STATE OF INDIANA

Request for Information 23-73365

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

On Behalf Of
Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS)

Request for Information Regarding:
Intensive Foster Care Services

Response Due Date:
December 15, 2022

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Procurement Division
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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 23-73365

I. PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

The purpose of this RFI is to gather feedback and information for the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) regarding potential Intensive Foster Care Services. Responses to this RFI will provide important input for the State's co-design efforts, direction, and potential implementation of new Intensive Foster Care Services. Separately through this RFI, the State hopes to gather feedback and information regarding providers' experience serving children and youth with high-acuity needs.

The feedback and information gained from this RFI may be used in the development of a future competitive solicitation process, leading to the designation of a provider(s) best suited to meet the State's needs. The State may elect to limit participation in any future competitive solicitation to vendors that respond to this RFI.

II. BACKGROUND

A. DCS Background

It is DCS' vision that Indiana's children live in safe, healthy, and supportive families and communities. DCS leads the State's response to allegations of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (CA/N), facilitates child support payments, and oversees licensing services for resource parents and child care institutions. DCS engages families and collaborates with State, local, and community partners to protect children from abuse and neglect and to provide child support services. DCS considers the needs and values of all Hoosiers served in efforts to protect children while keeping families together whenever possible. DCS values and operates under the following principles: respect for all, racial justice, diversity and inclusion, a culture of safety, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

DCS providers adhere to the Indiana Practice Model (https://www.in.gov/dcs/3208.htm). DCS providers work to build trust-based relationships with families and partners by exhibiting empathy, professionalism, genuineness, and respect and use a trauma-informed approach and trauma-informed services to support children, youth, and families.

B. IFC Background

DCS expects that Intensive Foster Care Services will be designed to maintain children with intensive medical, mental, emotional, and/or behavioral needs in a single placement to encourage safety and stability. DCS also expects these services will support the Intensive Foster Family and assist children in their transition to permanency through the introduction of appropriate services for the family.

The children in the proposed eligible population for these services will likely be stepping

down from congregate care settings and may have recently completed a treatment program. Specifically, DCS anticipates children from the following categories would be referred for these services:

1. Children leaving long-term residential treatment
2. Children being considered for a residential treatment
3. Children with a history of foster care disruptions
4. Children experiencing a home-based placement disruption whose needs can not be supported through traditional Foster Care
5. Children diagnosed with developmental or intellectual disabilities
6. Children with significant medical challenges
7. Children leaving treatment in an acute psychiatric facility

In addition, children potentially eligible for participation in Intensive Foster Care Services may exhibit behaviors that may require enhanced supports, including, but not limited to the following:

- Elopement
- Aggression
- Property destruction
- Violence towards peers and adults
- Defiant behavior
- Maladaptive sexual behavior
- Self-harm
- Substance abuse

Providers are encouraged to describe their ability to provide a wide range of service and programmatic offerings that meet the needs of the potential behaviors described above, or additional diagnoses or behaviors they believe could benefit from potential offered services and supports. DCS hopes that these responses will include ideas for how providers will work to assist potential Intensive Foster Families in their support of child(ren)'s transition to permanency. DCS expects that as a part of this potential program, Intensive Foster Families will directly care for the child(ren) and utilize the provider's specific service offerings that best meet the unique needs of each child. However, DCS is open to responses that include a range of supplementary home-based and community-based supports. The State envisions potential Intensive Foster Care Services to be provided in conjunction with and in addition to traditional Foster Care Services. The State is interested in receiving responses with innovative ideas and solutions for services to be provided via the potential Intensive Foster Care Services program.

C. Treatment and Services for Youth with High Acuity Needs

Separately, the State has identified a subset of children experiencing high acuity needs.

Appropriate treatment, placement supports, and services tailored to the unique needs of each child is a priority for DCS. The children in this population may have multiple, concurrent medical, mental, or developmental diagnoses and may have experienced treatment in multiple congregate care or other group settings. Their need for supervision is typically very high requiring care in a setting able to provide a low or very low child to staff ratio. DCS is hoping to gather information from providers on their experience with children experiencing high acuity needs as well as receive ideas and feedback for both short-term and long-term solutions to improve treatment, placement supports, and services.

III. GOALS FOR INDIANA'S POTENTIAL INTENSIVE FOSTER CARE SERVICES

The State requests feedback from Respondents to this RFI to inform the direction of the State's potential Intensive Foster Care Services.

