

Trisha Thomas, Statewide Director of the Office of Community-Based Care Transition

Request for Applications (RFA)

For

Community-Based Care Single Source Continuum-Contractor, Region 3E, 4, 5 and 9

RFA No. HHS0011832

Date of Release: April 29, 2022

Responses Due: June 13, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Central Standard Time

Class/Item: 952/47 Foster Care Services

Table of Contents

Contents

ARTIC	LE I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, DEFINITIONS, AND AUTHORITY	4
	LE II. SCOPE OF GRANT	
2.4.1		
2.4.2	Term	7
2.5.1		
2.5.2		7
2.5.3	Non-profit and Governmental Entities	8
ARTIC	LE III. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	10
3.4.1	Point of Contact	10
3.4.2	Prohibited Communications	11
3.4.3		
3.4.4	1 / 1	
3.4.5	Responses	11
3.4.6	Respondent Conference	12
3.5.1	Generally	12
3.5.2	Submission in Separate Parts	12
3.6.1	Deadline	13
3.6.2	\mathcal{E}	
3.6.3	Delivery	14
3.6.4	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
ARTIC	LE IV. SOLICITATION RESPONSE EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS	15
4.1.1	\mathcal{L}	
4.2.1		
4.3.1	ι	
4.3.2	1	
4.4.1		
4.4.2		
4.4.3	1	
	LE V. NARRATIVE PROPOSAL REQUIRED RESPONDENT INFORMATION	
5.1.1		18
5.1.2		
	Indicators	
_	rammatic Proposal	
5.1.3	J	
	and Service Delivery Model	
	C Administrative Management	
	munity Engagement Plan	
5.1.4	J I	
	aral Competency	
5.1.5	\boldsymbol{J}	
5.1.6	SSCC Major Deliverable #5: Case Management	23

ARTICLE VI. REQUIRED RESPONDENT INFORMATION	25
History and Experience	
Financial Processes and Systems and Structure	
ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS	29
8.1.1 Costs Incurred	29
8.1.2 Contract Responsibility	29
8.1.3 Public Information Act	
8.1.4 News Releases	29
8.1.5 Additional Information	29
ARTICLE IX. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST	30
Original Solicitation Response Package	
ARTICLE X. LIST OF FORMS AND EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO RFA	

<u>ARTICLE I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, DEFINITIONS, AND AUTHORITY</u>

1.1 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has identified the need to provide community-based care services in a proposed community that includes support services to all children and families that support safety, permanency, and well-being of children in its legal conservatorship. DFPS sees a service delivery model that fully engages communities in serving children, youth, and families provided through a performance-based Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC) as the approach that can most effectively meet this need in a manner that achieves improved outcomes for children in its conservatorship. The SSCC provider must ensure the full continuum of substitute care (foster and kinship care), purchased services, case management and reunification services for children and youth in DFPS legal conservatorship from the designated geographic proposed community, those placed in the proposed community through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), and through interregional agreements.

1.2 **DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Solicitation, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms and conditions have the meanings assigned below. These definitions are in addition to the definitions found in Exhibit I, DFPS Statement of Work:

Addendum: a written clarification or revision to this Solicitation issued by Health and Human Services HHS/DFPS.

Apparent Grant Recipient: an organization that has been selected to receive a grant award through response to this RFA but has not yet executed a grant agreement or contract.

Contract: A promise or a set of promises, for breach of which the law gives a remedy, or the performance of which the law in some way recognizes as a duty. It is an agreement between two or more parties creating obligations that are enforceable or otherwise recognizable at law. The term also encompasses the written document that describes the terms of the agreement. For state contracting purposes, it generally describes the terms of a purchase of goods or services from a vendor or service provider.

Applicant: means the entity responding to this Solicitation. May also be referred to as "Respondent."

Deliverable: A unit or increment of work required by the contract, including such items as services, reports, or documents.

Designated Community Area (DCA): A geographic area (also known as catchment area) for providing child protective services that is identified as part of community-based care. The designated area in which the SSCC will provide all services described in this Contract. The SSCC will be responsible for ensuring services described in this Contract for all eligible children and their families who are from the agreed to geographic area. Region and catchment area are also interchangeable terms used to indicate the DCA for the SSCC throughout this RFA.

Health and Human Services Commission or HHSC: The administrative agency established under

Chapter 531, Texas Government Code or its designee.

Response: A set of documents submitted in response to an RFA by an Applicant as a Proposal offering to provide the services solicited binding on the Respondent once accepted by DFPS. May also be referred to as "Application."

Solicitation: This Request for Applications including any Exhibits and Addenda, if any.

Standard Terms and Conditions: The terms and conditions applicable to any contract resulting from this RFA that govern the Response and any resulting contract.

State: The State of Texas and its instrumentalities, including HHS, DFPS, and any other state agencies, its officers, employees, or authorized agents.

Subrecipient: An entity that expends awards received from a pass-through entity to carry out a program. As defined by 45 CFR 75, a subrecipient relationship exists when funding from a pass-through entity is provided to perform a portion of the scope of work or objectives of the pass-through entity's award agreement with the federal awarding agency. Throughout this contract, the SSCC is referred to as a provider, contractor, Grantee, and subrecipient. Regardless of the term used, DFPS has classified SSCC agreements as subrecipient relationships.

Successful Respondent: An organization that receives a grant award as a result of this RFA. May also be referred to as "**Grantee**," "**Subrecipient**" or "**Grant Recipient**."

1.3 AUTHORITY

The State of Texas, by and through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), on behalf of DFPS, is requesting Applications pursuant to its authority under Chapter 264, Family Code, Subchapter B-1. Community-Based Care, Section 18(a) and Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, Subchapter C, Section 40.058.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

ARTICLE II. SCOPE OF GRANT

2.1 PROGRAM BACKGROUND

For over 100 years, providers in Texas have served children and families that reside in their community. In the last 15 years, foster care has shifted from a service primarily provided by the DFPS directly, to one where approximately 95% is offered through the private sector.

Over the past 9 years, DFPS has engaged in an effort known as Foster Care Redesign (FCR) that further expands the role of the community to include provision of placement services, capacity/network development, community engagement, and the coordination and delivery of services to children in foster care and their families through the use of a Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC).

Building off of the foundation of FCR, the 85th Legislature passed SB11 in 2017, creating a new model known as Community-Based Care (CBC). This effort moved the Texas Foster Care System from a statewide model to a community-based model designed to meet the individualized needs of children, youth, and families in the State of Texas. Purchasing a continuum of care that includes case management and all substitute care services from an SSCC and the local community allows DFPS to focus on child safety through investigating reports of abuse and neglect, providing in home family-based safety services, and ensuring quality oversight of the foster care system.

