

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**  
**FOR**  
**RESIDENTIALLY BASED SERVICES (RBS)**  
**DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

**Los Angeles County**  
**Department of Children and Family Services**  
**Contracts Administration Division**  
**425 Shatto Place, Room 400**  
**Los Angeles, California 90020**

**Issued: September 15, 2008**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**  
**Residentially Based Services Demonstration Project**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to determine the extent of interest in participating in a Residentially Based Services (RBS) Demonstration project for “high needs” County of Los Angeles (County) Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) youth currently in, or approved for placement in RCL 12 or 14 residential facilities.
- 1.2 The County RBS Demonstration Project integrates the principles and practices of Family Finding, Engagement, Preparation and Support (FFEPS) and Wraparound Services within residential care. FFEPS is the process of finding disconnected family members and reconnecting youth in order to build relationships with healthy adults who can have an ongoing, meaningful presence in their lives. Once a family member is found, often that individual can provide connections to other family who can make up a secure safety net and can often lead to permanency. Wraparound Services is an integrated, multi-agency, community-based system grounded in a philosophy of unconditional commitment to support families to safely and competently care for their children. The County believes that by integrating FFEPS and Wraparound Services within its residential care service program, it will result in shorter residential stays and better outcomes of safety, reducing the timelines to permanency, and reducing recidivism.

**2.0 BACKGROUND ON THE RBS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

- 2.1 In 2007, Assembly Bill 1453 (AB 1453) called for a transformation of the current structure and system of congregate care based in Group Homes currently prevalent in California. AB 1453 was signed into law and authorized the selection of four counties or consortia which, with private partners, would implement alternative program and funding models to transform group homes from long-term *placements* to planned, short-term and individualized *interventions*.
- 2.2 Los Angeles County was one of the counties selected to develop an RBS plan with provider and community input. The County intends to implement these services on or about January 2009.

The estimated total number of DCFS youth projected for the demonstration project will be approximately 200, over a two-year period.

- 2.3 The RBS Demonstration Project is designed to improve outcomes for foster children by enhancing the provided quality of services, and scope of care, with the specific objective of reducing the length of stay in residential care and expediting permanency. RBS providers will implement FFEPS and a Child and Family Team (CFT) for each child and family in the RBS program, and will have flexible funds available to provide individualized services. The CFT develops, implements, monitors and revises, as needed, uniquely tailored child and family Plans of Care (POC). The POCs include strategies for treatment and family work during residential services, and support for transitioning the child to and maintaining them in a safe, nurturing, permanent, community-based setting.

### **3.0 QUALIFIED AGENCIES**

To qualify, at time of response to the RFI, an agency must meet the following qualifications:

- a) Must be a current County of Los Angeles Group Home Foster Care Services contractor with Rate Classification Level (RCL) rate 12 or 14 residential facility (not including Community Treatment Facility).
- b) Must have a current County Wraparound Services contract with the County of Los Angeles.
- c) Must commit a minimum of 16 RCL 12 or 14 beds at one facility/site for each of the two years of the RBS Demonstration Project.
- d) The RCL 12 or 14 facility must be located within Los Angeles County.
- e) Must currently have at least 16 DCFS youth residing in the same facility/site at the time of the response deadline to the RFI.
- f) Must be able to provide community-based services in any area located within the boundaries of Los Angeles County.
- g) Must have a Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) contract for community-based mental health services.
- h) Must meet at least two of the following readiness criteria for the RBS Demonstration Project:
  - i. Have at least one year of FFEPS experience during the 12 months prior to the response deadline to this RFI.
  - ii. Have been a regular participant in the County's Residentially Based Services Workgroup and/or the RBS Collaborative which grew out of the Workgroup.

