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Commissioner

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Juvenile Home Placement Services
Concept Paper

1. Purpose of Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Department of Probation (DOP) investigates youth who are arrested, prosecuted and found guilty of a delinquency matter in the Family Court. This investigation is presented to the court and proffers a sentence recommendation for each youth. The primary options are probation supervision or placement / incarceration. The court in New York City had relied heavily on State placement in large part because there was an untested expectation that placement was an effective rehabilitative tool and because there was a lack of other options within community probation supervision. The results of the DCJS study¹ concerning recidivism caused many to rethink the court's placement practice and seek options for better results.

Under the proposed RFP, the New York City Department of Probation ("Department") will be seeking an appropriately qualified vendor to provide juvenile home placement services.

At the beginning of the new administration, the concept was discussed as to how to improve the City's approach to dealing with delinquent youth. In July of 2002, NYC Department of Probation began a demonstration project focusing on structural changes to effect the court's decision making and then subsequently by providing an alternative to placement program. In May 2003, a new sentencing option was provided in the form of an intensive home-based intervention that works with young people and their families to keep youngsters functioning productively in their own communities.

This concept was developed in response to the high cost and negative outcomes of sending court-involved youth to out-of-home placements. It costs New York City tens of thousands of dollars a year to place adjudicated delinquent youth from the family court in confinement in facilities operated directly or under contract by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). Additionally, the State's own research indicates that youth discharged from OCFS

¹ Bruce Frederick, Ph.D., "Factors Contributing to Recidivism Among Youth Placed with The New York State Division for Youth," *New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services* (1999).

facilities have poor outcomes: within nine months of release, more than half these youth have been re-arrested. By thirty-six months after release, 81 percent of the boys and 45 percent of the girls are re-arrested.

The early results from this project demonstrate that:

- Over 65% of enrolled youth have successfully completed the program.
- Preliminary analysis suggests a reduction in re-arrests. Overall, the percentage of youth with new arrests has been consistently lower than the DCJS study.
- More than 50% of first 200 youth have remained out of placement within 24 months of release.

2. Planned Method of Evaluating Proposals

Proposals will be evaluated pursuant to evaluation criteria set out in the RFP. These will include the quality and quantity of successful relevant experience, demonstrated level of organizational capability, and quality of proposed program approach and design.

3. Procurement Timeline and Proposed Term of the Contract

It is anticipated that DOP will release an RFP for this procurement by the end of November 2007. The proposal submission deadline will be approximately 6-8 weeks from the release of the RFP. From the time the RFP is publicly released to the successful negotiation and registration of the contract, the procurement process is expected to take 6-9 months.

It is anticipated that one contract will be awarded with an anticipated contract term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. There will be one option to renew for an additional three year period.

4. Funding Information

It is anticipated that the available funding for the contract awarded from the RFP will be tax levy funds in the amount of **\$9,597,789.00** over the term of the contract which will be three (3) years with one option to renew for an additional three (3) year period. Greater consideration will be given to proposers that propose more competitive prices in combination with a high quality program.

The payment structure of the contract awarded from the RFP will be based on a combination of line-item budget reimbursement and milestone payments tied to outcomes.

5. Program Information

Juvenile Home Placement is a community-based alternative to detention program centered on a family-centered approach. To work productively with youth, service providers must also engage their caregiver(s) and other family members. The program's services are to be designed to assess, address and restructure the ways that parents and adolescents interact. As with several other research-tested models, such as Multi-Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy, this program is designed to enhance families' strengths and encourage communication among family members. These models (termed *Evidence-Based Intervention, EBI*) have been clinical models with over thirty years of research-tested results by the Surgeon General and the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The American Youth Policy Forum in partnership with National Urban League, the Child Welfare League of America, the National Crime Prevention Council, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and the National League of Cities published a comprehensive study of EBI model effectiveness in June 2000.

This service must incorporate the various institutions and individuals that have an on-going effect on the youth and family's life, including school, community-based activities and support services, and extended family and friends.

Services must include an intensive treatment intervention that provides therapeutic services in the home, ongoing case and crisis management. From the beginning of the youth's entry into the program, staff must focus on engaging the youth and family in the treatment process, developing goals that build on personal and family strengths, as well as addressing areas they would like to change.

Client Profile

Youth can enter the program through a disposition in Family Court in conjunction with Probation Supervision. Youth are identified and eligible for potential acceptance in the program only after the court has ordered an Exploration of Placement (EOP). An EOP entails sending the court ordered probation investigation and the court's psychiatric and psychological reports to all residential facilities for them to consider whether the youth would be acceptable to their program. Testing in NYC during the planning period demonstrated that this was the most reliable indicator that a youth was being seriously considered by the court for placement/incarceration, thus a truly placement bound juvenile. Youth sentenced to the program are also on probation supervision; the program and Probation supervise and provide services to the youth and family as a team.

Staffing

Field Supervisor (Clinical Director): Must possess 5 + years post graduate experience with clinical and forensic background with extensive experience working with at risk youth and families. Participates in the day to day management of the program and in the on-going development of the direct service intervention.

Field Counselors: Must possess Masters Degree and 9 years accumulated (internships through post graduate) experience providing direct services to youth and their families in their homes

and communities. Delivers an intensive treatment intervention that provides therapeutic services as well as ongoing case and crisis management.

Intake Staff: Must possess Bachelor's Degree with 1-3 years experience with at -risk, court involved or incarcerated youth. Will be interviewing youth and caregivers to determine youth eligibility for the program. Responsible for reviewing initial paperwork and requesting additional documentation as needed.

Administrative Staff: Must possess Law Degree with 5+ years supervisory experience with the day-to-day operations of a program.

Proposed Outcomes

- Number of youth successfully completing the program
- Number of youth successfully remaining in the community in lieu of placement.

6. Reporting requirements

The contractor would provide the Department with monthly progress reports on the program; ongoing analysis of placement-bound youth through data gathered on screened and assessed Exploration of Placements (EOP's) and post-program progress reports.

7. Comments

Please provide written comments to DOP at the following address post dated no later than **November 2, 2007**. Comments may be submitted by regular mail or e-mail to:

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