The 87th Legislature, Regular Session, passed additional Legislation (SB 1896) to further support the expansion of Community-Based Care and created The Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT). The Office is a state agency independent of, but administratively attached to DFPS that manages SSCC Contracts and the implementation of CBC on behalf of the Department. Any reference to DFPS or the Department in this Grant and its associated Attachments also serves as a reference to OCBCT.

2.2 COMMUNITY SERVICE AREAS

This RFA is a part of the effort to expand CBC into the DFPS Regions; 3 East, 4, 5, and 9 community service area(s) that include the following counties but, does not split any Texas counties, and the Texas counties served are contiguous.

- A. Region 3 East includes (9 counties): Dallas, Ellis, Kaufman, Navarro, Rockwall, Collin, Grayson, Hunt and Fannin;
- B. <u>Region 4 includes</u> (23 counties): Lamar, Red River, Bowie, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Cass, Camp, Rains, Wood, Upshur, Marion, Harrison, Gregg, Van Zandt, Henderson, Smith, Rusk, Panola, Cherokee, Anderson;
- C. <u>Region 5 includes</u> (15 counties): Shelby, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, Sabine, Angelina, Houston, Trinity, Polk, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Hardin, San Jacinto, Orange, Jefferson; and
- D. Region 9 includes (30 counties): Gaines, Dawson, Borden, Andrews, Martin, Howard, Loving, Winkler, Ector, Midland, Glasscock, Sterling, Coke, Reeves, Ward, Crane, Upton, Reagan, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, Pecos, Crockett, Schleicher, Mason, Menard, Terrell, Sutton, Kimble.

2.3 DFPS ROLE ASSUMPTIONS

DFPS will maintain responsibility for the following functions and services as a part of the CBC model:

- A. intake;
- B. investigations;
- C. family-based safety services;
- D. eligibility determination;
- E. interstate compact on the placement of children administrator;
- F. technical subject matter expertise;
- G. SSCC case management and contract oversight and monitoring;
- H. contract management and monitoring for all remaining DFPS contracts; and
- I. quality assurance and oversight of the foster care system.

2.4 AWARD AND TERM

2.4.1 Funding Matrix

DFPS expects to award one (1) Contract under this RFA for each designated community service area (DFPS listed Regions as listed in **Section 2.2**, **Community Service Areas**) as DFPS funding allows. Funding information is based on legislative appropriations and service areas and will be provided in **Exhibits C through C-3**, **F Y 2 3 Funding Matrices** for each catchment area as an estimate. DFPS may adjust and prorate actual award amounts at the time of execution based on start dates.

2.4.2 Term

DFPS will make one grant award for each designated community service area as DFPS funding allows and implemented in the order determined by DFPS. The initial Contract period will begin upon contract signature and last sixty (60) months. At its sole discretion, DFPS retains an option to renew for one (1) additional sixty (60) month term. Additionally, DFPS reserves the right to extend the Contract as necessary to complete the mission of the grant.

2.5 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

2.5.1 Minimum Qualifications of the SSCC (Stages I-III)

The Applicant must have the following licensing and service experience:

- A. Contractor must obtain and maintain a separate HHS Child Placing Agency (CPA) license for its SSCC contract within the proposed community, if awarded this contract:
- B. The SSCC must have experience in delivering residential child-care and treatment services to children and youth in foster care; and
- C. The SSCC must be licensed as a Child Placing Agency (CPA) to provide foster care services by HHSC Residential Child Care Regulation and must not be on probation under its CPA license as of the Proposal due date.

2.5.2 Entity Qualifications

- A. The SSCC must be a nonprofit entity that has an organizational mission focused on child welfare or a governmental entity;
- B. The SSCC may be an in-state or out-of-state entity; however, the SSCC must be an HHS licensed CPA with a majority of the entity's board members residing in Texas.

In accordance with https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.264.htm#264.154

DFPS will consider the extent to which an SSCC Applicant has experience providing services to children, youth, and families in the proposed community;

- C. The SSCC may be a single entity or submit a proposal through the formation of a consortium of providers, which may include itself. If a consortium submits an Application proposal under this RFA, one provider must act as the consortium's lead in directly contracting with DFPS; and
- D. DFPS will not contract with any provider for more than two (2) SSCC Contracts, except in instances where DFPS requires an SSCC to implement a Turnover plan.

2.5.3 Non-profit and Governmental Entities

Governmental entities or community-based nonprofit that have an organizational mission focused on child welfare services, and that meet the qualifications in **Section 2.4.1** and **Section 2.4.2** are eligible to apply and must complete **Form B-1** or **Form B-2**, whichever is applicable.

2.6 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To meet the mission and objectives of CBC, Respondents must meet all eligibility requirements and be able to perform all responsibilities listed in **Article II** of the **Exhibit I**, **DFPS Statement of Work**.

2.7 STATEMENT OF WORK

This RFA contains the requirements that all Respondents must meet to be considered for an award under this RFA. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disqualification of the respondent without further consideration. Each respondent is solely responsible for the preparation and submission of a proposal in accordance with instructions contained in this RFA.

Before completing the proposal, refer to the relevant program standards provided in **Exhibit I**, **DFPS Statement of Work**. Other sections within the RFA may contain additional instructions pertaining to unique program requirements set forth in legislation or regulations.

2.8 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

DFPS will monitor the performance of contracts awarded under this RFA. All services and deliverables under the contract shall be provided at an acceptable quality level and in a manner consistent with acceptable industry standard, custom, and practice. More specific standards are listed in **Exhibit H, Performance Measures**.

2.9 STANDARDS

The SSCC must comply with the requirements applicable to this funding source cited in the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements* for Federal Awards (45 CFR 75); the <u>Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS)</u>, and all statutes, requirements, and guidelines applicable to this funding.

The SSCC must conduct project activities in accordance with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination. Guidance for adhering to non-discrimination requirements can be found on the Health and Human Services (HHS) Civil Rights Office website.

Upon request, a Grantee must provide the HHS Civil Rights Office with copies of all the Grantee's civil rights policies and procedures. Grantees must notify HHS' Civil Rights Office of any civil rights complaints received relating to performance under the contract no more than 10 calendar days after receipt of the complaint. Notice must be directed to:

HHS Civil Rights Office 701 W. 51st Street, Mail Code W206 Austin, TX 78751 Phone Toll Free (888) 388-6332 Phone: (512) 438-4313 TTY Toll Free (877) 432-7232 Fax: (512) 438-5885

A Grantee must ensure that its policies do not have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of persons in the Grantee's programs, benefits or activities on the basis of national origin, and must take reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing, in appropriate languages other than English, in order to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency are effectively informed and can have meaningful access to programs, benefits, and activities.

