



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

DATE: May 13, 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, emergency services and shelter, and supervised apartment living are going to be combined into a new procurement called Crisis Intervention, Stabilization and Reunification Services. The successful bidders for these contracts will accept referrals on a no reject, no eject basis, recognizing 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 Foster Family Recruitment, Training, and Support.
- 3) The Department intends to procure these services in a more geographically specific way than has been done previously. This decision is intended to begin the movement of children back to their communities of origin in order to ensure better connections of our youth to their families, home communities and schools, home community based supports, and better outcomes for our families.

The Department committed to issuing further clarification related to #3 above no later than May 13, 2016.

New Decision:

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.

Throughout the conversation thus far, DHS has been very appreciative of the collaboration and thoughtful consideration of the guiding principles, proposed policy parameters, and specific decisions made to date by our partners and stakeholders. We continue to get regular feedback on all these concepts and we are listening. Future decisions will be reported publically as they are made and we look forward to our continued movement in this very necessary positive direction. Further information regarding these procurements can be found at <http://dhs.iowa.gov/node/2585> and the Department continues to welcome feedback at https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs_titan_public/contactus/.