



Attachment 1

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Child Welfare Grants and Contracts

Requests for Proposal 2018



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OBJECTIVE: Improve accountability, oversight, fiscal responsibility; eliminate conflicts of interest; focus on quality services; listen; provide client-centered care, needs-based services; increase competition and innovation; empower foster homes, kin, providers and families; safely reduce the number of children in out-of-home care; promote permanency in child-time, preferably with family, if safely possible

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS: Moving forward, the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) will be offering two child welfare grants, and one contract—Family Preservation, Foster Care and Placement Matching System.

Family Preservation This grant will feature three levels of service intensity, based on family needs. The more intense the need, the more DCF requires of the grantee regarding services to families, and rates will differ based on intensity of service needed. Previously, this contract was one-size-fits all, and intensity of services wasn't defined by the State. Now, DCF will determine how often providers are in the home working with the family. Additionally, this allows for short-term crisis services and longer-term chronicity to be addressed. This grant will drive the outcomes that the agency wants to see—healthy, thriving families.

Placement Matching System This contract will require every licensed foster home or residential bed, to be entered into a single system, regardless of which Child Placing Agency (CPA) sponsors the home. Additionally, this system will capture the placement abilities and characteristics. When a child is in need of placement, the system will look at all open, licensed beds, that meet a child's needs in a given zip code, and it will provide the top three to five placements. If these placements don't work, the search criteria is expanded until placement is found. Currently, each provider has its own separate system, and the state does not readily have available data. This new system will ensure foster homes, who can meet a child's needs, will be called, regardless of sponsoring agency. In fact, foster homes and residential providers will be contacted directly to decide if they want a placement, providing them more of a voice in the placement process. DCF will monitor this system to ensure children's needs are being met, and they are remaining in their home communities, when possible. If a provider doesn't select the top-rated placement option, they will be required to explain why other choices are in the best interest of the child. This will directly minimize any conflict of interest concerns that currently exist. The matching system will allow DCF to know the location of children in foster care, in real time, without so much reliance on providers. Additionally, the matching system will be housed internally and will capture electronic records for the youth that are in the foster care system, allowing the State to have all necessary data readily available.

Foster Care/Case Management This grant will be focused on supporting children and families, promoting permanency and being responsive to the courts. It will also set caseload requirements for all areas of care, and it identifies specific, required assessments and services to include trauma-informed care. There will be clearly spelled out minimum services required under reintegration and adoption. This grant will also focus on the family by enhancing requirements of services to be provided to the entire family. New grantees will be required to use the Placement Management System. The new grant structure will contain costs, allowing negotiation of changes only if there is a substantial change in caseloads. Additionally, caseload sizes will not be allowed to exceed 25-30, per case manager, for foster care/reintegration/adoption cases, and 50, per case manager, for aftercare cases.

The Child Welfare Grants Will Also Feature the Following:

INCREASED DCF INVOLVEMENT: The new grants and contracts will also feature increased DCF involvement and increased oversight of grantees to ensure quality, timely services are provided to clients. Previously, there has been a lack of accountability for contractors, and a hands-off approach was taken towards overseeing these contracts. With the new grants, DCF will be involved in every aspect of the child welfare system. The grants also allow for DCF to contract directly with Child Placing Agencies (CPAs), groups homes and residential homes, increasing communication between the agency and those that work to place children. In the current contracts, providers oversee all placement work, and DCF doesn't have a direct relationship with CPA's. Payments will be made for placements, based on the needs of children and the services provided.

Case management will use evidence-based trauma screening and assessment tools This will help best determine the needs and services of children and families.

Increased quality assurance, compliance monitoring and corrective actions

Reimbursements will be based on set rates determined through negotiations, but will accept limited administration rates. Major controls and oversight will be in place to ensure quality, timely services are provided. DCF will oversee cases at set points in time. We're realigning our internal resources with this plan in mind. We will provide consistent, purposeful oversight.

Contracting directly with CPAs This will redistribute administrative costs and allow DCF to communicate directly with CPAs, foster families and residential providers. Moving forward, providers will be on call and will take evening placements. Right now, DCF depends on contractors to have this communication and oversight of placements and CPA work.

Established DCF advisory board An advisory board, made up of youth in custody, biological families, foster parents, providers and aged-out youth will be established to communicate directly with the DCF Secretary. The advisory board will provide updates, suggestions and feedback to improve how the agency serves the children and families of

Kansas. This advisory board is part of two additional child welfare RFPs—Caregiver Support Association and Family Support Network. Both of these grants will provide much-needed support and services to biological families, foster parents and other caregivers in the state.

ESTABLISHED RATE SETTINGS: Currently, CPAs only get paid if placement occurs, so there is no real incentive to grow families or resources. Moving forward, reimbursement will be made for placements that are based on the needs of children and the services provided—emphasizing cost-based reimbursement. With this new grant, DCF can control/monitor costs more, getting monies to the right place, instead of getting caught up in administrative fees and indirect costs. We are maximizing provider involvement and minimizing the administrative rate any provider can collect. Administrative costs will also be redistributed, ensuring that all CPAs assist with the training, recruitment and support of foster homes in Kansas. A major difference will be for relative/kin placements. Currently, they receive approximately \$2 per day, but this new grant will allow for relative and kin homes, meeting criteria, to receive \$10 per day— incentivizing relative placements. The goal is to have 50 percent of placements be with relative and kin, and keep children with their families, when safely possible.

SMALLER CATCHMENT AREAS: To better level caseloads across the state, the Foster Care Grant establish smaller catchment areas. The Family Preservation Grant will continue with four catchment areas, aligning with the four DCF Regions, and the Foster Care Grant establishes eight catchment areas. These smaller catchment areas will drive up competition and quality of care, bringing more community providers and partners to the table.

TIMELINE:

Request for Information (RFI) In April, we gathered information regarding what the public would like to ensure is addressed in the new contracts. The public was able to submit feedback online, or in person at the DCF Administration Building. We received more than 393 submissions, and will be viewable on the DCF Public Website by 8 a.m., Friday, June 1. Currently, we have a form on our public website allowing stakeholders to submit concerns, thoughts and feedback about the upcoming transition to ensure a smooth transition and a continuity of services. We will catalog those submissions and take them into consideration as we move forward with the new child welfare grantees.

Request for Proposal (RFP) Posted – May 31, 2018

Request for Proposal submissions due – August 9, 2018

Presentations – October

Enter negotiations – October

Award grants – No later than October 31, 2018

Enter contract (transition to new contractor) – January 2019

New contracts begin – July 2019