HHS0013421 Attachment 2 to Addendum 2- Answers to Questions or Request for Clarification

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
1	Section 3.7.3 A., pages 18-19	Will there be confirmation of receipt of a bid submitted through the Online	Applicant may save whatever is possible for your records. The Online Bid Room does
	"Submission Option #1 HHS Online Bid	Bid Room that confirms that a bid	not send out any confirmation of
	Room: Applicants shall upload the	was received? If so, how will such	submission.
	following documents to the Online Bid	confirmation be provided?	
	Room utilizing the procedures in Exhibit	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	Q, HHS Online Bid Room. File Size		
	Limitation: Restriction to 250MB per file		
	attachment. 1. One (1) copy marked as		
	"Original Application" that contains the		
	Applicant's entire Application in a		
	Portable Document Format (".pdf") file. 2.		
	One (1) copy of the completed Exhibit C-1		
	through C-4, Funding Matrix in its original		
	Excel format. 3. One (1) copy of the		
	complete Application marked as "Public		
	Information Act Copy," if applicable, in		
	accordance with Section 8.3, Public		
	Information Act, in a Portable Document		
	Format (".pdf") file. RFA		
	No.HHS0013421 Page 19 42 4.		
	Electronic submissions must be separated		
	by electronic medium used for submission:		
	a. Administrative Information, including		
	all forms; b. Narrative Proposal, including		
	all forms; and c. Applicable Exhibits and		

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	Required Forms. For Applicants who		
	choose to mail in Application, the entire Solicitation Response including all electronic copies must be submitted in one package to HHSC at the address listed in Section 3.7.3, Required Submission Method. The number of copies and		
	directions for submitting an "Original" and "Copies" are outlined in Article IX, Submission Checklist."		
2	 Exhibit K and Exhibit L, paragraph 1, page 1 "Respondent must complete and place the PCS Cost Proposal in a separate, sealed package, clearly marked as Exhibit K, Purchased Client Cost Proposal, with the Applicant's name, the RFA number, and the RFA submission date. Respondent must complete and place it in a separate, sealed package, clearly marked as Exhibit L with the Applicant's name, the RFA submission date. 	In an Online Bid Room submission, how would Exhibits K and L be submitted in a "separate, sealed package"? Would these need to be mailed or delivered while the rest of the submission was submitted through the Online Bid Room?	Refer to RFA Section 3.7.3, Required Submission Method, A. Submission Option #1. For additional information regarding the Online Bid Room option, please refer to Exhibit Q, Online Bid Room or HHS Online Bid Room FAQs, found here at: https://www.hhs.texas.gov/business/contract ing-hhs/hhs-online-bid-room For Sealed Packages with USB Drives, refer to RFA Section 3.7.3, Required Submission Method, B. Submission Option #2.
3	Section 5.3.2 SSCC Administrative Management, Paragraph A, Page 27	Are Letters of Intent required for all potential subcontracted service providers or are Letters of Support	Letters of intent or commitment are used interchangeably. These are required for each subcontracted service provider as

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	"If intending to use subcontractors/network to deliver services 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 Exhibit I, DFPS Statement of Work, Section 2.14 (B), address, and copies of signed letters of intent to contract;"	acceptable?	described in RFA Section 5.2.1, Narrative Proposal and Section 5.3.2 SSCC Administrative Management, A.
4	Section 2.2 Community Service Area (last paragraph following item D.), Page 10 "DFPS reserves the right to award a Contract for a catchment area as described above without including some or all of the Applicant's proposed additional Texas counties."	Can we please get clarification on the text above?	Refer to RFA Section 2.2, Community Service Areas . DFPS reserves the right to award a contract for any of the listed catchment areas.
5	 Section 6.1.2 "Financial Processes, Systems, and Structure," Paragraph 3 (Budget), Pages 33-34 "As part of its Application, Respondent must develop and submit a budget by each Stage of service. The proposed budget must include the methodology in support 	1. What is the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of children estimated to be included in the budgets, separated in the question response by both Stage I and Stage II FTEs and for each of the 4 catchment areas (6a, 6b, 8a, and 10)?	1. Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Section 3.03 Community-Based Care Network Support (Stages I-III) and Exhibit C, Funding Matrix.

