

## **SCOPE OF SERVICES SUMMARY**

### Purpose:

The proposed facility and/or facilities would be a licensed 72-hour transitional shelter care facility for children, ages from two (2) days to 21 years, who have been removed from their parent(s) or guardian(s) due to abuse and/or neglect, and who are awaiting an appropriate placement. The facility would operate on a 24/7 basis.

The goal for the contractor will be to provide care and supervision for children and youth awaiting placement for periods up to 72 hours. One of the primary goals of this placement is to reduce the trauma of removal and/or placement disruption by providing a safe place with caring staff for children, and thus allow for DCFS to focus on finding the most appropriate placement.

The facility staff will make every attempt to minimize the mental and emotional trauma experienced by the child and his parents/caretakers, as a result of their sudden separation from each other and because of circumstances which led to the child's removal. Further, the facility staff will care for the child and prepare them for out-of-home placement, or for any other plan developed for him/her, to include returning to their parents/guardians' custody.

There will be important objectives considered when a child is admitted to the facility, and one of the primary objectives is to ensure that the time spent at the facility is as brief as possible. The facility will admit only those children who cannot be cared for in the home of parents, relatives, or with an emergency shelter foster parent. A further objective is to provide a treatment oriented setting where emphasis is placed on providing children with a supportive and nurturing setting, in which the trauma experienced as a result of having been abused, neglected, or abandoned and removed from their homes is immediately addressed. With a direct service assessment and crisis intervention capability, the facility staff working in a multi-disciplinary team approach, will formulate objectives and goals, which will assist the child after he/she leaves the facility to a more permanent placement. Additionally, the facility will have the capability to respond to Court requirements at all times.