Grantees must comply with Executive Order 13279, and its implementing regulations at 45 CFR Part 87 or 7 CFR Part 16, which provide that any organization that participates in programs funded by direct financial assistance from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture or U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services must not, in providing services, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion or religious belief.

2.10 DATA SECURITY

By entering into a Grant Agreement with DFPS as a result of this Solicitation, Respondent agrees to be bound by the Contractor Information Security terms found in **Exhibit B**, **DFPS SSCC Uniform Terms and Conditions.**

2.11 NO GUARANTEE OF VOLUME, USAGE OR COMPENSATION

DFPS makes no guarantee of volume, usage, or total compensation to be paid to any Respondent under any awarded grant, if any, resulting from this Solicitation. Any awarded grant is subject to appropriations and the continuing availability of funds.

DFPS reserves the right to cancel, make partial award, or decline to award a grant under this Solicitation at any time at its sole discretion.

There should be no expectation of additional or continued funding on the part of the grant Recipient. Any additional funding or future funding may require submission of an Application through a subsequent RFA.

ARTICLE III. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

3.1 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE/TIME
RFA Release Date	April 29, 2022
Respondent Conference	May 2, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Central Time
Deadline for Submitting Questions	May 9, 2022
Answers to Questions Posted	May 19, 2022
Deadline for submission of Solicitation Responses [NOTE: Responses must be RECEIVED by HHS by the deadline.]	June 13, 2022, 10 a.m. Central Time
Anticipated Contract Start Date	July 28, 2022

<u>Note</u>: These dates are a tentative schedule of events. DFPS reserves the right to modify these dates at any time upon notice posted to the <u>Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD)</u>, the <u>eGrants website</u>, and the <u>HHS Grants website</u> any dates listed after the Solicitation Response deadline will occur at the discretion of DFPS and may occur earlier or later than scheduled without notification on the <u>ESBD</u>.

3.2 CHANGES, AMENDMENT OR MODIFICATION TO GRANT

DFPS reserves the right to change, amend or modify any provision of this Solicitation, or to withdraw this Grant, at any time prior to award, if it is in the best interest of DFPS and will post such on the ESBD, eGrants website, and the HHS Grants website. It is the responsibility of Respondent to periodically check the HHS Grants website and ESBD to ensure full compliance with the requirements of this Grant.

3.3 IRREGULARITIES

Any irregularities or lack of clarity in this RFA should be brought to the attention of the Point of Contact listed in **Section 3.4.1** as soon as possible so corrective Addenda may be furnished to prospective Respondents.

3.4 INOUIRIES

3.4.1 Point of Contact

Interested Respondents must submit all requests, questions or other communication about this Grant in writing to HHS's Point of Contact addressed to the person listed below.

Name: Ross Hoffpauir Title: Grants Specialist Address: 1100 W. 49th Street, Services Building S, Austin Texas 78756

Phone: 512-406-2479

Email: ross.hoffpauir01@hhs.texas.gov

3.4.2 Prohibited Communications

All communications between Respondents and other agency staff members concerning the Solicitation may not be relied upon and respondent should send all questions or other communications to the sole point of contact. This restriction does not preclude discussions between affected parties for the purposes of conducting business unrelated to this Solicitation. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disqualification of Respondent's Solicitation Response.

3.4.3 Questions

HHS will allow written questions and requests for clarification of this Solicitation. Questions must be submitted in writing and sent by email to the Point of Contact listed in **Section 3.4.1** above. Respondents' names will be removed from questions in any responses released. Questions shall be submitted in the following format. Submissions that deviate from this format may not be accepted:

- A. Identifying Solicitation number;
- B. Section Number;
- C. Paragraph Number;
- D. Page Number;
- E. Text of passage being questioned; and
- F. Question.

<u>Note</u>: Questions or other written requests for clarification must be received by the Point of Contact by the deadline set forth in Section 3.1 above. Please provide entity name, address, phone number; fax number, e-mail address, and name of contact person when submitting questions.

3.4.4 Clarification Request Made by Respondent

Respondents must notify the Point of Contact of any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, exclusionary specifications, omission or other error in the Solicitation in the manner and by the deadline for submitting questions.

3.4.5 Responses to Questions

Responses to questions or other written requests for clarification may be posted on the <u>HHS</u> Grants Opportunity website, the <u>Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD)</u> website and <u>eGrants website</u>. DFPS reserves the right to amend answers prior to the deadline of Solicitation Responses. It is Respondent's responsibility to check the ESBD and HHS Grants Opportunity website or contact the Point of Contact for updated responses. DFPS

also reserves the right to provide a single consolidated response of similar questions at the its sole discretion.

3.4.6 Respondent Conference

HHSC and DFPS will conduct a pre-submittal virtual respondent conference from 10:00 am to 11:30 am Central Standard Time on Date May 2, 2022.

Attendance is optional and not required; however, is strongly encouraged. People with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting and require auxiliary aids or services should contact the Sole Point of Contact identified in **Section 3.4.1**, **Sole Point of Contact**, at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting in order to have reasonable accommodations made by HHSC.

Webinar Information:

The conference will be held through GoToWebinar, which may be accessed at:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1281309700885704974

Webinar Instructions:

- A. Enter Webinar ID: 151-997-947
- B. Enter Attendee's business email
- C. To register, the participants must have the following information ready:
 - 1. First and last name of each attendee/registrant;
 - 2. E-mail address for the attendee/registrant;
 - 3. Applicant's legal name; and
 - 4. Job title of attendee/registrant.

3.5 SOLICITATION RESPONSE COMPOSITION

3.5.1 Generally

All Applications must be:

- A. Clearly legible and no more than 60 pages excluding attachments;
- B. Sequentially page-numbered and include the respondents name at the top of each page;
- C. Organized in the sequence outlined in Article IX Submission Checklist;
- D. In Arial or Times New Roman font, size 12 or larger for normal text, no less than size 10 for tables, graphs, and appendices;
- E. Blank forms provided in the Attachments must be used (electronic reproduction of the forms is acceptable; however, all forms must be identical to the original form(s) provided); do not change the font used on forms provided;
- F. Correctly identified with the RFA number and submittal deadline;
- G. Responsive to all RFA requirements; and
- H. Signed by an authorized official in each place a signature is needed (copies must be signed but need not bear an original signature).