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	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 operating budget proposal for a daily per diem case management rate as Exhibit L, SSCC Stage I and Stage II Operating Budget Proposal Face Page, and included with Respondent's Application. See Exhibit I, DFPS Statement of Work, Section 2.27, Major Deliverable #5 Case Management (Stages II-III))"	levels of care of the FTE children in the estimates to ensure appropriate staffing and resources in the submitted budgets.	2. Refer to Exhibit C-1 through C-4, Funding Matrix. Historic data on catchment areas child FTE's can be found on the DFPS public website, please visit the following links for more information: <u>https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFP S/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services</u> /default.asp and <u>https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Doing_Busi</u> ness/Regional_Statistics/default.asp

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
6	Section 6.1.2 "Financial Processes, Systems, and Structure," Paragraph 3 (Budget), Pages 33-34 "All available funding for this Contract is listed in Exhibit C-1 through C-4, Funding Matrix and its terms are non- negotiable."	 Budgets submitted will be based on the estimated Full Time Equivalent of children by catchment area in the answered response to the above question. However, the variance of funding in the Exhibits C-1 through C-4 between catchment areas varies greatly. Please clarify the discrepancy of funding between Region 8a and 6a, both of which are large counties that are similar in size, population, and historically children in care. If the "Funding Matrix and its terms are non-negotiable," what will occur if the actual number of children by catchment in 2025-2020 is 	please visit the following links for more information: <u>https://www.dfps.texas.gov/About_DFP</u> <u>S/Data_Book/Child_Protective_Services</u> <u>/default.asp</u> and <u>https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Doing_Busi</u> <u>ness/Regional_Statistics/default.asp</u>
		actually greater or becomes greater due to a rise in removals, and therefore the need for staffing and other expenses are greater during the contract term? Are resource transfers fixed for all 5 years of the contract? Or may they be	Resource Transfer (A) and (B).

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
		amended based on FTEs in care?	
7	Article III. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION, Section 3.7.3 A. "Submission Option #1", Page 18 vs. Article IX. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST, Page 39	 Submission Option #1 gives the option of utilizing the HHS Online Bid Room as a virtual option. However, in the Article IX. Submission Checklist: it appears that a requirement is to submit a "hard copy." Is a virtual submission only via The HHS Online Bid Room allowable? 	Refer to RFA Section 3.7.3, Required Submission Method A, Submission Option #1. For additional information regarding the Online Bid Room option, please refer to Exhibit Q, Online Bid Room or HHS Online Bid Room FAQs, found here at: <u>https://www.hhs.texas.gov/business/contract</u> <u>ing-hhs/hhs-online-bid-room</u>

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
8	<section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><text><text><list-item><text><list-item><text></text></list-item></text></list-item></text></text></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></text></text></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>	"It's clear we may not issue a press release regarding our participation in the procurement. If asked by the media, may we confirm our participation in the RFA? Also, the second part of the statement, "or provide any information for public consumption regarding participation in the procurement," is vague. Can we get clarity on what "providing information for public consumption" means, specifically how we are expected to engage stakeholders and gather letters of support/intent if we are not able to speak about the	Refer to RFA Section 8.4, News Releases, as the language states: Applicants and those providing letters of intent need to follow the last sentence in RFA Section 8.4 News Releases.

