



RFP #25-2-DSS TARGETED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WITH COMPLEX MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

Addendum I

A. Due Date Extension

B. Questions/Answers

(County responses and changes are in red)

A. Due Date Extension

The proposal opening date has been extended for this RFP. All proposals must be received in accordance with the RFP **on or before 4:00 PM Monday, August 19, 2024.**

B. Questions/Answers

1. What is the total award amount for the annual contract?

This depends on the amount proposed by the awarded vendor.

2. How many consumers are affected?

We are looking at targeted services for 2-4 youth.

3. What are the qualifications that's needed of the workers/staff (LP, QP, PP)?

Dependent on the services offered by the vendor.

4. Does the agency office have to be located in Fayetteville/Cumberland County?

Preferably, but not necessarily. However, the person(s) in this position would need to be able to respond within 24/7 for crisis when called. DSS's expectation is the person in this position will be able to respond in person within 30 minutes to 1 hour.

5. What are the insurance requirements for the agency?

Will be determined by our legal and insurance team after the contract has been awarded.

6. Will the contracted agency be required to house consumers that either have no placement or encounter an unplanned interrupted placement?

No

7. What will the role of the current DSS Social Worker be?

The DSS Social Worker is responsible for case management.

How will they work with the contracted agency?

The Social Worker will work collaboratively with the contracted agency providing history and relevant information to enable the contracted agency to provide appropriate services to achieve stability and improved outcomes for the youth they are serving.

8. Is the 24-hour Crisis Support virtual or in person or both?

Primarily in person, but there may be occasions when virtual is acceptable.

9. Are there any upfront/start up funds available?

No start up funds available, upfront funds have not been determined at this time, and determination by our legal team once a vendor is selected-based on the services offered and the needs of the youths being placed.

10. What is the projected start date for this service?

We would like to begin service no later than October 1, 2024.

11. What type of support will Cumberland County DSS provide to the contracted agency?

We are looking for a vendor to support DSS/DSS Social Worker in this work. Cumberland County DSS will work closely with the contracted agency and have regularly scheduled meetings to discuss any areas of concerns or needs that arise.

12. Are these community-based services that will assist Foster Children?

For questions 12-15, & 18 The RFP indicates the services we are wanting for our youth in foster care. We are looking for targeted services to work with youth in foster care who have complex mental health issues, aggressive and assaultive behaviors, etc. We want to see what support you bring to the table for DSS, youth in foster care, and foster parents/placements.

13. Or is this Foster Care Level II Services with Intense Mental Health Behaviors?

The RFP indicates the services we are wanting for our youth in foster care. We are looking for targeted services to work with youth in foster care who have complex mental health issues, aggressive and assaultive behaviors, etc. We want to see what support you bring to the table for DSS, youth in foster care, and foster parents/placements.

14. Or is this wrap around services?

The RFP indicates the services we are wanting for our youth in foster care. We are looking for targeted services to work with youth in foster care who have complex mental health issues, aggressive and assaultive behaviors, etc. We want to see what supports you bring to the table for DSS, youth in foster care, and foster parents/placements.

15. What type of services are expected to be provided?

The RFP indicates the services we are wanting for our youth in foster care. We are looking for targeted services to work with youth in foster care who have complex mental health issues, aggressive and assaultive behaviors, etc. We want to see what support you bring to the table for DSS, youth in foster care, and foster parents/placements.

16. What is the service rate?

Undetermined at the time.

17. How long will the recipient receive services?

Undetermined at this time.

18. What are the service expectations?

The RFP indicates the services we are wanting for our youth in foster care. We are looking for targeted services to work with youth in foster care who have complex mental health issues,

aggressive and assaultive behaviors, etc. We want to see what support you bring to the table for DSS, youth in foster care, and foster parents/placements.

19. Can services be provided in another county?

If the youth's placement is in another county and Cumberland County DSS has identified the child for the purpose of this RFP. See below #10.

20. What are the assessment and treatment planning expectations?

To work closely with DSS Social Worker on all assessment and treatment planning. DSS Social Worker will provide the youth's history and information. We would like to know what your organization can bring to the table and how you can support DSS, the youth, and foster parents/placements.

21. How many children are to be served or is a provider allowed to serve?

2-4

22. **Regarding Section 4.1 Scope of Work:** Can you provide more details on the expected caseload and number of children to be served under this contract?

The case load will be small, 2-4 children. We are looking for targeted services for some of our most difficult to place children due to extensive mental health needs, aggressive behaviors with violent outbursts, etc.

23. **Section 4.1** mentions 24-hour crisis support. What are the specific expectations for after-hours and weekend crisis coverage?

To be available 24/7 and physically go to the youth's placement to provide crisis support, and to fill service gaps.

24. **For Section 4.2.B Cost of Services:** Will there be a cap on the number of service hours authorized per child?

This would depend on what your program offers, and the needs of the children.

How will service authorization and billing be handled?

Once the vendor is identified, authorization and billing will be determined, based on the services offered and each child's needs.

25. **In Section 4.2.D Procedures/Reporting:** What specific outcome measures and data will providers be required to track and report on?

This has not been determined at this time, as this will be dependent on the services offered by the vendor. However, the goal is placement stability; number of youth's placements/moves within a 12 month; the number of hours the provider is working with the youth; track diagnosis and types of services the vendor provides; track the reduction in disruptive behaviors, etc but not limited to the above. The objective is placement stability, and this will be measured through tracking the above.

26. **Scope of Work (Section 4.1):**

The scope mentions "mentoring from staff with lived experience." Can you clarify what type of lived experience is desired and how this mentoring component should be integrated into the overall service model?

Lived experience is someone that has been in foster care/foster parent. We would like to hear from the vendor about what they can bring to the table regarding mentoring and how they would integrate services.

27. Regarding "support services for foster families," what specific types of support are envisioned? Is there an expectation for in-home services or training for foster parents?

As a vendor, we would like to hear what types of support you can bring to the table. We would expect for services, training, and support to be provided for our foster parents.

28. How does the County envision the collaboration between the service provider and other stakeholders such as schools, juvenile justice, and primary care providers?

We anticipate a collaborative approach where all stakeholders work together to align their efforts and resources. We envision a dynamic and flexible partnership that adapts to the needs of our youth/foster parents and promote effective communication among all involved parties.

29. **Project Organization (Section 4.2.C):**

What is the expected availability of psychiatric services within the program structure?

As expeditiously as possible due to the complex needs of this population.

Should this be provided directly or through referral?

Directly if possible. When referrals are made, the actual services are often not delivered in a timely manner for various reasons or barriers. We are looking for someone to fill that gap.

30. How should the management plan address training and ongoing professional development for staff working with this high-needs population?

We would like to hear from the vendor about their plan, experience, and what they can offer. To work with the foster parents and train them to build their skills working with youth who have complex mental health needs.

31. Is there an expectation for how the program will integrate with the County's existing child welfare and mental health systems?

This should be a collaborative effort to ensure the best possible outcomes for the youth.

How should this be reflected in the project organization?

This will be used by Child Welfare staff that experience multiple disruptions and/or disruptive behaviors. It will help staff to ensure better outcomes, improve staffing, etc. It should aid in stabilization of youth placements.