March 27, 2020

RE: Program Inquiry
Maryland Residential Child Care Providers

Dear Provider:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is requesting Program Inquiry responses from per diem residential child care (RCC) providers who are currently licensed by DHS under COMAR 14.31.05, and by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) under COMAR 10.22.02 and 10.21.07, who provide or who are able to and interested in providing community-based residential programs for youth ages 5–11, who require an up to 14 day intake and observation period prior to placement into a per-diem residential child care program. Due to the current State of Emergency, DHS has identified the immediate need for these services. The RCC programs will need to meet all regulatory requirements set out in COMAR 14.31.05 and 06, and, as applicable, 14.31.07.10 (Services to Pregnant Adolescents), 10.22.02 and 10.21.07.

Background and Purpose:

DHS has implemented significant safety and health procedures to support our youth and staff as we adapt to the COVID-19 state of emergency. Specifically, we are implementing procedures and protocols that are consistent with the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and MDH. Implementing effective health and safety procedures is even more critical in congregate care facilities that serve youth and vulnerable populations. DHS is committed to making certain that youth who are placed in RCC programs are transferred to those programs with the youth’s health and safety in mind, as well as that of all the program’s current population and staff.

DHS has identified an emergency need for youth that require shelter placement or transfer from one facility to another to be placed in a short-term residential program for observation and screening prior to admission to a longer-term placement. The short term residential placement will be responsible for providing residential care to youth while observing a youth’s health status related to COVID-19 symptoms as identified by the CDC and MDH.

Requested Program Services:

DHS is seeking licensed community-based RCC programs to provide:

1. Intake/pre-placement programming for up to 14 days.
3. Appropriate programming in accordance with DHS contracts, policies and regulations, unless waived.
4. Services necessary to implement guidelines as provided by the CDC and MDH, and any emergency executive orders.
DHS seek programs to serve the following population:

1. Youth committed to DHS for placement who require a short-term intake and observation placement prior to admission to a longer-term placement;
2. Youth age 5-11 years; and
3. Youth from all regions of the State

Compensation:

DHS will provide compensation pursuant to provider’s per diem contract. Cost for services outside of the established Interagency Rate Commission (IRC) rate will require pre-authorization and the related reimbursement will be negotiated with each program selected.

Providers responding to this Program Inquiry request shall include general information regarding implementation of the CDC, MDH and Executive Emergency Order guidance; including but not limited to staffing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), description of physical plant, social distancing, medical and behavioral health support, and youth programming.

Please indicate your intent by submitting a response to the program inquiry via e-mail with information regarding your program and organization and how you will meet the COMAR standards and provide these services. Responses must be received by the DHS no later than 3:30 PM on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

Additionally, DHS will host a web-based call/video conference on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 3:30pm to respond to questions regarding this program inquiry. If you would like to participate in the call, please respond to the email below and the call-in information will be provided.

Submit letters via email to:

Sandra Johnson
Procurement Officer
Department of Human Services
311 W. Saratoga Street, 9th fl.
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
EMAIL: sandy.johnson@maryland.gov

Please email me at the above address if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Sandra Johnson
Procurement Officer