



# ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROCUREMENT INFORMATION	
<b>RFP Number:</b> 2008-100-06	<b>RFP Title:</b> <i>Permanency Project</i>
<b>Proposal Due Date and Time:</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thursday, May 01, 2008</i>            12:00 p.m., Central Time</p>	<b>Number of Pages:</b> 33
<b>Procurement Officer:</b> <p style="text-align: center;">Starr Stewart            Phone: (334) 353-4744            E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:starr.stewart@dhr.alabama.gov">starr.stewart@dhr.alabama.gov</a>            Website: <a href="http://www.dhr.alabama.gov">http://www.dhr.alabama.gov</a></p>	<b>Issue Date:</b> <i>Thursday, March 20, 2008</i>
	<b>Issuing Division:</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Family Services</i></p>

INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS	
<b>Submit Proposal to:</b>  Starr Stewart – Policy, Planning and Research Alabama Department of Human Resources Gordon Persons Building, Room 2344 50 Ripley Street Montgomery, AL 36130-4000	<b>Label Envelope/Package:</b>  <b>RFP Number:</b> 2008-100-06 <b>Response Due Date:</b> <i>Thursday, May 01, 2008</i>  <b>Special Instructions:</b>

VENDOR INFORMATION	
(Fill in the information fields below and return this form with RFP response)	
<b>Vendor Name/Address:</b>	<b>Authorized Vendor Signatory:</b>
	(Please print name and sign in ink)
<b>Vendor Phone Number:</b> (    )	<b>Vendor FAX Number:</b> (    )
<b>Vendor Federal I.D. Number:</b>	<b>Vendor E-mail Address:</b>
Indicate whether this proposal is an original or a copy. <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Copy	
<b>Trade Secret Declarations:</b> ( <u>reference section/page(s) of trade secret declarations</u> )	

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## VENDOR'S RFP CHECKLIST

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Read the entire document.** Note critical items such as: mandatory requirements; supplies/services required; submittal dates; number of copies required for submittal; licensing requirements; contractual requirements (i.e., contract performance security, insurance requirements, performance and/or reporting requirements, etc.).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Note the procurement officer's name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address.** This is the only person you are allowed to communicate with regarding the RFP.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Attend the pre-proposal conference** if one is offered. These conferences provide an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, obtain a better understanding of the project, or to notify the Department of any ambiguities, inconsistencies, or errors in the RFP.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Take advantage of the “question and answer” period.** Submit your questions to the procurement officer by the due date listed in the Schedule of Events and view the answers given in the formal “addenda” issued for the RFP. All addenda issued for an RFP are posted on the Department’s website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) and will include all questions asked and responses concerning the RFP.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Follow the format required in the RFP** when preparing your response. Provide point-by-point responses to all sections in a clear and concise manner.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **Provide complete answers/descriptions.** Read and answer **all** questions and requirements. Don’t assume the Department or evaluation committee will know what your company capabilities are or what items/services you can provide, even if you have previously contracted with the Department. The proposals are evaluated based solely on the information and materials provided in your response.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **Use the forms provided**, i.e., cover page, budget forms, certification forms, etc.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ **Check the Department’s website for RFP addenda.** It is the vendor’s responsibility to check the Department’s website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) for any addenda issued for this RFP, no further notification will be provided.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **Review and read the RFP document again** to make sure that you have addressed all requirements. Your original response and the requested copies must be identical and be complete. The copies are provided to the evaluation committee members and will be used to score your response.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **Submit your response on time.** Note all the dates and times listed in the Schedule of Events and within the document, and submit all required items on time. Late proposal responses are *never* accepted.

**This checklist is provided for assistance only and should not be submitted with Vendor’s response.**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

*The following RFP Schedule of Events represents the Department's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. Unless otherwise specified, the time of day for the following events shall be between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Central Time. The Department reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule, as it deems necessary. Notification of any adjustment to the Schedule of Events shall be posted on the Department's website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) as detailed in Section 1.5.3 of this RFP. Vendors should refer to the website periodically for changes to the RFP.*

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>RFP Issue Date.....</b>	<b>March 20, 2008</b>
<b>Deadline for Receipt of Written Questions.....</b>	<b>April 03, 2008</b>
<b>Deadline for Posting of Written Responses to Questions .....</b>	<b>April 10, 2008</b>
<b>Deadline for Submission of RFP Responses .....</b>	<b>May 01, 2008</b>
<b>Evaluation of Proposal and Selection of Vendors .....</b>	<b>May 06-09, 2008</b>
<b>Intended Date for Notice of Intent to Award a Contract .....</b>	<b>May 23, 2008</b>

## **SECTION 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, (hereinafter referred to as “the Department”) invites you to submit a proposal to address the permanency needs of 156 children or youth in *Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, and Marshall Counties* in Alabama. **Fifty (50)** reunification slots must be reserved for children or youth in Residential Care or Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) in Jefferson County; with the remaining slots (**80 reunification** and **26 preservation**) dispersed in the additional counties with an emphasis on Calhoun, Etowah, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties. The selected Vendor(s) must work closely with the residential or TFC Vendor in the reunification cases in coordinating the treatment plans of the family and child(ren)/youth and must keep the Individual Service Planning (ISP) team abreast of progress in or barriers to reunification or permanency placement. A more complete description of the services sought for this project is provided in Section 3, Scope of Project. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation must comply with the instructions and procedures contained herein.