3.5.2 Submission in Separate Parts

Paper documents (i.e. the original and all hard copies) must be separated by parts.

Electronic submissions must be separated by electronic medium used for submission (i.e. flash drive).

- A. Administrative Information, including all forms;
- B. Narrative Proposal, including all forms; and
- C. Applicable Exhibits and Required Forms.

The entire Solicitation Response – all separated paper documents and electronic copies – must then be submitted in one package to HHS at the address listed in **Section 3.6.3**. The number of copies and directions for submitting an "Original" and "Copies" are outlined in **Article IX**.

3.6 SOLICITATION RESPONSE SUBMISSION AND DELIVERY

3.6.1 Deadline

Solicitation Responses must be received at the address in **Section 3.6.3** time stamped by DFPS no later than the date and time specified in **Section 3.1**.

3.6.2 Labeling

Solicitation Responses shall be placed in a sealed box and clearly labeled as follows:

SOLICITATION NO.: HHS0011832

SOLICITATION NAME: Community-Based Care Single Source Continuum Contactor,

Region 3E, 4, 5 and 9

<u>PURCHASER</u>: Ross Hoffpauir RESPONDENT'S NAME:

DFPS and HHS will not be held responsible for any Solicitation Response that is mishandled prior to receipt by HHS. It is Respondent's responsibility to mark appropriately and deliver the Solicitation Response to HHS by the specified date and time.

3.6.3 Delivery

Respondent must deliver Solicitation Responses by one of the methods below to the address noted. Solicitation Responses submitted by any other method (e.g. facsimile, telephone, email) will NOT be considered.

To be delivered by U.S. Postal Service, overnight or express mail, or hand delivery to:

Overnight/Express/Priority Mail	Hand Delivery
Health and Human Services Commission	Health and Human Services Commission
Attn: Response Coordinator	Attn: Response Coordinator
TowerBuilding Room 108	Procurement & Contracting Services
1100 West 49 th Street; Mail Code 2020	Building
Austin, TX 78756	1100 West 49 th Street; Mail Code 2020
	Austin, TX 78756

<u>Note</u>: All Solicitation Responses become the property of HHSC after submission and will not be returned to Respondent.

3.6.4 Alterations, Modifications, and Withdrawals

Prior to the Solicitation submission deadline, a Respondent may:

- A. withdraw its Solicitation Response by submitting a written request to the Point of Contact identified in **Section 3.4.1**; or
- B. modify its Solicitation Response by submitting a written amendment to the Point of Contact identified in Section 3.4.1.

DFPS may request Solicitation Response Modifications at any time.

ARTICLE IV. SOLICITATION RESPONSE EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

4.1 **GENERALLY**

4.1.1 Proposal Screening and Evaluation

HHSC will use an evaluation process to select the successful respondent(s). HHSC will consider capabilities or advantages that are clearly described in the proposal, which may be confirmed by oral presentations, site visits, demonstrations, and references contacted by HHSC. HHSC reserves the right to contact individuals, entities, or organizations that have had dealings with the respondent or proposed staff, whether or not identified in the proposal.

4.2 ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

Applications will be reviewed for minimum qualifications and completeness. All complete applications meeting the minimum qualifications will move to the Evaluation stage.

4.2.1 Initial Compliance Screening

HHSC will perform an initial screening of all proposals received. Unsigned proposals and proposals that do not include all required forms and sections are subject to rejection without further evaluation.

In accordance with **Section 4.4**, HHSC reserves the right to waive minor informalities in a proposal and award contracts that are in the best interest of the State of Texas.

It is the intent of the legislature that the department contract with community-based nonprofit or governmental entities that have an organizational mission focused on child welfare services. The services provided by the entities must include direct case management to ensure child safety, permanency, and well-being, in accordance with state and federal child welfare goals.

4.3 EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated and scored using **Exhibit M**, **Evaluation Tool** and in accordance with the factors required by this RFA and other factors deemed relevant by HHS and DFPS.

4.3.1 Competitive Range Determinations

HHS and DFPS may determine that certain proposals are within the competitive range for consideration for negotiation and possible contract award, for proposals that receive the highest or most satisfactory evaluation. HHS and DFPS may, in the interest of administrative efficiency, place reasonable limits on the number of proposals that will be included in the competitive range.

4.3.2 Specific Selection Criteria

Grant Applications shall be evaluated based upon:

Evaluation Criteria and Value	
Criteria	Points
Major Deliverable #1: Achievement of Service Objectives and Quality Indicators	15

Major Deliverable #2: Development and Management of a Continuum of Care and Service Delivery Model	15
Major Deliverable #3: Compliance with General Requirements of the SSCC	10
Major Deliverable #4: Placement Services and Services to Children/Youth/Young Adults	20
Major Deliverable #5: Case Management	20
SSCC History and Experience	10
SSCC Financial Capacity, Stability and Structure	10

4.4 FINAL SELECTION

4.4.1 Oral Presentations and Site Visits

DFPS may, at its sole discretion, request oral presentations, site visits, and/or demonstrations from one or more respondents included in the competitive range. HHSC will notify selected Respondents of the time and location for these activities and may supply agendas or topics for discussion. DFPS reserves the right to ask additional questions during oral presentations, site visits, and or demonstrations to clarify the scope and content of the written proposal.

The Respondent's oral presentation, site visit, and/or demonstration must substantially represent material included in the written proposal and should not introduce new concepts or offers unless specifically requested by DFPS.

4.4.2 Best and Final Offers

DFPS may, but is not required to, permit respondents to prepare one or more revised offers. For this reason, respondents are encouraged to treat their original proposals, and any revised offers requested by HHSC, as best and final offers.

4.4.3 Discussions with Respondents

DFPS may, but is not required to, conduct discussions with all, some, or none of the Respondents included in the competitive range for the purpose of obtaining the best value for DFPS. It may conduct discussions for the purpose of:

- A. Obtaining clarification of proposal ambiguities;
- B. Requesting modifications to a proposal; and
- C. Obtaining a best and final offer.

DFPS may make an award that represents best value to the State of Texas.

4.5 NEGOTIATION AND AWARD

The negotiation phase will involve direct contact between the successful Applicant and HHSC/DFPS representatives; in person, via phone and/or email. During negotiations, successful Applicants may expect:

- A. An in-depth discussion of the submitted proposal, proposed community service area that fit the criteria, and fiscal information; and
- B. Requests from HHSC and/or DFPS for clarification or additional detail regarding the submitted Application.