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		submission of the RFA."	
9	Exhibit C-4 Funding Matrix Catchment Area 8A, Entire document	"Upon reviewing the Exhibit C-4 for Region 8A, can DFPS please explain	
		the methodology behind calculating the total amounts in the Foster Care subsection?	
		subsection?	
		1. Does the total amount include ICPC Cases, Adult Youth in Independent Living, or Courtesy Cases?	1. Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Article III, Utilization and Compensation.
		2. Are these cases only represented in Stage 2 totals?	2. Refer to Exhibit C-1 through C-4 , Funding Matrix for a breakdown of the methodologies
		3. Is the total amount a projection	
		for a future fiscal year or the cost from a previous fiscal year?	 Refer to Exhibit C-1 through C-4, Funding Matrix see footnote.
		4. Can you explain the methodology used to calculate child FTEs for Stage 1 and Stage 2?	4. Refer to Exhibit I, DFPS Statement of Work, Section 3.04 Resource Transfer

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10	Exhibit I: DFPS Statement of Work, ARTICLE III: UTILIZATION AND COMPENSATION, Section 3.04 Resource Transfer, Paragraph 3, Pages 90-91	"Will the applicant selected for each catchment area receive an itemized breakdown of what goes into the resource transfer for each stage of service (something significantly more detailed than what Exhibit C-4 demonstrates)?"	Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Section 3.04, Resource Transfer (A) and (B).
11	Article IX. Submission Checklist, Paragraph 2, Page 40 1. Form A - Face Page 2. Form B-1 - Governmental Entity - Authorized Officials (if applicable) 3. Form B-2 - Nonprofit Entity or For-Profit Entity - Board of Directors and Principal Officers (if applicable) C. Narrative Proposal (Article V) (to be provided by Applicant) D. Required Respondent Information (Article VI) 4. Exhibit A - HHS Solicitation Affirmations V2.4 5. Exhibit D - Ders SSC C Unform Terms and Conditions 6. Exhibit D - Certification Regarding Lobbying 7. Exhibit C - Anarcaces - Non-Construction Programs 8. Exhibit D - Certification 9. Exhibit J - History and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 10. Exhibit J - History and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 11. Exhibit J - Mistory and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 12. Exhibit J - Mistory and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 13. Exhibit J - Mistory and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 14. Exhibit J - Mistory and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 15. Exhibit J - Mistory and Experience (to be created by Applicant) 14. Exhibit J - Lexing and Addendums 15. Exhibit K - Purchased Client Services Cost Proposal Face Page 16. Exhibit L - Stage 1 and Stage II Operating Budget Cost Proposal Face Page	Can you provide clarification on what should be included as attachments in this section specifically? We assume it is only the "Management Plan" and "Community Engagement Plan" but confirmation of this would be helpful.	Refer to RFA Article IX, Submission Checklist for all required documentation.

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
12	Section 6.1.3 Litigation and Contract History, Paragraph 2, Page 34 "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."	Can you provide clarification as to whether routine CPA minimum standards violations or investigations are within the scope of what must be included?	CPA violations, findings, or remedies relating to any investigation would need to be included.

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13	Section 2.2 Community Service Areas, first paragraph, page 10 "The Applicant may propose to include additional Texas counties that are not listed below and are not under contract with an existing SSCC."	"What recourse, if any, would affected stakeholders in counties not solicited in the RFA but included in an applicant's proposal as an "additional Texas county" have to the inclusion? Would such a proposal be governed by the terms of RFA No. HHS0013421 or by rules governing unsolicited proposals?"	Refer to RFA Section 5.3.3 SSCC Community Engagement Plan (CEP) A-D and Exhibit I, DFPS Statement of Work, Section 2.14 (D) 3.
14	Section 2.3 DFPS Role Assumptions, item C., pages 10-11 "DFPS will maintain responsibility for the following functions and services as a part of the CBC model: C. Family-based safety services;"	Why does DFPS maintain responsibility for family-based safety services when the definition of community-based care in Texas Family Code §264.152(4) includes "direct case management to: (A) prevent entry into foster care?"	Refer to RFA Section 2.3, DFPS Role Assumptions, C.
15	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, third row under "Resource Transfer", page 1 "\$1,032,354"	Please provide the data and describe the methodology used to calculate the "Additional appropriated resource transfer" for Catchment Area 10.	Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Section 3.04 Resource Transfer.