### **1.1 ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**

Eligible entities may include governmental agencies, faith-based organizations, non-governmental public or private organizations and individuals who: 1) are legally authorized to conduct business within the State of Alabama; 2) possess a high degree of professional skill in the area of service described in this document; 3) possess the skills needed to perform the services described in this RFP; and, 4) meet the terms and conditions of the RFP. In addition, applicants must demonstrate the ability to manage Department funds in accordance with Federal and State regulations and guidelines.

### **1.2 REQUIRED LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/CREDENTIAL**

There are no licensure/certification/credential requirements for the procurement.

### **1.3 CONTRACT TERM**

The contract term is for a period of **two (2)** years beginning **October 01, 2008** and ending **September 30, 2010**. Renewals of the contract, as agreed upon by both parties, may be made at **one** year intervals, or any interval that is advantageous to the Department, not to exceed a total of **one (1)** year, at the option of the Department. ***Selected Vendors must be licensed by Friday, August 15, 2008 and must be fully operational on Wednesday, October 01, 2008.***

### **1.4 POINT OF CONTACT**

From the date this Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued until the vendor selection is announced, all communication must be directed to the procurement officer in charge of this solicitation. **Vendors must not communicate with any Department staff or officials regarding this procurement with the exception of the procurement officer.** Any unauthorized contact will disqualify the Vendor from further consideration. Contact information for the point of contact is as follows:

**Starr Stewart – Policy, Planning and Research**  
**Alabama Department of Human Resources**  
**50 Ripley Street, Room 2344**  
**Montgomery, AL 36130-4000**  
**Telephone Number: (334) 353-4744**  
**E-mail Address: starr.stewart@dhr.alabama.gov**

## 1.5 REQUIRED REVIEW

### 1.5.1 REVIEW RFP

Vendors should carefully review the instructions, mandatory and general requirements, project specifications, and the standard terms and conditions in this RFP. After a thorough review of the RFP, if the Vendor identifies any ambiguity, inconsistency, unduly restrictive specifications, or error, promptly notify the procurement officer identified above in writing, via e-mail or courier by the deadline for receipt of questions as stated in the Schedule of Events.

### 1.5.2 VENDOR'S QUESTIONS

Vendors with questions or requiring clarification regarding any section of this RFP must reference the RFP by title and number and submit written questions via e-mail or courier to the procurement officer referenced above by 3:00 p.m. (CST) **Thursday, April 03, 2008**. Each question must reference the section, page, and item in question. Vendors must submit all questions posed in a single email message to the procurement officer. Questions received after the deadline will not be considered.

### 1.5.3 DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSES

The Department will provide an official written answer by **Thursday, April 10, 2008** to all questions received by **April 03, 2008**. The Department's response will either provide clarification of the applicable issue or be in the form of a correction to this RFP. Vendor questions and the Department's responses, as well as any formal written addendum will be posted on the Department's website at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) by the close of business on the date listed.

## 1.6 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

All requirements described in this RFP are considered mandatory. Vendor's proposals **must** meet all general and mandatory requirements to be eligible for consideration. The Department will determine whether a Vendor's proposal complies with the requirements. Proposals that do not meet all requirements listed in this RFP may be subject to point reductions during the evaluation process or may be deemed non-responsive. Proposals that do not meet the requirements 1.6.1 through 1.6.5 will be deemed non-responsive and no other consideration will be given.

### 1.6.1 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals must adhere to the format requirements and must be received by the deadline for receipt of proposals as specified in the Schedule of Events and Section 1.8.1 *Required Copies and Deadline for Receipt of Proposals*.

### 1.6.2 LEGAL STATUS LETTER OR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Vendors must include a legible copy of their taxpayer identification letter from the Internal Revenue Service. If the legal status letter is not available, a completed and signed copy of the **"Request for Taxpayer Identification Number"** form (*Appendix B*) must be included.

### 1.6.3 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Act 2001-955 requires the disclosure statement to be completed and filed with all proposals, bids, contracts, or grant proposals to the State of Alabama in excess of \$5,000. Disclosure Statements may be downloaded from the State Purchasing website at [www.purchasing.alabama.gov](http://www.purchasing.alabama.gov) for completion. Vendors must include a completed copy of the Disclosure Statement in their proposal.

### 1.6.4 IMMIGRATION STATUS FORM

Vendors must submit a signed copy of the immigration status form with their proposal.



## **1.6.5 AUTHORIZED VENDOR SIGNATORY**

Vendors must provide an original proposal using the format described, with an original signature of person(s) legally authorized to bind the applicant to the proposal.

## **1.7 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **1.7.1 ACCEPTANCE OF STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

By submitting a response to this RFP, Vendor agrees to acceptance of the standard terms and conditions of this RFP. Requests for additions or exceptions to the standard terms and conditions including any necessary licenses, or any added provisions must be submitted to the procurement officer by the due date for receipt of written questions and must be accompanied by an explanation of why the exception is being sought and what specific effect it will have on the Vendor's ability to respond to the RFP or perform the contract.

*Note: The Department reserves the right to not enter into a new contract with a current vendor who is under a corrective action plan until all corrective requirements have been met.*

### **1.7.2 UNDERSTANDING OF SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

By submitting a response to this RFP, Vendor agrees to an understanding of and compliance with the specifications and requirements described in this RFP.