DFPS may announce a tentative or Apparent Grant Recipient once the DFPS Commissioner and OCBCT Director have given approval to initiate negotiation and execute contracts.

HHSC will post to the HHS Grants Opportunities Website and may publicly announce a list of Applicants whose Applications are selected for final award. This posting does not constitute DFPS's agreement with all the terms of any Applicant's proposal and does not bind DFPS to enter into a contract with any Applicant whose award is posted.

4.6 QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION BY HHS/DFPS

HHS/DFPS reserves the right to ask questions or request clarification from any Respondent at any time during the application process.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

ARTICLE V. NARRATIVE PROPOSAL REQUIRED RESPONDENT INFORMATION

5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY INFORMATION

5.1.1 Executive Summary

Provide a high-level overview of the Respondent's approach to meeting the RFA's requirements. The summary must demonstrate an understanding of the goals and objectives of the community-based care program.

5.1.2 SSCC Major Deliverable #1: Achievement of Service Objectives and Quality Indicators

Programmatic Proposal

Respondents should carefully read the for specific questions of each section. If the Respondent plans to provide the service or perform the function through a subcontractor, the Respondent must detail the services or function to be subcontracted, and how the Respondent and the subcontractor will coordinate the service or function. Respondents should describe any prior working relationships with the subcontractor and include any letters of commitment to contract with the SSCC as an attachment to the proposal. The Programmatic Proposal must include a detailed description of the following program components:

- A. Describe how the Respondent will develop and manage a continuum of care and service delivery model designed to facilitate achievement of the service objectives and quality indicators using the staged implementation model;
- B. Describe how the respondent plans to implement a community-based model that fully engages stakeholders in achieving desired outcomes;
- C. Describe the plan to ensure children are safe in their placements;
- D. Describe the plan to ensure children are placed in their home communities:
- E. Describe the plan to ensure children are appropriately served in the least restrictive environment;
- F. Describe the plan to ensure siblings are placed together in foster care;
- G. Describe the plan to ensure that children have stability in their placement and minimize moves in care and school of origin;
- H. Describe the plan to ensure connections to family and others important to the child are maintained;
- I. Describe how the model is responsive to the diverse and individual needs of the particular local communities within the proposed community service area, including ongoing methods to assess changing community needs;
- J. Describe the plan to ensure that children and youth are provided opportunities, experiences, and activities similar to those experienced

- by their non-foster care peers; and opportunities to participate in decisions that impact their lives;
- K. Describe the plan to reunify children with the biological parents of the children when possible;
- L. Describe a plan to promote placement of children with relative or kinship caregivers, if reunification is not possible; and
- M. Describe your proposed schedule, processes and procedures for transition of children requiring placement services and foster homes from DFPS to the SSCC. Include plan for communicating with providers, foster parents, judiciary and the community.

5.1.3 SSCC Major Deliverable #2: Development and Management of a Continuum of Care and Service Delivery Model

SSCC Management Plan

The respondent's proposal must include a SSCC Management Plan. The SSCC will be required to submit an updated version of the SSCC Management Plan within **45 days** after contract effective date that reflects any negotiated changes and can be used by DFPS to evaluate the SSCC's readiness. An updated SSCC Management Plan is due at least **45 days** prior to entering a new Stage of Implementation for DFPS approval.

The SSCC Management Plan must clearly identify all tasks and activities associated with each item, dates of completion, and key staff responsibility. The SSCC Management Plan should, at a minimum, include the following:

- A. Proposed schedule, processes, and procedures for transition of children and youth from the Designated community area who are already being served by the SSCC and/or the SSCC network (if applicable) in the legacy system to the SSCC model. DFPS anticipates a full transition between systems within 18 months of contract effective date. Any exceptions to transition will be determined by DFPS on a case-by-case basis and based on the best interest of the individual child;
- B. Proposed schedule, processes and procedures for transition of legacy cases, foster homes from DFPS, and kinship homes in stage II to the SSCC. Include plan and time frames for communicating with providers, foster parents, judiciary and the community. DFPS anticipates a full transition between systems within 18 months of contract effective date. Any exceptions to transition will be determined by DFPS on a case-by-case basis and based on the best interest of the individual child;
- C. Development of services network/continuum, including plan for assessing need, recruiting, communicating with and training network providers;
- D. Quality management plan that documents the necessary information required to effectively manage service quality from project planning to delivery. The plan must define a service's quality policies, procedures, criteria, areas of application, roles, responsibilities, and authorities;
- E. Workforce development and training, which must include a plan for ensuring that all caseworkers, supervisors, caregivers and other direct care staff providing services through the SSCC complete training to support attainment of safety, permanency and well-being for the children in their care. Traumainformed training, Cultural Competency trainings and training on Human

- Trafficking Prevention are required. The plan may propose phasing in this training and can utilize DFPS' The Center for Learning and Organizational Excellence (CLOE);
- F. Plan to give employment preference to employees of DFPS whose position is being impacted by the implementation of Community-Based Care;
- G. Proposed community specific risk and issues management plan;
- H. Disaster recovery and business continuity plan that is specific to the proposed community including a data backup and recovery plan;
- I. Plan for development of SSCC specific policy and procedures to support all aspects of service delivery, finance and administration of the proposed model;
- J. Proposed plan for how the SSCC will address situations in which a child referred to the SSCC is placed in the same home as a child in the DFPS Legacy system or vice versa; and
- K. Proposed plan for how the SSCC will identify and address case management and contracting conflicts of interest. DFPS will not transfer services to the contractor until the department has determined the plan is adequate during the required readiness review.

