



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SERIES #3
FOR
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST RESPONSES
(LICENSED CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY PER DIEM PROVIDERS)

Question 1: Is the Department issuing this notice because they do not project having enough bed capacity in their current CPA contracts?

Answer 1: No, The Department is issuing an Expression of Interest in compliance with procurement requirements per COMAR 21.14.01.04.

Question 2: Is the Department issuing this notice because they wish to downsize the number of CPA providers for Independent Living?

Answer 2: No, The Department is not issuing the Expression of Interest due to downsizing CPA providers for Independent Living services.

Question 3: Why do providers currently serving this population in either ILP or TFC, who have a contract to provide this service, have to re-apply?

Answer 3: The current contract will expire on June 30, 2016. In compliance with COMAR, all provider wishing to continue to serve youth with DHR must submit a response to the Expression of Interest. DHR is issuing the Expression of Interest in compliance with COMAR 21.14.01.04 for non-competitive negotiated procurements. DHR is has not been subject to this procurement method in the past. DBM is requiring that DHR utilize this method moving forward.

Question 4: The Expression of Interest has no pre-bidders conference, criteria for scoring the submission or clarity on what the Department wants. Could you suggest a guideline on what you would like to see in the narrative description, including headings with content requirements?

Answer 4: The Expression of Interest response should include verification of a valid license which indicates that the program is in good standing with the appropriate licensing agency, organizational structure, a description of the program (s) that an agency is intending to provide services for; population to be served; numbers of youth to be served; and jurisdiction were services are rendered.

Question 5: Is there a minimum or maximum page capacity?

Answer 5: No, there is not minimum or maximum page capacity for the response.

Question 6: Are you expecting a budget based on a certain census/bed capacity?

Answer 6: No, as the rates for programs are provided by the IRC.

Question 7: Why is the Department issuing an expression of interest when the present CPA providers are not at capacity?

Answer 7: The expression of interest is a noncompetitive negotiated procurement method used per COMAR 21.14.01.04 to procure group foster care services for children or adults under a negotiated rate system. Providers are required as the current contract will end on June 30, 2016 to submit a letter of response and provide the requested information to move forward with contracting for FY17. This is the first instance that DHR is utilizing this method of procurement for CPA Providers. DHR has been directed by DBM to utilize this method to procure the CPA services.

Question 8: Does the Department know what bed capacity they need for ILP and TFC?

Answer 8: DHR is looking at trends of placements for the past three years and based on the trends will determine the capacity need for the department.

Question 9: Does the Department have a budget projection for ILP and TFC services statewide or by jurisdiction?

Answer 9: Budgets are appropriated yearly for the State. As with FY 2016, the State will have an appropriated budget for FY2017. DHR will monitor its spending for services and if required, will request additional money from the Board of Public works to ensure that all services to youth continue and providers are compensated consistent with their contracts.

Question 10: Our facility is licensed for 8 unrelated people, how can our organization participate?

Answer 10: The Expression of Interest is being issued for private child placement agencies. These agencies provide treatment foster care

and independent living services for children. No private individual or group may legally provide these services in Maryland without receiving a license from the Maryland State Department of Human Resources, Office of Licensing and Monitoring. In order for an agency to respond to the Expression of Interest, they shall have an appropriate and current child placement agency license issued by the Administration. As applicable, the agency shall comply with one or more of the following COMAR chapters:

- (a) COMAR 07.02.21 Treatment Foster Care,
- (b) COMAR 07.05.02 Private Foster Care, and
- (c) COMAR 07.05.04 Independent Living

Question 11: Please let me know do we need counselors?

Answer 11: Per COMAR 07.05.01.14 (B) - Specific Position Qualifications. The agency shall employ a Chief Administrator and a sufficient number of qualified employees to perform administrative, supervisory, placement, supportive, and professional services to meet the needs of the population to be served.

Question 12: How do you pay?

Answer 12: For each child placed by the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS), the allowance for services and the maximum number of child care beds of services, if any, are paid by the Department as set by the Inter Agency Rates Committee (IRC). Contractors will be compensated based on (a) the per diem rate, which is the actual number of days, per month, a child is in the Contractor's care.

Question 13: Does the most recent amendment on eMaryland Marketplace change the date due for ILP programs only? If this so, ILP submissions should get to DHR by 10/22/15 and TFC submissions by 10/16/15. Please clarify,

Answer 13: All responses (TFC and ILP) to the Expression of Interest are due by 3:30pm on Friday, October 23, 2015.