### **1.7.3 PRIME CONTRACTOR/SUBCONTRACTORS**

The prime contractor if a contract is awarded shall be responsible, in total, for all work of any subcontractors. All subcontractors, if any, must be listed in the proposal. The contractor shall not assign, transfer or subcontract any portion of the contract without the written consent of the Department. The Contractor shall be responsible to the Department for the acts and omissions of all subcontractors or agents and of persons directly or indirectly employed by such subcontractors, and for the acts and omissions of persons employed directly by the Contractor. Any awards made as a result of this document will create a contractual relationship between the Contractor and the Department, not the subcontractor.

### **1.7.4 VENDOR'S SIGNATURE**

An individual authorized to legally bind the organization submitting the proposal must sign the original proposal in ink. The Vendor's signature on a proposal in response to this RFP guarantees that the offer has been established without collusion that would preclude the Department from obtaining the best possible service for the best possible price.

## **1.8 SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL**

### **1.8.1 REQUIRED COPIES AND DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS**

Vendors must submit one (1) original proposal and **seven (7)** copies and **one (1)** electronic (PDF preferred) copy on CD or DVD clearly labeled with the Vendor name to:

**Starr Stewart, Policy, Planning and Research  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Gordon Persons Building, Room 2344  
50 Ripley Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130-4000**

Proposals must subscribe to the section/subsection headings and numbering format as specified in *Section 4 Proposal Format and Instructions*. Proposals must be sealed and labeled on the outside of the package to clearly indicate that they are in response to **RFP# 2008-100-06. Proposals must be received at the**

**SECTION 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONS**

***receptionist's desk of Policy, Planning and Research by 12:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, May 01, 2008. Prior to due date, proposals may be delivered Monday through Friday between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Faxed and electronically submitted responses to requests for proposals are NOT accepted.***

**1.8.2 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS**

Vendors failing to comply with these instructions may be deemed non-responsive or subject to point deductions. The Department may also choose to not evaluate, and disqualify from further consideration any proposals that do not follow the format described in Section 4: *Proposal Format and Instructions*, are difficult to understand or read, or are missing any requested information.

**1.8.3 TIMELY SUBMITTED PROPOSALS**

All timely submitted proposals and materials received in response to this RFP become the property of the Department and will be incorporated into any formal documentation and/or contract resulting from this RFP between the Department and the Vendor.

**1.8.4 LATE PROPOSALS**

***Regardless of cause, late proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration.*** It shall be the Vendor's sole risk to assure delivery at the receptionist's desk at the designated office by the designated time. Late proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the Vendor at the expense of the Vendor or destroyed if requested.

## **SECTION 2: STANDARD INFORMATION**

### **2.0 AUTHORITY**

This RFP is issued under the authority of Section 41-16-72 of the Alabama Code (Act 2001-956, 2001 3<sup>rd</sup> Sp. Sess., p 817, §1.). Any awards resulting from this RFP will be made based on stated evaluation criteria. The weight assigned to each criterion denotes the relative importance of that criterion. No criteria, other than that identified in this RFP, will be used.

### **2.1 VENDOR COMPETITION**

In accordance with 45 CFR 74.43, the Department encourages free and open competition among Vendors. Whenever possible, the Department will design specifications, proposal requests, and conditions to accomplish this objective, consistent with the necessity to satisfy the Department's need to procure technically sound, cost-effective services and supplies.

### **2.2 NONDISCRIMINATION**

In accordance with 45 CFR 74.44, no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, be discriminated against in the admission or access to, or be discriminated against in treatment or employment in the Department's contracted programs or activities on the grounds of handicap and/or disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by Federal or Alabama State Constitutional or statutory law; nor shall they be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of contracts with the Department or in the employment practices of the Department's contractors. Accordingly, all Vendors entering into contracts with the Department shall, upon request, be required to show proof of such nondiscrimination and to post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

### **2.3 IMMIGRATION STATUS**

Vendor's authorized person(s) within the agency must sign and submit *Appendix D* on the immigration status of all workers to be employed for the services described in this procurement. Vendors must attest that all workers will be citizens of the United States or at the time of employment will be in a proper and legal immigration status that authorizes them to be employed for pay within the United States.

### **2.4 PROPOSAL EFFECTIVE PERIOD**

All proposals submitted in response to this RFP shall be effective for a 180-day period following the deadline for receipt of proposals as specified in the Schedule of Events and may not be modified, withdrawn or canceled by the Vendor during this period.

### **2.5 TRADE SECRETS**

As part of the initial evaluation, the procurement officer in charge of this solicitation will review proposals received in response to this RFP, for any information deemed a "trade secret" by the vendor and separate identified parts of proposal from public viewing providing the following conditions have been met: (1) confidential information is clearly marked and separated from the rest of the proposal; (2) the proposal does not contain confidential material in the cost or price section; and (3) an affidavit from a Vendor's legal counsel attesting to and explaining the validity of the trade secret claim is attached to each proposal containing trade secrets. The Vendor's Legal Counsel must use the Department of Human Resources "Affidavit for Trade Secret Confidentiality" form when requesting the trade secret claim. The affidavit form (*Appendix C*) is included in this RFP.

**SECTION 2: STANDARD INFORMATION**

Information separated out under this process will be available for review only by the procurement officer, the evaluation committee members, and limited other designees. Vendors must be prepared to pay all legal costs and fees associated with defending a claim for confidentiality in the event of a “right to know” (open records) request from another party.

