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Pre-Submittal Respondent Conference

Request for Applications No. HHS0016279
Region 9 CBC Rural Pilot Program
December 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM CT



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Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Procurement Roles
3. Statement of Work Overview
4. Key Exhibits
5. Closing Comments



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Introductions

Point of Contact

- **Edna Fuentes, Contract Administration Manager I, Office of Community-Based Care Transition**
- **Esmeralda Silva, Director of Implementation, Office of Community-Based Care Transition**



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Procurement Roles

Procurement Team

- Health and Human Services (HHS) Procurement and Contracting Services (PCS) is responsible for Electronic Business Daily (ESBD) Updates.
- The Department of Family and Protective Services is responsible for contract management activities throughout the life of the Grant Agreements including, contract development, execution, and monitoring.
- The Department of Family and Protective Services is responsible for project scope, requirements, performance, results, and ongoing monitoring.



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Schedule of Events

Deadline for Submitting Questions

December 11, 2025, by 5:00PM

Any questions arising prior to the question deadline must be submitted in writing to Edna.Fuentes2@dfps.texas.gov



Tentative Date Answers to Questions Posted to ESBD

Estimated: December 23, 2025



Deadline for Submission of Solicitation Applications

January 12, by 10:30 AM



Anticipated Grant Start Date

TBD



Solicitation Access

HHS will post all official communication regarding this RFA on the following website, including the notice of award:

- The HHS Grants website is located at <https://resources.hhs.texas.gov/rfa/hhs0016279>

DFPS reserves the right to cancel this RFA, or to make no award if it determines such action is in the best interest of the State.

DFPS may, in its discretion, reject any and all applications or portions thereof.



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Sole Point of Contact

- All communications relating to this RFA must be directed in writing to Edna Fuentes, Sole Point of Contact at Edna.Fuentes2@dfps.texas.gov.
- All communications between applicants and HHS and DFPS staff members, or any other HHS staff members, concerning this RFA are **strictly prohibited**.
- Failure to comply with these requirements may result in application disqualification.



CBC Rural Pilot Program RFA Overview

1. Background and Purpose
2. About Region 9
3. Eligible Applicants
4. Available Funding
5. Exhibit I: Statement of Work
6. Evaluation Process
7. Submission of Exhibits



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Background and Purpose

1. The Rural CBC Pilot Program was authorized by Senate Bill 513, 89th Texas Legislature.
2. Under guidance of Texas Family Code (TFC) Section 264.183, DFPS is required to implement a Rural CBC Pilot Program which is aimed at improving child welfare services in rural areas.
3. At least two-thirds of the counties comprising the area have a population of 50,000 or less and where traditional CBC has not been established and where there has been no response from interested applicants through the formal Request for Application (RFA) process.
4. The Rural CBC Pilot Program will be developed and implemented by DFPS in partnership with a Lead Entity, which may be a nonprofit or local government entity selected through a competitive procurement process.



About Region 9

Exhibit I: SOW Section 2.02

Region 9 includes 30 rural counties across the Permian/Concho Valley

Applicant must demonstrate clear understanding of:

- Demographics
- Service gaps
- Geographic constraints
- Existing provider networks
- Unique rural needs and community strengths



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Eligibility & Qualifications for Lead Entity

Exhibit I: SOW Section 2.03 Qualifications of Lead Entity

- A. To enter a contract with the DFPS, a Lead Entity must be:
 - 1. A nonprofit entity that has a board of directors composed entirely of residents of the Designated Community Area; or
 - 2. A local government entity.

- B. In selecting a Lead Entity, the Department shall consider whether a prospective contractor has:
 - 1. Strong community support and partnerships.
 - 2. Demonstrated experience leading collaborative initiatives in the region; and
 - 3. The capacity to coordinate with local community organizations to serve children and families.