SSCC Administrative Management

The SSCC's administrative management of the continuum of care and service delivery system must, at a minimum, include the following:

- A. If intending to use subcontractors/network to deliver services, the Respondent must submit a proposed Network of Providers including the type and anticipated percentage of services they will deliver. Such listing must indicate for each provider type, the name, client characteristics to be served (see <u>Exhibit I</u>, <u>DFPS Statement of Work Section 1.10</u>), address, and copies of signed letters of intent to contract;
- B. Describe how your organization would manage the continuum of services. Include descriptions of:
 - 1. Your organization's governing body;
 - 2. Proposed organization structure;
 - 3. Staffing plan;
 - 4. Capacity; and
 - 5. Procedures to manage service providers.
- C. If proposing to use subcontractors/network to deliver services, describe the Respondent's credentialing and licensure requirements and demonstrate how the Respondent ensures that the minimum credentialing requirements are met by subcontractors/providers rendering covered services;
- D. If proposing to use subcontractors/network to deliver services, describe the Respondent's credentialing on-site assessment of the subcontracted physical facility (foster home, residential treatment or emergency shelter) including any assessments that will be used to assess safety beyond DFPS minimum standards;
- E. If proposing to use subcontractors/network to deliver services, describe the Respondent's on-going assessment of the subcontracted physical facility (foster home, residential treatment or emergency shelter) and quality of care provided beyond DFPS minimum standard;
- F. If Respondent will subcontract, identify what method(s) Respondent will use to collect data from subcontractors, including managing and reporting data on client services, network service providers, hospitalizations, foster homes, outcomes, and payments to

- subcontractors:
- G. If subcontractors also subcontract with another SSCC, identify process for coordinating with other SSCCs on data collection protocols;
- H. If proposing to use subcontractors/network to deliver services, describe the network recredentialing process and how to capture and assess the following:
 - 1. Tracking complaints and trends to resolution; and
 - 2. Results from quality reviews/quality assurance/licensing processes that require improvement.
- I. Describe quality assurance and utilization management processes, including the protocol for evaluating placement decisions on a regular basis, continuous assessment of children in residential treatment, emergency shelters, and other high-end placements to manage utilization to ensure quality services, progress towards service plan goals, and compliance with all contract terms, performance expectations, outcomes, and outputs;
- J. Provide a description of the proposed provider training programs, including types of training to be offered, topics covered, how the respondent will ensure provider participation, frequency and how training programs will be evaluated;
- K. Provide a description of how Respondent will develop and maintain qualified staff that have the skills, education, experience, and training for the services they provide;
- L. Provide a description of Respondent's system for tracking and reporting Serious Incidents as well as other safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes;
- M. Provide a description of Respondent's system that alerts of situations or issues that require immediate response, including issues which are likely to pose a threat to child safety;
- N. Provide a designated community area disaster recovery and business continuity plans that ensure rapid, effective response and re-establishment of system operations and service delivery in the event of unplanned system outages or disaster and catastrophic occurrences. This must include response to situations in all areas of the state or nation where the SSCC has children, youth or young adults placed; and
- O. Provide Respondent's process for the training and use of alternative caregivers for all child-placing agencies in the proposed community to facilitate reciprocity of licenses for alternative caregivers between agencies, including respite and overnight care providers.

SSCC Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

The SSCC must ensure that children and families receive the necessary services in their local communities. Provide a Preliminary Community Engagement Plan(s) that addresses the following requirements:

- A. Include strategies (in the proposed/Preliminary Community Engagement Plan) for engaging the entities listed in **Section 2.14(D)(3).** of **Exhibit I**, **DFPS Statement of Work** in each population hub and/or distinct community within the designated proposed community;
- B. Describe how communities/stakeholders within the proposed community were engaged in developing Respondent's proposal;
- C. Plans should include strategies, activities and timelines for engaging the community initially (during start-up), during initial implementation, and on an ongoing basis; and
- D. Include in any outreach/communication efforts respondent has conducted during proposal development in the proposed community.

5.1.4 SSCC Major Deliverable #3: Compliance and General Requirements of the SSCC

Legal/Regulatory

- A. Describe how the SSCC will comply with all applicable DFPS Minimum Standards for 24-hour residential child-care operations and with state and federal laws and regulations, as outlined in **Exhibit I**, **DFPS Statement of Work Section 2.17 B**:
- B. Describe the plan to assume the statutory duties of the department in connection with the delivery of case management, substitute care services and services for kinship caregivers in that proposed community; and
- C. Describe the plan to comply with all court orders regarding the provision of substitute care, case management services and/or purchased services for children, youth, and families served through the SSCC, relevant to the stage being implemented.

Cultural Competency

- A. Describe the plan to provide ongoing education in the form of orientation, training, workshops, and other educational opportunities to help SSCC staff, caregivers, and subcontractors understand the impact race, culture, and ethnic identity have on them and others and how they impact services to children and families;
- B. Describe the plan to ensure that caregivers and subcontractors understand the impact of disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system;
- C. Describe the plan to coordinate and deliver services in a manner that is relevant to the culture of children and families served in the distinct communities and population hubs within the designated proposed community; and
- D. Describe the plan to develop, implement and maintain a SSCC workforce that reflects the race, ethnicity, and culture of the client population.

5.1.5 SSCC Major Deliverable #4: Placement Services and Services to Children/Youth/Young Adults

- A. Describe your organization's assessment of existing paid foster care capacity in the proposed community service area including the method used for any assessment and/or engagement activities in the development of this proposal. Include any assessment methods used, or that may be used, to evaluate the quantity and quality of capacity currently available;
- B. Describe your organizations assessment of gaps in paid foster care capacity, including the method used for any assessment and/or engagement activities in the development of this proposal;
- C. Describe the plan for maintaining the capacity to accept referrals from DFPS for paid foster care 24 hours per day, 365 days per year;
- D. Describe the plan to accept all referrals for paid foster care (No Reject) made by DFPS and continue to meet the individual needs of children referred (No Eject) until DFPS determines the individual is no longer eligible for the SSCC services

- (Stages I);
- E. Describe the plan to ensure that all children 3 years old and older have their needs assessed using the CANS assessment;
- F. Describe the plan to adapt to and abide by requirements of local courts) regarding placement processes and/or notification requirements;
- G. Describe the plan to ensure children in paid foster care receive all follow-up medical exams, Early and Periodic Screening and Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) exams, including Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) referral, and dental exams in accordance with STAR Health and DFPS Policy timeframes;
- H. Describe the plan to recruit and approve adoptive homes;
- I. Describe the plan to offer Preparation for Adult Living Skills and Supervised Independent Living (SIL) services; and
- J. Describe the plan to develop and implement a process by which children, youth, and families may elevate concerns about the provision and/or quality of services provided.