## **2.6 PRE-SCREENING AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

### **2.6.1 PRE-SCREENING**

During the pre-screening, proposals will be reviewed to ensure compliance with all general and mandatory requirements. Upon completion of this initial review they will be classified “responsive” or “non-responsive”. However; proposals may be found non-responsive at any time during the evaluation process if the proposal does not meet the formatting requirements specified in the RFP; if any of the required information is not provided; or the submitted price is found to be excessive or inadequate as measured by criteria stated in the RFP. Proposals declared non-responsive, will not receive further consideration.

### **2.6.2 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

All responsive proposals will be evaluated against the stated criteria. However, this does not preclude the Department from any discussions/negotiations or requests for a best and final offer that it may deem necessary to assist in determining the Vendor. In scoring against stated criteria, the Department may consider such factors as accepted industry standards and a comparative evaluation of all other qualified RFP responses in terms of differing price, quality, and contractual factors to determine the most advantageous offering to the Department.

## **2.7 DISCUSSION/NEGOTIATION AND/OR ORAL PRESENTATION/PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION**

After receipt of all proposals and prior to the determination of the award, the Department may initiate discussions with one or more Vendors should clarification or negotiation be necessary. Vendors may also be required to make an oral presentation and/or product demonstration to clarify their RFP response or to further define their offer. In either case, Vendors should be prepared to send qualified personnel to **Montgomery, Alabama**, to discuss technical and contractual aspects of the proposal. Oral presentations and product demonstrations, if requested, shall be at the Vendor’s expense.

## **2.8 BEST AND FINAL OFFER**

The Department reserves the right to request a “best and final offer” for this RFP based on price/cost alone, from one or more Vendors if additional information is required to make a final decision. Vendors may be contacted asking that they submit their “best and final offer,” which must include any and all discussed and/or negotiated changes.

## **2.9 PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

All information received in response to this RFP, including copyrighted material, is deemed public information and will be made available to the public upon requests shortly after the signing of a contract(s) with the exception of: (1) trade secrets meeting the requirements of the Alabama Trade Secrets Act, that have been properly marked, separated, and documented; and (2) any financial information requested by the Department, unless prior written consent has been given by the Vendor.

## **2.10 COST OF PREPARING A PROPOSAL**

The Department is not liable for any expense incurred by the Vendor in the preparation and presentation of their proposal or any other costs incurred by the Vendor prior to execution of a contract. All costs are the responsibility of the Vendor.

## **2.11 DEPARTMENT'S RIGHTS RESERVED**

While the Department has every intention to award a contract as a result of this RFP, issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Department to award and execute a contract. Upon determination such actions would be in its best interest, the Department, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to the following:

### **2.11.1 PRE-SELECTION DISCRETION**

The Department reserves the right at its sole discretion, at any time and for any reason, to reject any or all of the proposals submitted in response to this RFP, or to cancel this RFP, if it is deemed by the Department to be in its best interest to do so.

### **2.11.2 POST-SELECTION DISCRETION**

Upon selection of a proposal, the Department reserves the right, at its sole discretion, at any time and for any reason, to change its decision with respect to the selection and to select another proposal, or to cancel the RFP, if it is deemed by the Department to be in its best interest to do so.

### **2.11.3 WAIVERS**

Notwithstanding the amendment provisions otherwise set forth herein, the Department reserves the right at its sole discretion, to waive any minor irregularity in an otherwise valid proposal which would not jeopardize the overall program and to award a contract on the basis of such a waiver in the event the Department determines that such award is in the best interest of the Department. Minor irregularities are those which will not have a significant adverse effect on the overall program cost or performance.

### **2.11.4 NEGOTIATIONS**

The Department reserves the right to negotiate with any vendor whose proposal is within the competitive range, as specified in the RFP with respect to technical plan and cost, as well as to select a vendor other than the vendor offering the lowest price.

### **2.11.5 ADOPTION OF IDEAS**

The Department reserves the right to adopt to its use all or any part, of a vendor's proposal and to use any idea or all ideas presented in a proposal.

### **2.11.6 ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

The Department reserves the right to require some or all of the vendors to provide oral presentations of their proposals.

### **2.11.7 AMENDMENTS**

The Department reserves the right to amend the RFP. Except as provided above with respect to "WAIVERS" made by the Department, all amendments to the RFP will be made by written addendum issued by the Department and posted to the web at [www.dhr.alabama.gov](http://www.dhr.alabama.gov) under this RFP link.

### **2.11.8 NO GUARANTEE OF CONTRACT**

Selection of a proposal shall not be binding upon the Department and may or may not, at the Department's sole discretion, result in the Department entering into a contract with the vendor if it is in the best interest of Department not to proceed with contract execution.

### **2.11.9 RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE AND REJECT**

The Department may make investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Vendor to perform the services specified. The Department reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, the Vendor fails to satisfy the Department that the Vendor is properly

**SECTION 2: STANDARD INFORMATION**

qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract. This includes the Department's ability to reject the proposal based on negative references.

**2.11.10 DISCLAIMER**

Issuance of this RFP does not constitute a commitment by the Department to select any proposal submitted in response to the RFP, or to award a contract to any vendor who responds to this RFP.

