



## **Request for Proposals—June 25, 2021**

### **Technical Reform of the Congressional Review Act**

The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) is accepting proposals from individuals or groups interested in serving as a consultant(s) to produce a report about potential technical reforms of the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

#### **Project Description and Consultant Responsibilities**

The CRA authorizes Congress to use special, streamlined legislative procedures to disapprove certain agency rules by joint resolution. Members of Congress, executive-branch officials, government researchers, and academic scholars have identified several technical reforms that could clarify certain procedural aspects of the CRA while reducing burdens on executive-branch agencies and congressional offices.

This project will examine the benefits, drawbacks, and feasibility of three proposed technical reforms to the CRA that could have significant benefits for agencies, Congress, and the public:

- Phasing out the requirement that agencies submit paper copies of certain materials to Congress in favor of an electronic submission process;
- Making it easier to ascertain key dates and time periods that initiate CRA review of agency rules; and
- Formalizing a procedure by which members of Congress can initiate CRA review of rules that agencies conclude are not covered by the CRA.

Many other aspects of the CRA are the subject of continued scholarly and political debate. Those subjects will not be included within the scope of this project, which will focus on nonpartisan subjects in the nature of technical reforms.

The draft report for this project will be completed by October 2021, and the consultant(s) will thereafter be expected to work with Conference staff and committees as the Conference develops recommendations from the report in time for the Conference's December 2021 plenary session.<sup>1</sup> The Conference may select a single consultant or assemble a team of consultants depending on the proposals it receives. Consultants will receive between \$10,000 and \$25,000, plus a budget for related expenses, depending on the number of consultants and allocation of responsibilities. The total value of consulting fees for this project will not exceed \$25,000, to be apportioned in accordance with the number of consultants and division of responsibilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Both the report due date and the date of the plenary session are subject to change in light of COVID-19 and related matters.

**Submitting a Proposal and Evaluation Criteria**

If you are interested in serving as a consultant for the report, send an email to Mark Thomson (mthomson@acus.gov) with the phrase “ACUS Project Proposal” in the subject line. Attach your curriculum vitae to the email, along with a short (ideally no more than one page) statement explaining your proposed methodology for addressing the key topics identified above. **You must submit a proposal by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 6, 2021, in order to be guaranteed consideration by the agency.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on quality, clarity, and the proposer’s qualifications. The Conference has a strong preference for consultants who have previously authored scholarly work on the Congressional Review Act or congressional review of agency rules.