The State's vision and goals for potential Intensive Foster Care Services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maintaining children with intensive medical, mental, emotional, and/or behavioral needs in a single placement.
- Encouraging safety and stability while supporting the Intensive Foster Family and the child(ren) in their transition to permanency.
- Training and assisting Intensive Foster Parents in managing behaviors that may require enhanced supports, as described in section II.B.
- Providing comprehensive and individualized services to children and families to meet their unique needs.
- Conducting assessments of the child/foster parent/family to create a clear and appropriate service/treatment plan.
- Potentially utilizing evidence-based practices or best practices followed to fidelity of the applicable model.
- Offering additional training to Intensive Foster Parents based on the individualized needs of the child(ren) and permanency goal(s) of the child(ren) being served.
- Receiving input and ongoing feedback from providers for innovative ideas and solutions for services provided in addition to traditional models.

The State is interested in receiving feedback from qualified vendors to help inform the co-design of these services.

Separately, the State is also interested in receiving feedback from qualified vendors on how to best ensure appropriate, timely service delivery for all children involved in out-of-home care, particularly in the context of treatment, placement supports, and services for youth with high acuity needs as described in section II.C.

IV. RESPONDENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to respond to this RFI, Respondents should have experience serving populations similar to those contemplated by Sections II and III. This includes previous experience with Foster Care Services, Residential Treatment Services, and Community-Based Services, as well as experience providing services to children with intensive medical, mental, emotional, and/or behavioral needs.

V. RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

Responses should follow the outline as provided below. Responses must be kept to a limit of 20 pages. Any attachments, appendices, graphics, or timelines not contained in the main body of the document will not count towards this page limit.

A. General Information

1. Please provide the following information about your organization:
    a. Legal Name of Organization
    b. Contact Name/Title
    c. Contact E-mail Address
    d. Organization Web Site
    e. Years of Experience Providing Similar Services/Systems

B. Experience

1. Please describe any current or past experience with Intensive Foster Care or similar services, including the provision of Therapeutic or Therapeutic Plus Foster Care services and/or intensive Residential Treatment Services, that are relevant or similar in nature to the proposed Intensive Foster Care Services outlined in this RFI. Provide specific examples where possible, including locations and populations served.

C. Proposed Intensive Foster Care Services Overview

1. Please describe your organization's overarching vision and plan for potential Intensive Foster Care Services and how these services would meet the needs of the eligible population described in Section II.B. Specifically, please outline the following (referencing experience where applicable):
    a. Please provide your vision and goals for the Intensive Foster Care program, independent of DCS' goals listed in section II.A.
    b. Please describe any potential service offerings that could be utilized to augment the provision of traditional Foster Care Services, specifically any new or innovative approaches that would be unique to the provision of potential Intensive Foster Care Services. In addition, please describe the barriers and challenges to provide Intensive Foster Care Services in accordance with the State's goals outlined in Section III. How would the potential service offerings help overcome these barriers and challenges?
    c. Please describe the characteristics, traits, and skills that you believe foster parents recruited for the potential Intensive Foster Care program should possess. In addition, outline any requirements you would suggest all Intensive Foster Parents meet before participating in the potential program.

d. Please describe the additional support services, as compared to other current service offerings, that would help ensure potential Intensive Foster Parents are successful.
e. Please describe your potential approach to effectively and quickly matching a child(ren) with an Intensive Foster Care family. Please describe what can be done either by the State or potential provider of Intensive Foster Care Services to more effectively recruit capable families for Intensive Foster Care Services program.
f. Please describe any performance measures (e.g., number of foster children who achieve permanency, length of stay in Intensive Foster Care, number of placements, etc.) you believe are important to track for potential future Intensive Foster Care Services.

D. Service Demographics

1. Please describe any populations in addition to or in supplement of the populations identified in Section II.B, that would benefit from Intensive Foster Care Services.
2. Describe your agency's philosophy and strategy to serve a diverse population and how your potential Intensive Foster Care Services would be supportive and affirming to all Hoosier children and families, regardless of their identities.
3. What is your potential service area coverage for Intensive Foster Care Services (by DCS region or county)?

E. Staffing Structure

1. Please outline the key staff positions that you believe would be required to provide Intensive Foster Care Services. Please include your thoughts on necessary education or experience requirements for these staff. Please note that DCS is open to responses that include innovative and unique ideas for staffing requirements that will directly benefit service provision.
2. If applicable, please provide information on potential partnerships with community organizations, collaboration with other DCS-contracted providers, and/or utilization of sub-contractors to provide potential Intensive Foster Care Services.