*Note: All contracts awarded by this Department are subject to review and approval by the Legislative Oversight Committee and the Governor's Office.*

## **SECTION 3: SCOPE OF PROJECT**

### **3.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The purpose of the Permanency Project is to address the permanency needs through re-unification services of 50 children or youth in Residential or Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) placements in Jefferson County and 80 children or youth in residential or therapeutic foster care in Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties (with emphasis on Calhoun, Etowah, Madison, and Marshall counties), and providing preventive intensive in-home services to maintain children in their own homes in Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties (with emphasis on Calhoun, Etowah, Madison, and Marshall counties). The children/youth and families to be served by this project may have a history of the following behaviors to include, but not limited to: aggression; substance misuse; runaway; unruly behavior; problematic sexual behavior; unstable family patterns; stealing/lying; property destruction; and/or serious emotional disturbance. The selected Vendor(s) must work closely with the residential or TFC Vendor in the re-unification cases in coordinating the treatment plans of the family and child(ren)/youth and must keep the Individual Service Planning (ISP) team abreast of progress in or barriers to reunification or permanency placement. Proposals must explain the Vendor's expertise or history in the provision of such services or identify a nationally recognized model that has proven to be successful that will be used in the accomplishment of stepping children down in the restrictiveness of placement through intensive treatment services in the home.

### **3.1 SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.1.1 IN-HOME SERVICES**

Vendors must be capable of providing intensive in-home services and therapy to families to facilitate the transition of the children/youth that are ready to return home or to another permanent living arrangement from their out-of-home placement or to maintain children in their own home, when there is a possibility of imminent disruption. Each family must be provided 24-hour emergency assistance seven (7) days per week, and family therapy will be provided as many times per week as deemed necessary and as set forth by the ISP team. All treatment and referrals should be coordinated through the family's ISP team. Therapy should be based on a thorough assessment of all factors and domains affecting the child/youth and family. All Vendors submitting proposals should detail how they can accomplish this holistic approach to serving the families in re-unification cases while the children/youth remain in out-of-home placements and then for providing continuing services once the child/youth is placed in the permanent living environment. Treatment with the family after the placement is expected to last from six months to twelve months, depending upon need and the decisions of the ISP team, but may be adjusted upward or downward for the same reasons. Support and training offered to line treatment staff must be clearly delineated by respondents to this RFP as to frequency and type.

#### **3.1.2 ASSESSMENT**

Assessments must include evaluations of the best placements for individual children as well as their families' capacities to care for them.

#### **3.1.3 INDIVIDUAL SERVICE TIMELINES**

Vendor must address the estimated time that each family may require for such services and what measure will be used to determine when families may be discharged from the program.

#### **3.1.4 PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

Supportive services must be provided for all reunification and/or permanent living environment placements, whether re-unification or prevention to support the placement. It is a requirement that at least 80% of children placed in permanent living environments and supported by services offered through proposals responding to this

**SECTION 3: SCOPE OF PROJECT**

RFP remain stable at the two-year anniversary of their discharge from the program. Vendors must indicate what remedial measures will be taken if these outcomes are not attained. Programs already providing these services must indicate their success rate over the past twelve (12) months.

**3.1.5 EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICES**

Vendors accomplishing a higher rate of stabilization may receive additional slots after the first year of this contract period, if needed; and Vendors not meeting this threshold may receive a reduction in the contracted slots that they may provide after that same one year period.

**3.1.6 ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION OF REFERRALS POLICY**

Vendors must clearly define the acceptance and rejection criteria, and scores of proposals will be affected by responses in this area.

**3.1.7 QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN**

Vendors must provide a clearly identified quality assurance plan that will be implemented by the program, including an acceptance-and-rejection-of-referrals policy.

**3.1.8 TRACKING AND REPORTING**

Each proposal must contain specific language on how a Vendor will track the children or youth who have received services through their program and how they plan to report to the Department the statistics received from the tracking. It will be required that all cases discharged, whether successful or unsuccessful, will be tracked twenty-four (24) months post-discharge. Discharges are considered successful when a child returns to or remains at home, is placed with a relative, is placed with another individual that has been identified as the permanent caregiver (friend of family, etc) or is discharged to an independent living situation in their own apartment. Each proposal must clearly define how its quality assurance system will utilize the data retrieved from tracking to improve the quality of services.

**3.1.9 AFTERCARE SERVICES**

Each proposal should present clear, specific services that will provided to children and families once they have been discharged from the program. These aftercare services should be described as to type, frequency and duration. Each proposal should also describe crisis intervention services that will be provided during a family's tenure in the program, as well as post-discharge.

**3.2 CORE SERVICES**

*Note: Services must be based on the needs identified in the ISP and ISP team decisions. Vendors must...*

- A. Schedule and coordinate the child's treatment plan: initial treatment plan within 10 days, comprehensive treatment plan within 30 days and reviews every 90 days. All treatment plans developed by the agency must be coordinated with the DHR county social worker and based upon the goals established in the child's Individualized Service Plan (ISP). The IIHS agency is required to obtain a copy of the Comprehensive Family Assessment/Intake Evaluation form and an ISP from the referring county DHR office. ***Copies of the intake evaluation or comprehensive family assessment, with adequate information for intake evaluation purposes, and ISP MUST be provided to IIHS agencies within 10 days. DHR staff is required to complete and update regularly CFA's on all families referred for IIHS incorporating the information obtained by the IIHS agency into the document.***
- B. Include discharge planning from point of admission through point of discharge with emphasis on moving toward independent stability, safety and/or permanency as quickly as possible.