5.1.6 SSCC Major Deliverable #5: Case Management

- A. Describe your organization's assessment of the existing purchased services and community resources available to families in the proposed community, including the method used for any assessment and/or engagement activities in the development of this proposal. Include any assessment methods used, or that you plan on using, to evaluate the effectiveness of services currently available;
- B. Describe your organizations assessment of gaps in services for families in the area, including the method used for any assessment and/or engagement activities in the development of this proposal;
- C. Describe the plan for case management services that, at a minimum, include:
 - 1. Caseworker visits with the child including strategies you plan to use to engage the child;
 - 2. Family and caregiver visits including strategies you plan to use to engage the families;
 - 3. Permanency planning including your plan to meet quality indicators related to how your permanency planning model can lead to shorter stays for children in conservatorship and increase the exits to positive permanency outcomes;
 - 4. Child and family service planning that includes strategies on how you plan to ensure that children and youth are provided opportunities to participate in decisions that impact their lives;
 - 5. The coordination and monitoring of services required by the child and the child's family, including services to children and parents residing outside the proposed community;
 - 6. The assumption of court-related duties regarding the child, including but not limited to:
 - a. Providing any required notifications or consultations;
 - b. Preparing court reports;
 - c. Attending judicial and permanency hearings, trials, and mediations;

- d. Complying with applicable court orders; and
- e. Ensuring the child is progressing toward the goal of permanency within state and federally mandated guidelines.
- 7. A plan to promote reunification of children with the biological parents of the children when possible including support services to be provided after the child is returned to their family;
- 8. A plan to provide ICPC services for SSCC children placed out of state and children placed in the proposed community from out of state; and
- 9. A plan to promote the placement of children with relative or kinship caregivers, including family finding activities and engagement, and the provision of support services to relative and kinship caregivers.
- D. Proposed plan for implementing graduated caseloads for caseworkers in Stage II. See **Exhibit N**, **Required Reports** for more information on data requirements for graduated caseloads;
- E. Describe how the model will integrate case management and service delivery to children and service delivery to families while avoiding duplication of related activities;
- F. Describe the schedule, processes, procedure and timeline for the implementation of community-based care in the proposed community, including a timeline for implementing: case management services for children, families, and relative and kinship caregivers receiving services in the proposed community; and family reunification support services to be provided after a child receiving services from the contractor is returned to the child's family;
- G. Describe the plan for maintaining the capacity to accept referrals from DFPS for substitute care (kinship and foster care) 24 hours per day, 365 days per year;
- H. Describe the plan to accept all referrals for substitute care, kinship and paid foster care (No Reject), made by DFPS and continue to meet the individual needs of children referred (No Eject) until the child reaches legal permanency (Stages II-III); and
- I. Describe the plan to ensure that children have stability in their placements, including stability in paid foster care and in kinship placements.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

ARTICLE VI. REQUIRED RESPONDENT INFORMATION

6.1 ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY INFORMATION

Respondent must provide satisfactory evidence of its ability to manage and coordinate the types of activities described in this Solicitation. As a part of the Solicitation Response requested in **Article V**, Respondent must provide the following information:

6.1.1 History and Experience

Provide a brief narrative description of your organization's history, accomplishments, primary purpose and number of years in operation and submit as **Exhibit J**, **History and Experience**. Explain how your organization's experience and success demonstrates your ability to provide the expected services. If Applicant is a newly formed business entity created for the purpose of applying under this RFA, then the Response should demonstrate the experience of associated entities and staff. If Applicant is a consortium of providers, then the Response should detail the experience of each consortium member entity. In **Exhibit J**, also include the following:

- A. Describe your organizational structure, include your advisory board of directors (indicate number of board members and verification that a majority live in Texas), list of all advisory councils or committees, the length of their existence and their function; and
- B. Describe the relationship between your organization and other community-based services to be provided. These should include, but not be limited to, linkages to the reentry population and linkages to those in the community providing employment services. Where possible, provide letters of support from those organizations that have worked with your organization, which describe the nature of past and/or current collaborations.

6.1.2 Financial Processes and Systems and Structure

- A. Provide a detailed description of the accounting system Respondent will use as **Exhibit G**, **Financial Processes and Reporting**. This accounting system must be capable of supporting the operation and management of a provider network, payroll, and subcontractor payments and comply with all requirements outlined in this RFA;
- B. Provide a detailed description of the information system Respondent will use that collects, integrates, and reports financial and outcome data, supports the management and oversight of the service network, and the validation of services as **Exhibit G, Financial Processes and Reporting**;
- C. As part of its Application, Respondent must develop and submit an estimated daily per diem case management rate that includes the methodology in support of its proposed Stage II services associated with child placement, conservatorship services, kinship home development and maintenance, reunification, and case management services. Respondent must label the cost estimate for a daily per diem case management rate as Exhibit L, Case Management Proposal Face Page and included with Respondent's Application. See Exhibit I, DFPS <a href="Statement of Work, Section 2.27 Major Deliverable #5 Case Management; and
- D. Respondent must develop and submit a proposal for its intended purchased client

services (PCS) array that includes estimated fee schedules for services offered within available PCS funding allocations. Fees charged to DFPS must be reasonable and comparable to those for similar services within the proposed community. Respondent must label the cost proposal for purchased client services as **Exhibit K**, **Purchased Client Services Proposal Face Page** and include with Respondent's Application. See **Exhibit I**, **DFPS Statement of Work**, **Section 3.12(B)** and **Exhibit I**, **DFPS Statement of Work**, **Chart 13 - Sample Service Array**.

6.2 LITIGATION AND CONTRACT HISTORY

In its Solicitation Response, Respondent must submit copies as **Exhibit P**, **Litigation and Contract History** of all monitoring reports, corrective action plans, and other support documentation related to alleged or confirmed significant contract compliance and management issues. Respondent must fully describe all significant failures in detail including the lessons learned by Respondent from the issues or failures and steps taken to reduce the likelihood of any similar recurrence. Failure to comply with the terms of this requirement may disqualify Respondent.

In addition, Respondent must disclose details surrounding any civil or criminal litigation (pending or completed) or investigation (pending or completed) that occurred during the five (5) years immediately prior to the submission of its Solicitation Response that involves Respondent. Failure to comply with the terms of this provision may disqualify Respondent.

Solicitation Response may be rejected based upon Respondent's prior history with the State of Texas or with any other party that demonstrates, without limitation, unsatisfactory performance, adversarial or contentious demeanor, or significant failure(s) to meet contractual obligations.

6.3 CONFLICTS

Respondent must certify and submit as **Exhibit O**, **Conflicts** that it does not have any personal or business interests that present a conflict of interest with respect to the RFA and any resulting contract. Additionally, if applicable, the Respondent must disclose all potential conflicts of interest. The Respondent must describe the measures it will take to ensure that there will be no actual conflict of interest and that its fairness, independence and objectivity will be maintained. DFPS will determine to what extent, if any, a potential conflict of interest can be mitigated and managed during the term of the contract. Failure to identify actual and potential conflicts of interest may result in disqualification of a Solicitation Response or termination of a contract.

