



SUBJECT: Update Regarding the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Procurements

DATE: July 12th, 2016

This message serves as an update regarding the upcoming child welfare procurements.

Short Recap:

The Department has been holding public conversations about the upcoming child welfare procurements since the fall of 2015. Specifically, the following decisions have been made:

- 1) Contracts that previously included discrete separate contracts for Foster Group Care Services (FGCS), Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES), and Supervised Apartment Living (SAL) are going to be combined into a new procurement called Crisis Intervention, Stabilization, and Reunification (CISR) Services. The successful bidders for these contracts will accept referrals on a no reject, no eject basis, recognizing that the Department may approve exceptions in unique situations.
- 2) Contracts that previously included discrete separate contracts for the recruitment and retention of foster families and the training and peer support of foster families are being combined into a new procurement called Resource Family Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Support (RRTS).
- 3) The Department intends to procure these services in a more geographically specific way than has been done previously. This decision is designed to begin moving children back to their communities of origin in order to ensure better connections of our youth to their families, home communities and schools, and home community based supports, as well as better outcomes for our families. With the goal of keeping children near their families and communities, we will place an emphasis on using the DHS service area boundaries as the geographical focus for both of these new procurements. The Department intends to fund providers who establish strategies to achieve that goal.

New Decision:

The Department has the following new decisions regarding the child welfare procurements:

1) As previously announced, the Crisis Intervention, Stabilization, and Reunification (CISR) RFP will include the following three services:

- Foster Group Care Services (FGCS)
- Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES)
- Supervised Apartment Living (SAL)

Although the Department is looking for innovative solutions to create a System of Care that further integrates these three services down the line, the contracts for each of the services may be awarded separately. Bidders will have the option to bid for one, two, or all three of the services. The Department retains the right to give preference to responses that provide solutions for further integration of these services.

2) The Department has decided that the CISR RFP awards will be made by geographical service area for each of the three services (FGCS, CWES, SAL). Bids may be submitted for:

- One service in one service area
- One service in multiple (or all) service areas
- Multiple (or all) services in one service area
- Multiple (or all) services in multiple (or all) service areas

Bidders may submit bids for any service area in which they have a physical presence for that specific service. However, winning bids may still be required to serve children from outside of their service area. Awards will be made separately for each service area and service. The Department retains the right to award multiple contracts across each service area within each service. The Department retains the right, in the best interest of the State, to allocate awards to ensure sufficient State-wide capacity.

3) The Department will continue to act as the broker in each service area.

4) The Department has decided that in the Resource Family Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Support (RRTS) RFP, a separate award will be made for each of the five service areas. Respondents may bid for multiple service areas but awards will be made separately for each service area. The Department expects to award one contract in each of the five service areas.