Foster Care Prevention Services

Request For Information (RFI)

Issued by:
The State of Missouri
Department of Social Services
Children’s Division

Issued on:
April 27, 2020

Responses are requested by:
May 29, 2020, by 2:00 pm (CDT)
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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Missouri Department of Social Services, Children’s Division (CD), is responsible for the administration of child welfare services. The mission of the Department of Social Services is to empower Missourians to live safe, healthy, and productive lives. The mission of Children’s Division is to protect Missouri children from abuse and neglect; assuring their safety and well-being by partnering with families, communities and government in an ethically, culturally and socially responsible manner.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 There is a need for partnerships alongside families in communities with local organizations, private providers, and other stakeholders to generate innovations alongside families to reduce the need for entry into foster care. As of March 31, 2020 in Missouri, there were 13,969 children in foster care out of home placement.

1.2.2 Passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of 2018 (Public Law 115-123, Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018) is an opportunity which offers exciting possibilities for Missouri. FFPSA highlights the importance of children growing up in families and seeks to avoid the traumatic experiences of children being separated from their families and entering foster care/out of home placement. The Act provides new options for states to use federal funds to ensure children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care, and their families, receive services early and within their communities to help prevent placing children in foster care/out of home placement by offering preventative services for a time limited period of 12 months. We look forward to concentrating and amplifying foster care prevention resources for evidenced-based prevention services, including specified mental health, substance abuse, and parenting education programs supported by the prevention clearinghouse (https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/). The Clearinghouse provides a listing of approved and rated programs as well as a listing of programs currently being reviewed. This RFI is to understand capacity in communities to provide evidenced based services to prevent the need for foster care and associated costs of administration of such prevention services.

2.0 Purpose of Request for Information (RFI)

2.1 The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information from service providers specific to Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) and trauma-informed services as outlined in the federal Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/). CD seeks information on interest and capacity of agencies and organizations to provide evidenced based prevention programs to families with children at imminent risk of placement in foster care. Children and youth may enter foster care related to various presenting situations. This RFI aspires to identify the array of programs that will achieve outcomes of preventing the need for entry into foster care out of home placement. Children’s Division requests a non-binding, rough order of magnitude estimate for service provision and for the length and cost of the proposed services. Information gathered will help to inform CD of services available throughout the state and align with Family First interventions and support the development of Missouri’s Family First Title IV-E Prevention Plan.

3.0 Scope of Work

3.1 Providers will receive referrals from local CD employees statewide if the family has been identified as being eligible for Family First prevention services.

3.2 CD will make a referral to the provider consistent with the family's needs related to the provider's evidence-based intervention focus.

Families may be eligible for this prevention and treatment services when:

a. Children or youth placed with a parent/caregiver who CD determines is at imminent risk of foster care and out of home placement but can be safe at home with prevention services;

b. Children and youth identified as needing services through an active investigation or assessment, to include non-court and court involved cases;
c. Children involved in a newborn crisis assessment where the mother or child had a positive toxicology screening during pregnancy or at the time of birth; or have identified concerns with the ability to parent the child;

d. Children or youth who have exited foster care through reunification, guardianship, or adoption and are at risk of disruption and re-entry to foster care;

e. Pregnant or parenting youth in foster care, or have exited foster care within the past five years, and their children;

f. Children and youth involved in an open Family Centered Services (FCS) or Intensive In Home Services (IIS) case and are at risk of entering foster care;

g. Siblings of children or youth in foster care who still reside in the family home with identified safety concerns and are at risk of entering foster care; and

h. Children or youth who have severe emotional, developmental, or behavioral concerns and are unable to remain safely in the home absent preventative services, and are at risk of entering foster care.

3.3 Prevention services in this scope are allowable for up to twelve (12) months with no limit on how many times a child or family can receive prevention and treatment services if the child continues to be at risk of entry into foster care out of home placement. Evidenced based programs in mental health, substance use, and parent skill building in the prevention clearinghouse https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/ will be considered as well as emerging or otherwise evidenced based approaches with impact to prevent entry into foster care. Program outcomes, client level data, and various reporting elements for each child or youth served through this program will be required.