F. Estimated Cost

1. Please detail the potential cost for your agency to provide Intensive Foster Care Services as described in this RFI. Where feasible, please break out these costs as much as possible (e.g., proposed hours and hourly rates, costs per case per month, etc.).
2. Please provide your input on how you think these services would best be compensated (i.e., hourly rate, per diem, monthly rate).
3. Please provide your Proposed Total Rate (the rate that would be paid to the potential Intensive Foster Care Services provider) and the Proposed Percentage Pass-Through Rate (this is the percentage of the Proposed Total Rate that would be passed-through to the Intensive Foster Family). In addition, please provide information on how you recommend that the Compensation Methodology be structured (i.e., payment for

services through an hourly, per diem, monthly, or other rate).

Compensation Methodology (hourly, per diem, monthly)	Proposed Rate	Amount
	Proposed Total Rate	$
	Proposed Percentage Pass-Through Rate	%

G. Treatment and Services for Youth with High Acuity Needs

1. Please provide your thoughts on any potential factors, including but not limited to, system-wide and/or systemic issues, that you believe may lead to difficulties in identifying and securing timely and appropriate service delivery for children with high acuity needs in the Indiana foster care system.
2. In addition to any factors that you identify, please include any proposed recommendations and/or solutions that DCS, other State agencies, and/or the provider community can work together to implement to more effectively provide services for these children with high acuity needs, including treatment and service options, wraparound service protocols and deployment of services.
3. If you have experience serving youth with high acuity needs, please describe any best practices that your agency has utilized to meet the individualized needs of each child and how you measure success.

VI. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Subject to State law, all information submitted in Respondents' responses to this RFI 23-73365 will be kept confidential unless this RFI results in the release of a competitive solicitation at a later date. If a competitive solicitation results from this RFI, the information contained in the response submissions for this RFI will be made available to the public once the resulting solicitation has been awarded and the protest period has ended. Proprietary information may be requested to be kept confidential. Any such information must be marked clearly in your response submission as "CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL." It is the responsibility of the Respondent to ensure that all confidential information is easily identifiable as confidential.

VII. QUESTIONS/INQUIRY PROCESS

All questions in regard to RFI 23-73365 must be submitted in writing via email using Attachment A - Questions and Answers Template to Syed Mohammad at smohammad@idoa.IN.gov no later than 3 p.m. ET on the date listed in Section XI Key RFI Dates. The email subject line should contain the following phrase "RFI 23-73365 – DCS Intensive Foster Care Services"

Procurement Division personnel will compile a list of the questions/inquiries submitted by all Respondents. The responses to these questions will be posted to the IDOA website. The

question/inquiry and answer link will become active after initial responses to questions have been compiled. Only answers posted on the IDOA website will be considered official and valid by the State.

Please note that Syed Mohammad is the State's single point of contact for this RFI. Inquiries are not to be directed to any staff member of DCS.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, or if additional information is necessary to facilitate a clearer interpretation of the provisions of this RFI prior to the due date for submissions, an addendum will be posted on the IDOA website.

VIII. INTENT TO RESPOND FORM (OPTIONAL)

Each applicant is requested to provide an optional intent to respond form indicating whether they intend to submit a response for this RFI. If the applicant subsequently decides not to respond after submitting this intent to respond, there are no ramifications. Please submit the letter using the Intent to Respond Form (Attachment B). The letter may be emailed to smohammad@idoa.IN.gov by Monday, October 24, 2022 at 3pm ET.

IX. RESPONSE DOCUMENTS SUBMISSION

Responses must be submitted via email to Syed Mohammad at smohammad@idoa.IN.gov no later than 3 p.m. ET on the date listed in Section XI Key RFI Dates. The email subject line should contain the following phrase "RFI 23-73365 – DCS Intensive Foster Care Services" Any information received after the due date and time will not be considered.

X. RFI REVIEW, CLARIFICATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The State may request written responses from and/or remote meetings with Respondents to this RFI for the purpose of collecting additional information and/or receiving clarification on information provided. Invitations may be extended to Respondents of this RFI subsequent to the receipt of responses.

XI. KEY RFI DATES

Below is a chart that contains all of the deadlines associated with RFI 23-73365:

ACTIVITY:	DATE:
Issue of RFI	Monday, October 17, 2022
Deadline to Submit Written Questions	Monday, October 24, 2022
Deadline to Submit Intent to Respond form (*optional*)	Monday, October 24, 2022
Response to Written Questions	Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Submission of Responses	Thursday, December 15, 2022