

State of Indiana
Department of Child Services
Request for Information
Intensive Foster Care Services for
Children Under 10

Due Date: January 15, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

DCS.ChildWelfarePlan@dcs.in.gov

c/o Danielle Arnold, Administrative Assistant to
Deputy Director of Placement Support and Compliance
Indiana Department of Child Services
302 W. Washington Street, E306
Indianapolis, IN 46204

This Request for Information (“RFI”) is only a request for information about potential services and no contractual obligation on behalf of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) shall arise from the RFI process.

This RFI does not commit DCS to pay costs incurred in the preparation or submission of any response to the RFI.

DCS considers the information provided through the RFI process to be deliberative material to be used for the purpose of decision making by DCS.

Introduction and Purpose of the RFI

The Indiana Department of Child Services believes that every child has the right to appropriate care and a permanent home. Permanency in this context means the child has a safe, stable and secure home and family, love, unconditional commitment, and lifelong support. When children are not able to safely remain in their homes, it is sometimes necessary for DCS to utilize out of home placements (including foster care homes, group homes, child care institutions, and private secure facilities) for those children and youth. It is the responsibility of DCS to protect these children, to provide necessary and appropriate services in the least restrictive environment possible, and to move the child toward permanency. One of DCS’s objectives for this biennium is to increase permanency options for children and youth by improving the placement stability of children in foster and adoptive homes.

When out of home placement is required, DCS values placing children in the most non-institutional, family based setting possible given the child’s needs. DCS has developed systems by which recommendations to place children in more restrictive settings is closely monitored, including use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS). In Indiana, the number of children entering into the DCS system increased by 26 percent from July 2014 to July 2015. This has resulted in increased utilization of out of home placements. A part of this increase has been in the number of children younger than the age of 10 whose needs, as identified by the CANS, justify residential placement. Additionally, placements for children under 10 have been disrupted when they were placed in less restrictive placements than residential facilities due to the child’s aggressive or antisocial behavior, or other social or mental health needs.

Given the above, DCS has identified the potential for additional services to address this particular need. DCS is hereby soliciting specialized and innovative program ideas and service solutions to expand placement and service options for children under 10 who have socio-behavioral or mental health needs that cannot be met in traditional foster family home settings.

Specifically, DCS is interested in expanding least restrictive placement options that improve and/or expand the service array provided to children in need of an out of home placement who:

1. are under the age of 10, and
2. are recommended for residential placement
 - a. because of the result of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment,
 - b. because multiple less restrictive placements have not been successful due to aggressive or antisocial behavior problems, or other social, developmental or mental health needs of the child, or
 - c. because the child has history that limits traditional placement options.

DCS is looking to address the following issues:

- The availability of programs to treat the children described above
- The availability of high quality services to prepare and support the caregivers and biological parents/other identified supports/permanency options in responding to the needs of the child without resorting to a currently available residential placement
- The ability to provide intensive treatment to the children identified above in a family-like setting in preparation for achieving permanency

The solutions may include:

- evidence-based treatment foster care or the development of a new type of foster care program
- models that include intensive staff presence in the home on a continuous or regular basis to provide clinical interventions, behavioral supports, and/or respite services to the child and family
- treatment and support options for the child, foster family caregivers, and biological parents or other identified supports/permanency options
- partnership with outpatient clinics or other community-based services providers to provide services for this population within a relative or foster home setting

This RFI may lead to a contract with a licensed child placing agency to provide additional types of foster care programs for this population. It may also lead to residential contracts for additional programs for this population. It may also lead to an RFP for services for this population.

Contracts resulting from this RFI may be subject to the Rate Setting rules related to the payment of residential facilities and licensed child placing agencies, found in 465 IAC 2-16 and 465 IAC 2-17. The programs and solutions identified through this RFI may also qualify for a different methodology of funding in addition to the cost-based rates established through use of the rate rules.

Question submission

Respondents can submit questions concerning the RFI and the scope of work to DCS at the address below prior to the submission due date and DCS will respond as appropriate.

Response to RFI

If you would like to provide a response/feedback to the RFI, you must provide your response and proposed solutions to DCS by the below deadline in a Word or PDF format.

The following information should be included in all responses:

- 1) Provider contact information, including:
 - Company name
 - Company address
 - Name of contact person concerning response
 - Contact telephone
 - Contact email

- 2) Program description
- 3) Program Model
- 4) Staffing description
- 5) Estimated cost/financing if available

RFI Timeline and Response Submission

Key dates and times:

12/09/2015 – RFI Release Date

01/15/2016 – RFI Proposal Due Date

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE TO THE BELOW EMAIL ADDRESS NO LATER THAN 3:00 p.m. EST on Friday, January 15, 2016:

DCS.ChildWelfarePlan@dcs.in.gov

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