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
16	 Section 2.5 Eligible Applicants - 2.5.1 Minimum Qualifications of the SSCC (Stages I-III), page 11 "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 HHS Residential Child Care Regulation and must not be on probation under its CPA license as of the Proposal due date." 	"Do each of the minimum qualifications in Subsection 2.5.1 apply to government entity applicants or only to nonprofit entity applicants?"	Refer to RFA Section 2.5.3, Non-Profit and Governmental Entities. RFA Section 2.5.1, Minimum Qualifications of the SSCC (Stages I-III) and Section 2.5.2, Entity Qualifications.

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
17	Section 2.5 Eligible Applicants – 2.5.1 Minimum Qualifications of the SSCC (Stages I-III), item B., page 11 "B. The SSCC must have experience in delivering residential Child-care and treatment services to Children and Youth in Foster Care;"	What constitutes "experience delivering residential Child-care and treatment services to Children and Youth in Foster Care" for the purposes of minimum qualifications in Paragraph B., Subsection 2.5.1, Section 2.5?	Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Article I, Definitions, Residential Child Care and Treatment Services.
18	Section 2.5 Eligible Applicants – 2.5.2 Entity Qualifications, item B., page 12 "B. The SSCC may be an in-state or out- of-state entity; however, the SSCC must be an HHS licensed Child Placement Agency (CPA) with a majority of the entity's board members residing in Texas. In accordance with Texas Family Code 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;"	If the SSCC applicant entity is a Texas subsidiary (e.g., a disregarded entity for tax purposes), wholly owned and controlled by an out-of- state parent entity, are a majority of the parent entity's board members required to reside in Texas, or just board members of the subsidiary?	 Refer to RFA Section 4.2 Application Pre-Screening. Refer to RFA Section 6.1.1 History and Experience, A. 1.
19	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, first row under "Resource Transfer", page 1 "\$718,637"	Please provide the data and describe the methodology used to calculate the Stage I Resource Transfer for Catchment Area 10. What costs are included in the resource transfer amount? If the amount represents transferred staff positions, which specific positions are included in the	Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Section 3.4, Resource Transfer (A).

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
		transfer?	
20			
20	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, third row under "Foster Care",	Will the Blended Rate include the "Temporary Supplemental	Temporary Supplement Rate Increase is not within the scope of this RFA.
	page 1	Payment?" If not, what is the	1
	"TBD"	"Supplemental Add-On" rate for Region 10?	
21	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, second row under "Resource	Please provide the data and describe the methodology used to calculate	All resource transfers based upon a proportional reduction of employees and the
	Transfer, page 1	the Stage II Resource Transfer for	associated resources as reflected in the
	"\$4,129,416"	Catchment Area 10. What costs are included in the resource transfer	General Appropriations Act and subject to Legislative appropriations.
	\$4,129,410	amount? If the amount represents	Refer to Exhibit I, DFPS Statement of
		transferred staff positions, which specific positions are included in the	Work, Section 3.04 Resource Transfer (A) and (B)
		transfer?	
22	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, third row under "Foster Care",	How will the costs for children in unlicensed placement be figured	These costs are not within the scope of this RFA.
	page 1	into the Blended Rate	NΓA.
	"TBD"	methodology?	
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#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
23	Exhibit I: DFPS Statement of Work, Section 2.03 Staged Implementation, page 19 "Implementation of the SSCC will occur in three stages in the Designated Catchment Area. Progression from Stage I to Stage II will depend upon the SSCC's demonstrated Readiness. Stage II Start-Up Period will commence upon the receipt of all necessary approvals and occur for six (6) months thereafter. Progression from Stage II to Stage III will occur no earlier than eighteen (18) months from the date DFPS makes the first referral for Case Management services to the SSCC as a part of implementation Stage II. All three stages are included as a part of the procurement. The provisions of the Contract applicable to a particular Stage will not apply until the SSCC has progressed to such applicable Stage."	Can the stages be altered to allow for the transition of services in a different order based on the readiness of the region?	Refer to <u>Texas Family Code § 264.156.</u>