- iii. Have a DMH contract for Full Service Partnerships (FSP) slots for children and/or transition-age youth (TAY).
  - iv. Have a DMH contract for other home-based intensive mental health services for children, including but not limited to System of Care (SOC), Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), and Comprehensive Children's Services Programs (CCSP).
- i) Must be in good standing. Good standing shall mean that the provider must not have his or her facility Group Home Foster Care AFDC/FC rate terminated during the 12-months prior to the response deadline to this RFI. In addition, the provider's Group Home license or Wraparound contract must not be on hold status or have been on hold status during the 12-months prior to the response deadline to this RFI. Furthermore, the provider must not have had a compliance plan with the CDSS' Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD), with DCFS' Out of Home Care Division, or with DCFS' Multi-Agency Services Division, or a Corrective Action Plan with the County of Los Angeles during the 12 months prior to the response deadline to this RFI.

#### **4.0 DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

Desirable Qualifications may include any or all of the following:

- a) A nationally-recognized defined clinical model for a therapeutic milieu that supports family and community involvement.
- b) The capacity to dedicate a minimum of 32 ongoing beds at each facility for each of the two years of the Demonstration Project.
- c) A history of involvement in a network or networks of community-based services which serve large areas of the County.
- d) A current DCFS contract for a Foster Family Agency or an Intensive Treatment Foster Care or Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care services.

#### **5.0 REQUEST AND FORMAT FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

The County is interested in requesting Statements of Interest (SOI) from qualified agencies to implement and administer the RBS Demonstration Project in providing individualized intervention youth who is currently in, or at imminent risk of placement at RCL 12 or 14 residential facilities.

**TO ENSURE FULL CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNTY, INTERESTED PARTIES ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN SOI NOT TO EXCEED A MAXIMUM OF 10 PAGES (INCLUDING ALL ATTACHMENTS), IN THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:**

5.1 Introduction Letter

The introduction letter should be on the Agency's Letterhead, be brief, concise, and must be typed. The introduction letter must include: (1) Full Legal Name, (2) Type of entity, (public/private or nonprofit), (3) Agency's Director Name (if applicable), (4) Mailing Address, and (5) Contact person's name, phone and fax numbers, and email address.

5.2 Interested Party's Experience and Capabilities

Interested parties should provide: (1) their history of providing RCL 12 or 14 residential care, FFEPS, and Wraparound services, (2) how they plan to implement the RBS Demonstration Project, and (3) how they will create a "continuum of services" within their agency and within the community.

**False, misleading, incomplete, deceptively unresponsive statements, and missing documents/exhibits in connection with an SOI shall be sufficient cause for rejection of an Agency's SOI.**

**6.0 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

The County is interested in submissions from qualified agencies with the capability to implement and administer this RBS Demonstration Project. SOI should be in writing and received at the following address **by 6:00 P.M. on or before Tuesday, September 30, 2008:**

Walter Chan, Contracts Manager  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Children and Family Services  
Contracts Administration Division  
425 Shatto Place, Room 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90020

**After receipts of the SOI, the County may do one of the following:**

1. Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) to select contractors for this program;
2. Negotiate contract with a limited number of qualified providers who have demonstrated capability and who express interest in this program; or
3. Take no further action.

**DISCLAIMER:**

**NOTHING IN THIS DOCUMENT SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS OBLIGATING THE COUNTY TO ISSUE AN RFP, RFSQ, OR NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR RBS.**

This RFI is issued solely for the purpose of collecting information and for planning purposes. It does not constitute a solicitation for contracting, and should not be construed as a Request for Proposals (RFP), or a Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFSQ). All information received in response to this RFI shall become the exclusive property of the County of Los Angeles. DCFS reserves the right to incorporate into any future solicitation or contract, information or ideas that are found in the responses to this RFI. Moreover, all responses to this RFI shall become a matter of public record, and shall be regarded as such. Exceptions will be those elements marked "trade secret," "confidential," or "proprietary" as described in the California Government Code, Section 6250 et. Seq. (Public Records Act). The County shall not in any way be liable or responsible for the disclosure of such records, without limitation and including those so marked, if disclosure is required by law, or by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.