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Eligibility & Qualifications for Lead Entity

Exhibit I: SOW Section 2.03 Qualifications of Lead Entity

- C. DFPS shall request local stakeholders in an eligible rural region to provide any necessary information about the region that the department will assist in:
 - 1. Preparing the department's request for bids, proposals, or other applicable expressions of Interest to provide Community-Based care in the eligible rural region; and
 - 2. Selecting a Lead Entity to provide Community-Based care in the eligible rural region.
- D. The Department's request for bids, proposals, or other applicable expressions of interest to provide Community-Based Care in the eligible rural region may include a single request, which serves to develop the Rural CBC Pilot Program model and implement the Rural CBC Pilot Program.



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Eligibility & Qualifications for Lead Entity

Exhibit I: SOW Section 2.03 Qualifications of Lead Entity

- E. Notwithstanding any other law and to address the unique challenges of providing Community-Based care to rural areas of this state in an efficient manner the Department may:
1. Procure, as a single procurement, services to develop a program model under Section 264.184(a) and implement the Rural CBC Pilot Program under Section 264.184(b); and
 2. Separately procure the services of the independent evaluator under Section 264.194.



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Community Alliance Requirements

Exhibit I: SOW Section 2.04 Community Alliance

- A. DFPS and Lead Entity shall establish a community alliance or similar group of stakeholders to provide a forum for community participation and governance of Community-Based care under the Rural CBC Pilot Program. DFPS and Lead Entity shall collaborate with:
1. Local families with lived experience in the child welfare system.
 2. Local representatives from sectors related to the child welfare system, including the judiciary, education, and health care; and
 3. Other community stakeholders.



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Available Funding

- DFPS expects to award one (1) Contract under this RFA for Region 9, as DFPS funding allows.
- Funding information is based on legislative appropriations and service areas and will be provided in **Exhibit C , Deliverables Payment Schedule**
- DFPS may adjust and prorate actual award amounts at the time of execution based on start dates or legal may modify language for consistency.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work (SOW)

1. The Statement of Work establishes the expectations for the Rural Community-Based Care Pilot authorized by SB 513.
2. The purpose is to contract with a Lead Entity that can design, implement, and operate a fully integrated CBC model tailored for Region 9, a rural Texas community composed of 30 counties.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.05 Financial and Risk Management

- A. DFPS shall seek input from the Lead Entity regarding the feasibility of a capitated funding model for the provision of services under the Rural CBC Pilot Program. If the Department determines that a capitated funding model is feasible, DFPS shall develop a capitated funding model that provides a fixed rate of funding per child receiving services under the Rural CBC Pilot Program.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.06 Management and Information Sharing

A. DFPS shall consult with the Lead Entity to assess the feasibility of and design any enhancements to IMPACT necessary to support an integrated electronic case management system for use during any future implementation phase of the Rural CBC Pilot Program. Consultations regarding enhancements must address potential system capabilities that:

1. Allow for real-time case management;
2. Facilitate coordination among service providers; and
3. Support outcome tracking and reporting.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.07 Development and Management of Continuum of Care and Service Delivery Model

- A. Lead Entity Management Plan – At least 30 days prior to entering implementation, the Lead Entity is required to submit a Lead Entity Management Plan for DFPS approval. The Lead Entity Management Plan must clearly identify all tasks and activities associated with each deliverable, dates of completion, and key staff responsible for, at a minimum, the following key elements:
1. A Disaster Recovery and Business Community Plan
 2. A continuous 24-Hour Awake Supervision in all placements



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.08 Continuum of Substitute Care and Purchased Client Services

The Lead Entity must build and maintain the infrastructure necessary to support the full continuum of substitute care, case management and purchased client services for all children and youth originating from the Designated Community Area, those placed in the Designated Community Area through Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and through inter-regional agreements and their families who are referred to the Lead Entity by DFPS.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.09 Compliance With General Requirements of Lead Entity

- A. Accountability. The Lead Entity is ultimately responsible for all Contract requirements, including outcomes, regardless of whether the Contract requirement is performed directly by the Lead Entity or indirectly by the Lead Entity through an agent, employee, volunteer, or subcontractor.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.10 Placement Services to Children/Youth/Young Adults

The Lead Entity must coordinate and manage services to the child, youth or young adult in a manner that, at a minimum, conforms to and complies with the service and Contract requirements stated, defined, and described in this Contract.