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
# 24		Please provide the data and describe the methodology used to calculate the Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10. What statewide legacy projections by Service Level/Placement/Strata will be used in calculating the blended rate for Catchment Area 10? What reimbursement rates will be used in the calculating the blended rate for Catchment Area 10? Will the reimbursement rates used in the calculating the blended rate for Catchment Area 10? Will the reimbursement rates used in the calculating the blended rate for Catchment Area 10 include temporary supplemental payments and/or supplemental add-ons? What Designated Community Area placement projections by Strata will	Response Refer to Exhibit I, Statement of Work, Section 3.02 Foster Care Rates (B).
		be used in the calculating the Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10? How will legacy projections by Service Level/Placement/Strata and SSCC Designated Community Area placement projections by Strata used to calculate the Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10? What adjustments, if any, will be made during the rate setting process to address the exclusion of legacy DFPS Homes for the SSCC in	

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
		Catchment Area 10?	
25	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, third row under "Foster Care", page 1 "TBD"	When will the Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10 be determined? When and how will the Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10 be announced? Is there currently an estimated Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10 or a potential range for the Blended Rate for Catchment Area 10 that could provided?	The Blended Rate is based on case mix for each catchment area. For additional information refer to Exhibit I , Statement of Work , Section 3.02 Foster Care Rates (B) .
26	Exhibit I: DFPS Statement of Work, Section 2.27 Major Deliverable #5 – Case Management (Stages II-III), page 74 "Responsibility for providing case management services as outlined in this section must be provided by SSCC staff directly and cannot be subcontracted out to a different provider, government agency, or entity."	Is the requirement that SSCC staff perform case management directly and the prohibition against subcontracting case management found in law or regulation? If so, where? If the SSCC is a newly formed entity created by existing,	Refer to <u>Texas Family Code 264.158</u> .

#	RFA Reference	Question	Response
27	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, rows and columns under "Catchment Area 10", page 1 "Blended Bate (Daily Bate per Child TBD	Does DFPS/OCBCT intend that the Blended Rate and Exceptional Rate in Exhibit C-3 are sufficient to reimburse all costs of care related to the provision of foster care services	Funds to support the requirements of this RFA are contingent upon appropriated funds.
	"Blended Rate (Daily Rate per Child TBD Exceptional Rate (Daily Rate per Child TBD"	for the children entering paid care and referred by DFPS in Stage I?	
28	Exhibit C-3: Funding Matrix Catchment Area 10, rows and columns under "Catchment Area 10", page 1	Assuming the transition dates and staging in Exhibit C-3, does DFPS/OCBCT intend that the amounts in Exhibit C-3 are sufficient	Funds to support the requirements of this RFA are contingent upon appropriated funds.
	Resource Trainfer 9716.637 Stage I 9716.637 Stage II 941.29,416 Additional appropriated resource transfer 91.00,354 Supplemental Overtime Payment - Stage II 816.09.13 Supplemental Overtime Payment - Stage II 941.20.20 Income Transmit Foreit 941.20.20 Output Diversity Payment - Stage II 941.92.00 Income Transmit Foreit 94.00 Output Diversity Payment - Stage II 92.09.05 Output Diversity Payment 92.09.05 Output Diversity Payment 92.09.05 Output Diversity Payment 92.09.05 Stage II Network Suppert - 15.20.00 per child FTE ¹ 954.19.79 Stage II Network Suppert - 15.200 per child FTE ¹ 954.19.20 Payment Diversity Payment Diversity Payment 100 Stage II Network Suppert - 15.200 per child FTE ¹ 954.19.79 Stage II Network Suppert - 15.200 per child FTE ¹ 954.19.79 Stage II Network Suppert - 15.200 per child FTE ¹ 954.19.79 Stage II Network Suppert - 15.200 per child FTE ¹ 954.19.79 Stage II Network Suppert - 16.100 TDE	to fully fund a service delivery model that satisfies the requirements of the Statement of Work (Exhibit I)?	