- C. Provide two or more as needed, in-home face to face contacts per week with the family to examine family relationships, roles and dynamics, and how these issues impact family functioning including those contacts by a therapist or family support worker, based on needs as identified by the ISP/ISP team.
- D. Conduct face-to-face or telephone contact with school, once per month or more as needed, to monitor the child's progress.
- E. Conduct monthly face-to-face or telephone contact with the child's family therapist, if external to IIHS, mental health Vendors or other Vendors working with the family to monitor progress in counseling.
- F. Assist in the referral to other programs/services, advocate for the child and family by accompanying them to appointments as identified in the family's ISP including the coordination of transportation, family visits and activities.
- G. Provide education and support to enhance the child and family's ability to function independently by assisting the family with locating and appropriately utilizing community resources, services and activities (e.g., housing, food, clothes, shelter, transportation).
- H. Provide training and assist the child with the development and maintenance of individual basic living skills. Provide no more than 5 hours per week of individual and/or group basic living skills training to include but not limited to behavior education, money management, shopping, healthy lifestyles, stress management, laundry and using public transportation. Individual goals in each of these therapeutic areas must be taken from needs identified as deficits for the child and should be authorized in the context of the ISP.
- I. Provide family support to the birth family/supervise family visitation as outlined in the ISP/Treatment Plan. This support includes the provision of services to assist the child's family members in understanding the nature of the child and how to help the child be maintained in the community by providing education about the child's illness, expected symptoms, medication management, parenting support, therapeutic visitation support educational advocacy and/or to encourage school success, as identified in the family's ISP.
- J. Attend ISP's, IEPs, Court Hearings and other appointments along with the child and family to assure coordination of services, including assistance in getting the family/child to meetings or appointments when necessary.
- K. Provide monthly report to DHR describing services provided during the month and the child and family's progress toward achieving goals that are outlined in the treatment plan.
- L. Provide a progress summary/report to DHR worker prior to any Family Court hearing, documenting progress and making recommendations based on current level of functioning.
- M. Assist in creating a behavior management plan for the child with the other members of the ISP team. All IIHS agencies must maintain staff that has expertise in the development of such plans. **(DHR shall assume the responsibility of completing behavioral management plans on all children that require them.)**
- N. Participate in the development of the Safety Plan as needed.

- O. Provide crisis intervention services, as needed, to alleviate a crisis for the child or to assist the family on alleviating a crisis with the child on a 24 hours/7days a week basis.
- P. Maintain a no-reject/no-eject policy for children and families who meet program criteria.
- Q. Provide weekly consultation to DHR and an immediate response in the event health or safety issues poses a threat to the child.
- R. Provide assurance that required Medicaid documentation of provided billable services will be properly maintained and in compliance with all policy and billing guidelines per the Medicaid Vendor Manual, Medicaid Rehabilitative Services, Chapter 105.

### **3.3 ROLES OF DHR AND IIHS**

As it relates to roles, ultimately, DHR is the case manager of all cases.

#### **DHR ROLES**

- A. DHR will be responsible for coordinating the scheduling and holding of the ISP with the document distributed within 10 working days.
- B. DHR will work with the IIHS agency on the development of the treatment plan and for a regular review of the plan.
- C. DHR will be responsible for assuring that all services to be provided are included in the ISP including the core services that are appropriate for the case. DHR is also responsible for assuring that all pertinent team members attend the ISP including the IIHS staff.
- D. The DHR worker will confirm with the family the acceptance of the services deemed necessary for the family and will arrange for a time of introduction of the IIHS staff to the family where responsibilities and roles are discussed – Within 48 hours of admission the DHR worker will contact the family to schedule a face to face in-home initial visit as soon as possible but not to exceed 4 working days or sooner if needed.
- E. DHR staff will complete the intake evaluation prior to referral and will share this and other pertinent information with the IIHS agency.
- F. DHR will responsible for assuring that the IIHS agency has a copy of the ISP if one already exists and is responsible for assuring that the IIHS agency participates in the ISP.
- G. DHR staff will be required to make a monthly face to face contact with each child and family.
- H. DHR will participate in conferences with the school, including the parents, the IIHS worker, and particularly when problems have been identified that need resolution.
- I. DHR will be responsible for assuring that reports from the IIHS agency are received in a timely manner. If problems arise and reports are not received, DHR will conduct weekly consultations with the IIHS agency.
- J. The DHR worker will also review the reports to determine that adequate progress is being made by the family and to assure that the appropriate supports are in place.

- K. DHR will review the therapist's reports and will schedule an ISP if there are significant requirements for a child/family that are not being addressed by the services that are being provided. DHR should also participate in the counseling sessions as the need arises.
- L. The DHR worker will assist in the coordination of services to address the needs of the family.
- M. DHR will work with the IIHS agency to develop crisis plans and safety plans that are deemed necessary to support the family and assure safety for children.
- N. DHR has its own QA component as it relates to the local QA committee and case review process.
- O. DHR will assist the IIHS agency in gaining access to the policies that direct the work of the agency.

### **3.4 ROLES OF IIHS WORKERS**

- A. The IIHS worker will be responsible for completion of all assigned tasks in the ISP.
- B. The IIHS worker must actively participate in the ISP.
- C. The IIHS worker/staff will be responsible for meeting the requirements listed in the core services, including but not limited to maintaining a no-reject/no-eject policy for families who meet the program criteria.
- D. The IIHS worker will be responsible for preparing monthly comprehensive reports that are current, accurate, meaningful, are behaviorally specific and describe barriers/outcomes.
- E. The IIHS agency is responsible for recruiting candidates for the various positions that are part of the contract and for coordinating with DHR on the suitability of the various candidates.
- F. After the family has agreed to the service intervention, The IIHS agency will accompany the DHR worker to the home at the point of first introduction to the family and will participate in a discussion of the plan for the family
- G. The IIHS agency will receive and review the intake evaluation and depending on the other information available from DHR may coordinate the pulling together of information to complete a Comprehensive Family Assessment (CFA).
- H. IIHS staff will be required to be available to the families 24 hours per day 7 days per week and should be available to provide crisis intervention as needed.
- I. The IIHS staff members will be required to have contact with the schools to monitor the child's progress and to make reports on progress to DHR once per month. Any contacts should include involving the parents in the discussions.
- J. The IIHS staff can call an ISP if one is deemed necessary but has not been scheduled.
- K. The IIHS staff will conduct two or more as needed, in-home face to face contacts per week with the family to examine family relationships, roles and dynamics, and how these issues impact

