

Therapeutic Foster Home Programs and Services: Call for Proposals

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (“Department”) requests proposals from community-based organizations to meet the therapeutic foster care needs of its youth in care. The Department seeks to increase capacity to care for youth with significant emotional, behavioral health, social, and medical needs who require foster care living arrangements throughout the State of Illinois. A description of need 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 the Department’s specific contractual requirements, including licensing requirements, prior to awarding a contract or grant agreement.

Brief Description:

The Department acknowledges an increased need to expand Therapeutic Foster Home programs and services, as some youth require an intensive community-based therapeutic living experience. The emotional and behavioral health needs of these youth vary, but commonly these youth require a higher threshold of trauma support. These youth often have experienced multiple placements, brief periods of inpatient psychiatric care, inconsistent educational achievements, and/or law enforcement involvement; and require intensive support and/or a step-down resource from congregate care.

Scope of Need:

The Department is seeking proposals for Therapeutic Foster Home programs and services throughout the State of Illinois, for youth who are between the ages of 8 and 20 and have significant emotional, behavioral health, social, and medical needs. The Department is in need of additional community-based resources with the capacity, expertise, and innovative programming to provide immediate safety and well-being for youth with acutely high needs who require trauma-focused interventions. The emotional and behavioral health needs of these youth vary, but in all cases, these youth have a history of neglect, abuse, and/or dependency. This population of youth may have a history of multiple placements, brief periods of psychiatric in-patient care, involvement with delinquency activities, and recent trauma events. Therapeutic Foster Homes are expected to be able to provide a comprehensive array of trauma-informed services as well as foster and maintain a youth’s family connections and promote long-term permanency options. The Department seeks to minimize trauma for its youth in care by, among other things, providing a consistent safe environment; having a sustainable structured, normalized routine; and interventions that meets a youth’s mental health needs. Services should include trained foster parents who can manage youth with highly acute needs; intensive and on-demand therapeutic support; 24-hour crisis stabilization; medication monitoring; an enhanced education-support component; utilization of community-based enrichment activities; normalcy activities; support for family connections; collaboration with YouthCare HealthChoice Illinois; and intake services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Department currently needs Therapeutic Foster Home programs and services in each region of the State (Northern, Cook, Central, and Southern).

Please address each of the following:

- Brief statement expressing interest in providing Therapeutic Foster Home programs and services:
 - Provide a brief profile of the agency, organization, and/or entity, including a brief description of past/current work/experience in child welfare, human services, and social services
 - Experience in delivering home- or community-based services for youth, particularly for relative/kin caregivers
 - Experience delivering community-based, Medicaid-reimbursable behavioral health services, particularly crisis services (e.g., annual utilization/reimbursement)

- Responses to the following:
 - Who will deliver the programming? (description of staff roles)
 - How does the proposed programming collaborate with YouthCare HealthChoice Illinois?
 - How does the proposed programming offer a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery?
 - How will supervision be provided to support the program?
 - How will the proposed program provide or ensure crisis back-up 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?
 - How will the proposed program design incorporate Medicaid-reimbursable behavioral health services? What supports will enable the program to meet the needs of youth who have experienced psychiatric hospitalizations or require step-down from a congregate care facility?
 - What dedicated supports will enable the program to meet the needs of the caregivers serving youth with complex behavioral health needs? How will the proposed program incorporate “Kinship Navigator” type services and supports for family/kin caregivers?
 - Willingness to adhere to “no eject/no reject” admissions policy for appropriate referrals.
 - Where in the State will the work be delivered? Is there opportunity for expansion to other regions of the State?
 - 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, including separate cost allocations for “foster care” vs “therapeutic supports/services.” Provider should consider the number of clients served per month and per fiscal year.
 - Estimated service utilization (type of service and number of units) and projected annual Medicaid reimbursable services that will support program.

PROPOSALS THAT DO NOT ADHERE TO THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Proposal Submission Deadline:

April 30, 2022

Vendor Question & Answer Meeting:

March 21, 2022

Proposals should be sent to:

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