongoing annual maintenance and hosting costs look like?
5. Do you have nonprofit or grant-funded project pricing?
6. What would a pilot version look like, and what would it cost?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested developers or firms are invited to submit a letter of interest and responses to the questions in the section above.

Submissions should include:

- Brief organizational background and relevant project experience
- Responses to each submission question
- Two to three references or comparable project examples. Relevant examples include but are not limited to database planning, structure, mapping, or development.

CLICK TO APPLY

Interested developers are welcome to schedule a 30-minute discovery call with the HOPE MA Project Coordinator prior to submitting a proposal. This is an opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the project and its community context, and ensure your proposal accurately reflects the scope of work. To schedule a call, visit: [Calendly Booking Link](#).

Please direct submissions and questions to: Mariya Taher, info@sahiyo.org

Submission deadline: June 30th, 2026

We anticipate conducting brief discovery calls with shortlisted candidates prior to selection.