**SECTION 3: SCOPE OF PROJECT**

family functioning including those contacts by a therapist or family support worker, based on needs as identified by the ISP/ISP team.

- L. The IIHS staff will assist in making referrals to other programs/services to address the needs identified for the child/family and will monitor those services to be sure that they are meeting the needs.
- M. The IIHS staff will work with the family to arrange for community and family supports that will support independence of the family from agency involvement.
- N. The IIHS staff will schedule and coordinate the family treatment plan as per the information in the core services up to and including discharge from the program.
- O. The IIHS staff members are responsible for working with the local DHR office and SDHR to resolve any concerns that are identified.
- P. While DHR has the responsibility for developing a behavior management plan for children needing them, the IIHS agency will assist in the development and monitoring of this plan with all participants.
- Q. IIHS agency will work with DHR to develop crisis plans and safety plans that are deemed necessary to support the family and assure safety for children.
- R. The IIHS agency will conduct QA activities, including outcome measures, for the services/programs being providing and will share this information with DHR. Outcome measures will be administered every 90 days.
- S. The IIHS agency will be familiar with pertinent DHR policies related to the service provision, planning with families.

## **3.5 PROJECT WORK ENVIRONMENT**

### **3.5.1 LOCATION OF WORK**

The work for this project is to be performed in Calhoun, Cherokee, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties. If any additional counties in the surrounding areas are to be added, Vendors must first get approval to take cases from State DHR.

## **SECTION 4: PROPOSAL FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS**

### **4.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

Proposals must meet all requirements as specified in this RFP. Proposals must incorporate the specified structure and format; must be clear, detailed, and complete as to fully demonstrate that the prospective Vendor has a thorough understanding of the requirements for providing the services for this procurement. Statements that the Vendor understands, acknowledges, or can comply with the requirements/specifications and statements paraphrasing the specifications are considered inadequate as are phrases such as “industry standards will be adhered to” and/or “standard procedures will be implemented”, or “research-based models will be used”. Proposals must clearly and adequately describe the concepts and methodologies to be implemented by the Vendor. Information must be clear, succinct, and easily understandable.

### **4.1 COMPLETENESS OF PROPOSALS**

Selection(s) and award(s) will be based on the Vendor’s proposal and other items described in this RFP. Proposals should not include references to information located elsewhere, such as Internet websites. Information or materials presented by Vendors outside the formal response or subsequent discussion/negotiation or “best and final offer,” if requested, will not be considered, will have no bearing on any award, and may result in the Vendor being disqualified from further consideration.

### **4.2 PROPOSAL FORMAT**

Proposals must be single-spaced, incorporating 1-inch margins, typed using Times New Roman (font), size 12 and printed/copied onto one side of standard (8½ x 11) white typing/copier paper. *Paragraphs must be double-spaced.* All proposals must include labeled tabs that correspond with the bolded sections and subsections to which the information pertains. ***Do not use tabs with the paper inserts.*** Vendors should avoid the use of elaborate presentations and binding materials beyond that which is sufficient to present complete and effective proposals.

#### **4.2.1 COVER SHEET**

The first page of each proposal must be the completed **Cover Sheet** (RFP cover sheet) with an original ink signature of the person(s) legally authorized to bind the vendor to the proposal. **Proposals without signatures of persons legally authorized to bind the vendor to the proposal will be rejected.** The cover sheet must also include the name of the contact person and contact information of the person authorized to act on behalf of the vendor (do not number this page). Vendors must also provide their Federal Employer Identification Number. The vendor must denote the original proposal and copies by placing a check in the appropriate box on the cover sheet.

#### **4.2.2 TABLE OF CONTENTS**

The Cover Sheet should be followed by the “**Table of Contents**”, which should list all sections, subsections and page numbers.

#### **4.2.3 LEGAL STATUS FORM/TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

The Table of Contents must be followed by a copy of the **Legal Status Form**. *This form is issued by the IRS and denotes an organization’s legal status (i.e., non-profit, for-profit, corporation, etc.) and includes the Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN).* If the Legal Status Form is not available, a completed and signed copy of the “**Request for Taxpayer Identification Number**” form (*Appendix B*) must be included. All items on this form must be completed. (Do not number this page).

#### **4.2.4 LICENSES/CERTIFICATES/CREDENTIALS**

The Request for Taxpayer Identification Number form should be followed by a copy of all required **Licenses, Certificates, and/or Credentials** or a copy of a completed license application form submitted by the deadline specified in this RFP.