This section outlines the:

1. The applicable requirements, and
2. Required Notification related to the child.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.11 Court Responsibilities

Outlines State and federal requirements mandate that children in DFPS' legal conservatorship have periodic court reviews

Section 2.12 Kinship Services: Roles, Responsibilities and Documentation Requirements

DFPS will provide necessary oversight measures and review processes to maintain compliance with federal and state requirements.

Section 2.13 Workforce Development

DFPS, in collaboration with Lead Entity, shall incorporate into the Rural CBC Pilot Program a workforce development plan. This section includes what the plan will include.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.14 Policy and Procedure Waivers

Lead Entity may apply to the DFPS Commissioner for a waiver from any department policy or procedure that governs the provision of child welfare services as per Texas Family Code Section 189.

Section 2.15 Conflict Resolution Process

Through protocol development, DFPS and Lead Entity shall establish a formal process for resolving conflicts of disputes that arise related to the Rural CBC Pilot Program described by Section 264.190.

Section 2.16 Change Order Process

Change Order Process for the contract resulting from this procurement will be in accordance with Texas Family Code Section 264.191.



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Exhibit I: Statement of Work

Section 2.17 Confidentiality

Subchapter C, Chapter 261, of this code and Chapter 552, Government Code, apply to the records of Lead Entity or its subcontractors that relate to the provision of Community-Based care under the Rural CBC Pilot Program in the same manner as the records of DFPS. Please refer to confidentiality provisions in Exhibit B, Uniform Terms and Conditions, for reference.

Section 2.18 Privileged Communication

The Lead Entity and its employees, agents and representatives are clients of DFPS for purposes of the attorney-client privilege under Rule 503, Texas Rules of Evidence, as that privilege applies to communications with a prosecuting attorney or other attorney representing DFPS or that attorney's representative in a proceeding under this subtitle.



Exhibit I: Statement of Work Article III

Section 3.00 Phase II: Implementation of the CBC Rural Pilot Program

Section 3.01 Effective Date and Funding

Section 3.02 Implementation Activities

Section 3.03 Milestones, Deliverables and Contingencies

Section 3.04 Statutory Compliance and Departmental Compliance



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Exhibit M: Evaluation Tool

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 HHSC and DFPS.



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Submission of Exhibits

Applicants must complete and submit the exhibits in accordance with the RFA, Article IX, Submission Checklist.

[RFA Single Source Continuum Contract](#)



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Delivery for Submission Option

Applicant must correctly deliver Solicitation Responses by the method below:

- **Submission Option #1:** Applicant shall submit the application through the HHS Online Bid Room utilizing the procedures identified in Exhibit J, HHS Online Bid Room Instructions.
- **Submission Option #2 with USB Drives:** Applicants shall submit each of the following on separate USB drives to the correct mailing address, which is dependent upon mailing method identified in this section (see mailing address options in the RFA, Section 3.7.3, Required Submission Method).



Questions and Answers

All questions **must** be submitted in writing to the Sole Point of Contact using the formatting below from the RFA, Section 3.4.1 through 3.5:

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

Submit via email to: Edna.Fuentes2@dfps.Texas.gov **by 5:00PM on December 11, 2025**



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Question Deadline

- Questions are due by **5:00PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025.**
- Questions received after this deadline cannot be responded to.
- An addendum will be posted to the HHS Grants Website with the answers to questions **on or after December 23, 2025.**



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Closing Comments

- Applicants are responsible for meeting the RFA requirements, including any addendums.
- All Addendums must be signed and submitted with the original application.
- Applicants must check the HHS Grants website frequently for any addendums that may have been added to this solicitation.

HHS Grants Website

The direct link is: <https://resources.hhs.texas.gov/rfa/hhs0016279>



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Thank you!

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