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Commission Seeks Proposals to Improve At-Risk Youth/Family Services

Proposals received by September 1 shall receive priority consideration for funding

(Indianapolis) – The Indiana Public Defender Commission (Commission) is currently seeking proposals to fund projects to improve the quality of assistance provided to Indiana at-risk youth and families.

The primary goals of this project are: (1) to create long-term improvements in public defense systems that serve Indiana at-risk youth and families involved with Indiana’s family/child welfare system, the juvenile delinquency system, or both; and (2) to create system improvements that proactively prevent such involvements. Projects will study Commission Standards related to Juvenile Delinquency, Children in Need of Services (CHINS), and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases.

“Indiana families are often subjected to state intervention as a result of a minor issue that could and should have otherwise been resolved,” said Commission Chair Mark Rutherford. “We hope to receive innovative funding proposals that will lead to systemic improvements that reduce the need for state intervention.”

The Commission received a new state appropriation of \$2 million/year over the next two years to fund projects that will improve services for Indiana’s at-risk youth and families. The Commission seeks to partner with attorneys, law firms, service providers, legal aid societies, counties, public defender offices, or any other entity that can impact both public defense and at-risk youth & families in Indiana.

“We’re thankful to the Indiana General Assembly for recognizing that public defense services play a key role in helping vulnerable children and families to get back on their feet,” said Commission Director & Chief Counsel Derrick Mason. “We will be deliberate and data-driven in our use of these funds.”

The Commission has approved a list of specific areas for proposals. Proposals received by September 1 shall receive priority consideration for funding. The full request for proposals may be found on the Commission’s website (www.in.gov/publicdefender).

Questions about this proposal may be directed to the Commission at information@pdcom.in.gov. The public may also follow the Commission on Twitter at [@IndianaPDCom](https://twitter.com/IndianaPDCom) for updates about this and other issues.

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