



Autism Residential Programs: Call for Proposals

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDHS/DDD) requests proposals from community-based organizations with the capacity to meet specific needs of youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Pervasive Developmental Delay (PDD) with significant needs and/or behaviors associated with their diagnosis. A summary description is provided in the narrative below with further detail in subsequent sections of this Call for Proposals. If you are interested and able to submit a Proposal responsive to this Call, the State appreciates and welcomes your Proposal.

PLEASE NOTE:

This Call for Proposals is exempt from the requirements of the Illinois Procurement Code under the Purchase of Care exemption provided in 30 ILCS 500/1-10(b)(3). However, recipients will be required to complete each Department's specific contractual requirements, including any licensing requirements, prior to awarding a contract or grant agreement.

Brief Description:

DCFS is seeking 8 high end/treatment/medical foster homes, and DCFS and IDHS/DDD are seeking up to 32 congregate care beds (Qualified Residential Treatment Programs or group homes) for youth with a diagnosis of ASD who require unique and specific supports.

Scope of Need:

Proposals for both residential and community-based settings should include evidence-informed programs designed for delivering comprehensive supports and services, including, but not limited to:

- **Independent Living** (programming that supports the use of adaptive equipment, speech and occupational therapy, job support and training, education, community engagement, acquisition and improvement with daily living skills);
- **Social Skills** (pro-social skills training, social support, and relationship building);
- **Behavioral** (supports to manage behavioral needs, including, but not limited to, aggression, self-injurious behaviors, social/sexual behaviors, programming to support the development of positive behaviors);
- **Sensory Supports** (assessments and support to determine sensory needs, including needs for low lighting, sensory rooms, noise canceling supports, calming strategies);
- **Communication** (assessments and support to determine communication needs and programming to support use of social stories, scheduling supports, cuing supports, pictures and visual cues, use of adaptive equipment for communication);

- **Medical Monitoring Systems** (medical management of co-occurring diagnoses that impact ASD, including anxiety and depression, behavioral reactivity, self-injury, or seizures);
- **Home Modifications** (home modification needs, such as smaller homes/census, individual rooms, door alarms, window alarms, fenced areas, space for pacing, monitoring supports);
- **Nutrition Management** (individualized dietary treatments and supports that are based on the presence of food allergies or lack of vitamins and minerals that can exacerbate symptoms of ASD).

Please address each of the following:

- Brief statement expressing interest in providing services to youth with ASD who require unique and specific supports.
- Provide a brief profile of the agency, organization, and/or entity providing service, including:
 - A brief description of past/current experience in child welfare, human services, and social services; and
- Summary of past/current experience (including training, if appropriate) in delivery of specific interventions to youth with ASD, highlighting specific supports to promote: daily living skills, health, cognitive, behavioral, and social development. This should include outcome data that supports the stated level of experience.
- Responses to the following:
 - Who will deliver the programming? (description of staff roles)
 - How does the proposed programming offer a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery?
 - How will the specific ASD programming be delivered?
 - How will the programming ensure that youth with ASD are integrated into the larger community?
 - How will supervision be provided to support the program?
 - Where in the State will the work be delivered?
 - What is the projected client capacity, including age ranges?
 - A detailed program evaluation and continuous quality assurance plan.
- Cost analysis
 - Rate determination should include allocation for staffing and resources. Provider should consider the potential number of clients served per month and per fiscal year.

Proposals that do not adhere to the form and content of this Call for Proposal may not be considered.

Proposal Submission Deadline: January 31, 2022

Vendor Meeting: January 5, 2022 10:00AM (Webex link to follow)

Proposals should be sent to:

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