Please include any activities of affiliated or parent organizations and individuals who may be assigned to this Contract, if any.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 2252.908 of the Texas Government Code, a successful Respondent awarded a contract greater than \$1 million dollars, or that requires an action or vote of the governing body, must submit a disclosure of interested parties to the state agency at the time the business entity submits the signed contract. Rules and filing instructions may be found on the Texas Ethics Commissions public

website and additional instructions will be given by HHS to successful Respondents.

6.4 AFFIRMATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Respondent must complete and return all of forms and exhibits listed in Article IX.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

7.1 FISCAL CAPACITY AND FISCAL CONTROLS

Applicant must provide the following with its Application:

- A. Most recent two (2) years of accrual basis financial reports including:
 - 1. Balance sheet;
 - 2. Statement of income and expense;
 - 3. Statement of changes in financial position;
 - 4. Cash flows; and
 - 5. Capital expenditures.
- B. Notes to the financial statements
 - 1. Last two (2) years of audited financial statements;
 - 2. If applicable, last two (2) years of consolidated audited financial statements for any holding companies or affiliates;
 - 3. An un-audited financial statement of the most recent quarter of operation;
 - 4. A full disclosure of any events, liabilities, or contingent liabilities that could affect Respondent's financial ability to perform this Contract; and
 - 5. Last two years of the Federal Form 990.

Note: Personal Financial Statements will not be considered in lieu of financial statements of applicant Corporations, Partnerships, or LLC's.

The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.

ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

8.1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

8.1.1 Costs Incurred

Respondents understand that issuance of this Solicitation in no way constitutes a commitment by any System Agency to award a contract or to pay any costs incurred by a Respondent in the preparation of a response to this Solicitation. DFPS is not liable for any costs incurred by a Respondent prior to issuance of or entering into a formal agreement, contract, or purchase order. Costs of developing Solicitation Responses, preparing for or participating in oral presentations and site visits, or any other similar expenses incurred by a Respondent are entirely the responsibility of the Respondent, and will not be reimbursed in any manner by the State of Texas.

8.1.2 Contract Responsibility

DFPS will look solely to Respondent for the performance of all contractual obligations that may result from an award based on this Solicitation. Respondent shall not be relieved of its obligations for any nonperformance by its subcontractors.

8.1.3 Public Information Act

Solicitation Responses are subject to the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), Texas Government Code Chapter 552, and may be disclosed to the public upon request. Subject to the PIA, certain information may be protected from public release. Respondents who wish to protect portions of the Solicitation Response from public disclosure should familiarize themselves with this law. Information pertaining to the Solicitation will be withheld or released only in accordance with the PIA.

8.1.4 News Releases

Prior to final award a Respondent may not issue a press release or provide any information for public consumption regarding its participation in the procurement. Requests should be directed to the HHS Point of Contact Identified in **Article III**.

8.1.5 Additional Information

By submitting a proposal, the Respondent grants HHS the right to obtain information from any lawful source regarding the Respondent's and its directors', officers', and employees':

- (1) past business history, practices, and conduct;
- (2) ability to supply the goods and services; and
- (3) ability to comply with contract requirements.

By submitting a proposal, a Respondent generally releases from liability and waives all claims against any party providing HHS information about the Respondent. HHS may take such information into consideration in evaluating proposals.

ARTICLE IX, SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

This checklist is provided for Respondent's convenience only and identifies documents that must be submitted with this Solicitation in order to be considered responsive. Any Solicitation Response received without these requisite documents may be deemed nonresponsive and may not be considered for contract award.

Original Solicitation Response Package

The Solicitation Package must include the "Original" Solicitation Response in <u>hard copy</u> consisting of the four parts described in detail below, each under separate cover but packaged together and clearly labeled "Original" on each.

1.	Admir	nistrative Information (Forms A and B)	
	a.	Form A – Face Page	
	b.	Form B-1 – Governmental Entity	
	c.	Form B-2 – Nonprofit Entity (if applicable)	
2.	Narra	ative Proposal (Section 5.1)	
3.	Requi	ired Respondent Information (Article VI)	
	a.	Exhibit A – HHS-DFPS Solicitation Affirmations	
	b.	Exhibit B – DFPS SSCC Uniform Terms and Conditions	
	c.	Exhibit D – Certification Regarding Lobbying	
	d.	Exhibit E – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs	
	e.	Exhibit F – Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act	
		(FFATA) Certification	
	f.	Exhibit G – Financial Processes and Reporting (to be created by	
		Applicant)	
	g.	Exhibit J – History and Experience (to be created by Applicant)	
	h.	Exhibit O – Conflicts (to be created by Applicant)	
	i.	Exhibit P – Litigation and Contract History (to be created by	
		Applicant)	
4.	Finan	cial Capacity, Stability, and Structure (Articles VI and VII)	
	a.	Exhibit K – Purchased Client Services Cost Proposal Face Page	
	b.	Exhibit L – Case Management Cost Proposal Face Page	

Copies of Solicitation Response Package

Respondent will provide the following number of <u>electronic</u> copies (all clearly labeled as "copy") in addition to the hard copy "Original" Solicitation Response. Electronic copies must be submitted on a USB Drive and separated by folders.

- <u>2</u> Electronic copy of Administrative Information
- <u>2</u> Electronic copy of Narrative Proposal
- <u>2</u> Electronic copy of Applicable Exhibits

ARTICLE X. LIST OF FORMS AND EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO RFA

Forms

Form A – Face Page

Form B-1 – Governmental Entity

Form B-2 – Nonprofit Entity (if applicable)

Exhibits

Exhibit A – HHS-DFPS Solicitation Affirmations

Exhibit B – DFPS SSCC Affirmations and Grant Opportunity Acceptance

Exhibit C – FY23 Funding Matrix Catchment Area 3E

Exhibit C-1 – FY23 Funding Matrix Catchment Area 4

Exhibit C-2 – FY23 Funding Matrix Catchment Area 5

Exhibit C-3 – FY23 Funding Matrix Catchment Area 9

Exhibit D – Certification Regarding Lobbying

Exhibit E – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs

Exhibit F – Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Certification

Exhibit G – Financial Processes and Reporting

Exhibit H – Performances Measures

Exhibit I – DFPS Statement of Work

Exhibit J – History and Experience

Exhibit K – Purchased Client Services Cost Proposal Face Page

Exhibit L – Case Management Cost Proposal Face Page

Exhibit M – Evaluation Tool

Exhibit N – Required Reports

Exhibit O – Conflicts

Exhibit P – Litigation and Contract History