



**Maryland's Center for Excellence (CfE)
in Foster Family Development**

**Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)
Overview for Preproposal Conference**

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CfE Overview

- The Administration for Families and Children (ACF), Health and Human Services Children's Bureau awarded DHS a four-year grant to create a Center for Excellence in Foster Family Development (CfE), the only one of these grants awarded in the country.
- The Maryland Center for Excellence in Foster Family Development is implementing a **pilot program** for the engagement, development, and support of resource (foster and kin) families.
- The goal of the CfE is to **promote reunification** of children with their families of origin and to **minimize congregate care placements** by providing resource parents with **enhanced support** services.
- **Implemented in 5 local sites** (Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County).

CfE Goals and Objectives

1. Improve **retention rates** and agency **relationships** with resource families;
2. Increase numbers of resource families prepared to provide **enhanced supports** to children and their families towards reunification;
3. **Develop resource families** in the **neighborhoods and communities** children in foster care most come from and where those children will be placed to prevent additional trauma to children;
4. Comprehensive **biological family support** services and **timely, stable reunifications**;
5. Improve **permanency stability**, family and **community connections**, and **well-being outcomes** for children placed with resource families; and
6. Reduce **inappropriate use of congregate care**.

What is CfE MRSS?

- Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) will **use federal funds** awarded to the State of Maryland by the ACF, Children's Bureau.
- Provide **crisis stabilization services in the home within one hour** after the placement of the child/youth into foster care and **stabilization services up to 8 weeks** if needed. **Stabilization services may or may not be needed if the child/youth returns home** as part of the CfE model's reunification goal.
- **Crisis Assessment Tool (CAT)** to provide an immediate assessment of the child/youth who is placed in a foster home.
- Serve up to **30 youth per jurisdiction** across the contract year. The caseload may be less for the smaller jurisdictions (Frederick and Carroll).
- The CfE will offer MRSS as one of the main supports to resource parents and children/youth participating in the pilot.
- MRSS model **does not currently exist in the State of Maryland**. The CfE will be the **first to pilot this process** in Maryland.

Deliverables and Reporting

| Deliverable | Service Description | Due |
|--|---|---|
| Crisis Assessment Tool (CAT) | Completed at initial assessment | Within 24 hours <u>after</u> service delivery |
| Crisis/Safety Care Plan | Completed for initial crisis | Within 72 hours <u>after</u> service delivery |
| Stabilization Plan | Outline of services to be provided during the stabilization period | Within 72 hours <u>prior to</u> the implementation of the service |
| Outcomes Report | Contractor will submit the report upon completion of MRSS services for each youth | Within 5 business days <u>after</u> the service ends |
| CfE MRSS Quarterly Report Template | Contractor will submit in accordance with Contract guidelines | <u>Quarterly</u> on or before the 15th day of October, January, April, and July |
| CfE MRSS Evaluation Tracking Tool Template | Client and Family Satisfaction Survey LDSS Satisfaction Survey | 90-days prior to the <u>end of the contract</u> |

MHSS VS MRSS

- **Mental Health Stabilization Services (MHSS)**
 - referrals are made and defined by child welfare
 - funding stream is **state general funds**
- **CfE MRSS is a pilot program**
- **Statewide MRSS is the end goal integrating the same best practice/model as CfE MRSS**
 - MHSS to be replaced by MRSS, **bridging them together in alignment for the future statewide practice** of providing crisis and stabilization services
 - **One model**, streamlining in time
 - MDH/BHA and DHS/SSA **working together to align the process**

Closing Remarks

- Maryland is the **only state in the country to receive the CfE grant**, model to be used statewide, ultimately best practice for other states to follow
- The **caseload is minimum** at present
- Opportunity to be at the **Frontend of new model**
- As a vendor you have a chance to be a part of **transformational change in child welfare** as the MRSS best practice model will be integrated and implemented statewide.