4.0 Submission Requirements

4.1 Response Submission Date, Time, and Format

4.1.1 Interested respondents should submit one (1) electronic copy of their response by email as an attachment to the Designated Point of Contact no later than 2:00 PM (CDT) on May 29, 2020. Please include “RFI Response” in the subject line of the email.

4.2 Response Outline Guideline

4.2.1 This RFI seeks information from respondents on their vision and recommendations regarding services, technical components, and procurement. Responses should be complete when submitted and should clearly describe the respondents' ability to address the overall scope of work noted in Section 3 and the guidelines and questions specified in Section 4 of this RFI.

4.2.2 Responses should contain the sections identified in Table 1 and include, at a minimum, the information required herein.

**Table 1: RFI Response Outline and Page Limit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Appendix A – Vendor Response Cover Page</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>Organization Summary</td>
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<td>Response to RFI Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Duties, Services, and Technology Spread Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Detailed outline of estimated implementation time and costs. Please include these costs, any initial start-up, and on-going estimated costs of operations.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Any additional information your organization would like to share regarding your services.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.3 Response to RFI Questions

4.3.1 CD requests each respondent to provide responses to the following questions regarding prevention services as defined in above Section 3.0. Respondents should copy the questions below into the response and provide the response immediately following each question.

a. What evidence based programs from the prevention clearinghouse do you currently offer and what capacity do you have to continue offering these programs?

b. What additional prevention services (mental health, substance abuse treatment services, and/or in-home parenting services) do you currently provide? Are you trained/certified in these services?

c. What evidence based prevention services (mental health, substance abuse treatment services, and/or in-home parenting services) do you plan to, have an interest in, or have capacity to provide at a later time?

d. Are you interested in partnering with CD for service provision?

e. What location/counties do your services currently cover and/or would you be willing to cover?

f. Describe how you incorporate a trauma informed practice into the services you currently provide?

g. Describe your current program structure including caseload numbers, duration of services, intensity of services, target populations, and eligibility criteria.

5.0 Procedures and Instructions

5.1 RFI Submission

5.1.1 As noted herein, the purpose of this RFI is to gather information regarding prevention services for the Missouri Children’s Division, which administers the child welfare services. This RFI does not constitute a solicitation of proposals, a commitment to conduct procurement, an offer to contract, or a prospective contract. The descriptions in this RFI are tentative and may change prior to the procurement of services.

5.1.2 The State of Missouri is not liable for any costs incurred by respondents to produce and submit a response to the RFI for CD. The CD will acknowledge the receipt of responses and reserves the right to request any respondent to provide an on-site presentation regarding the prevention services.

5.2 Designated Point of Contact

The Department of Social Services Point of Contact for this RFI is:
Division of Finance and Administrative Services - Procurement Unit
615 Howerton Court/P.O. Box 1643
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1643
Email: maryann.morrison@dss.mo.gov

5.3 Public Information

5.3.1 All submitted responses to the RFI will be subject to Missouri’s Sunshine Law and will be shared upon request or will be made publicly available on the State of Missouri’s website.

a. More information regarding the Missouri Sunshine Law can be found at http://www.ago.mo.gov/missouri-law/sunshine-law.

5.4 Disclaimers and Disclosure of Proposal Content and Proprietary Information

5.4.1 All Information received from respondents becomes the property of the State of Missouri and the Department of Social Services (DSS), Children’s Division (CD), and Office of Administration-Information Technology Services Division (OA-ITSD).
Appendix A – Vendor Response Cover Page

Respondent's Name__________________________________________________________________________________

Respondent's Physical Address________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________ State_____ Zip Code (include 4 digit add on) ________________________

Respondent's Contact Person________________________________________________________________________

Phone Number & Area Code _________________________Fax Number & Area Code___________________________

E-Mail Address __________________________________________Website Address______________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Authorized Signature of Respondent                      Date Signed

_______________________________________________________________

Typed Name and Title of Authorized Signatory