#### **4.2.5 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL**

Copies of Licenses/Certificates/Credentials should be followed by the **Technical Proposal**. Numbering of the proposal pages should begin with page 1 of the Technical Proposal. Page numbers should be placed in the left corner of the bottom margin. The Technical Proposal **must not exceed fifty (50) pages**, and must prescribe to sections **4.2.5.1** through **4.2.5.4.6** below:

##### **4.2.5.1 VENDOR QUALIFYING INFORMATION**

###### **4.2.5.1.1 Vendor Profile and Experience**

The Vendor must specify how long it has been in the business of providing services similar to those requested in this RFP and under what company name. The Vendor must list all names it has used when conducting business. The Vendor must explain their expertise or history in the provision of such services or identify a nationally recognized model that has proven to be successful that will be used in the provision of services under this RFP. The Vendor must provide an organizational profile including: number of employees, and form of business (e.g. individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, limited liability company.).

###### **4.2.5.1.2 References**

The proposing Vendor must provide a minimum of three (3) references for which it has performed similar services. These references may be contacted to verify Vendor's ability to perform the contract. The Department reserves the right to use any information or additional references deemed necessary to establish the ability of the Vendor to perform the conditions of the contract. Negative references may be grounds for proposal disqualification.

For each reference, the Vendor must provide: company/agency name of the reference; location where the services were performed (city, state); primary and secondary contact name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address; a brief description of the project; description of the Vendor's role in the project; and the start and end date of each project.

###### **4.2.5.1.3 Past and Present Contractual Relationships with the Department**

The Vendor shall describe any past or present contractual relationship it may have or have had with the Department or any other state agency during the past three years. If the Vendor, its predecessor, or any party named in the Vendor's responses to this Section has contracted with any department within the State Government during the past three years, identify the contract number and/or other information available to identify such contract(s). If no such contracts exist, so declare. If any party named in the Vendor's response to this RFP was an employee of the State in the past two years, identify the individual(s) by name, state agency by which employed, job title of position held with the State, and separation date. If no such relationship exists, so declare.

###### **4.2.5.1.4 Contract Performance**

If the Vendor, or any proposed Subcontractor, has had a contract terminated for default during the past five years, all such instances must be described as discussed below. Termination for default is defined as notice to stop performance delivery due to the Vendor's nonperformance or poor performance and the issue was either (a) not litigated due to inaction on the part of the Vendor; or (b) litigated and such litigation determined the Vendor to be in default. Submit full details of all terminations for default experienced by the Vendor during the past five years, including the other party's name, address, and telephone number. Present the Vendor's position on the matter. The Department shall evaluate the facts and may, at its sole discretion, reject the Vendor's

Proposal if the facts discovered indicate that completion of a contract resulting from this RFP may be jeopardized by selection of the Vendor. If the Vendor has experienced no such terminations for default in the past five years, so declare. If at any time during the past five years, the Vendor has had a contract terminated for convenience, non-allocation of funds, or any other reason, which termination occurred before completion of all obligations under the initial contract provisions, describe fully all such terminations including the name and address of the other contracting party and the circumstances surrounding the termination. If no such early terminations have occurred, so declare.

Failure to report on the foregoing or if the information furnished is determined to be inaccurate, whether by omission or commission, shall result in rejection of the Vendor's Proposal.

*Note: No points will be assigned to proposals submitted by new or current vendors who have performed their contractual obligations satisfactorily. However, current vendors who have performed unsatisfactorily may experience point deductions up to a maximum of 10 points.*

#### **4.2.5.1.5 Project Staff/Resumes/Job Descriptions**

The Vendor must submit a resume or job description detailing the level of education, experience, training, skills, etc. which emphasizes previous experience in the service area as described in this RFP for all key personnel who will be involved with the proposed project. The Vendor should indicate that it has sufficient staff to perform the services required in this RFP, if sufficient staff is not currently available, describe how staff will be obtained to provide the services and the timeline for obtaining the needed staff. Indicate the number of anticipated staff for each position title. List all professional licenses held by the vendor.

#### **4.2.5.1.6 Staff Performance Evaluations and Training**

Vendors must describe its staff development program regarding orientation, on-going staff evaluation and training that will be implemented throughout the contract period to ensure delivery of effective services that adhere to the Department's required performance standards.

#### **4.2.5.1.7 Background Checks**

Describe in detail the steps that the Vendor will take to ensure that all staff, regardless of level, have not been the subject of any incident or investigation which would call into question the propriety of that employee's working with this population of children. Provide documentation that each employee has had a criminal background check. Describe your organization's general procedure for addressing occurrences when an incident or allegation is reported, founded or unfounded.

#### **4.2.5.2 VENDOR FINANCIAL STABILITY**

Vendors must submit an audited financial statement for the past year and letters from the auditor(s) who performed the previous two (2) financial audits immediately preceding the issuance of this RFP. Vendors of newly formed organizations, who have been in business less than one year must submit copies of any quarterly financial statements that have been prepared since the end of the period reported by your most recent annual report.

#### **4.2.5.3 METHOD OF PROVIDING SERVICES**

##### **4.2.5.3.1 Service Delivery Approach**

The Vendor must provide a detailed description of the work plan and the methods to be used that will convincingly demonstrate to the Department what the Vendor intends to do, the number of children/youth and/or families to be served, the timeframes necessary to accomplish the work, and how the work will be accomplished. The Vendor must identify the county to be served by the proposed project. *All services specified in Section 3: Scope of Project must be addressed in the Service Delivery Approach.*

#### **4.2.5.3.2 Start-up Plan**

The Vendor must include a detailed project schedule that is comprised of the detailed work plan for the entire project. This section should also include any proposed additions to the tasks outlined in the *Section 3: Scope of Work*.

#### **4.2.5.3.3 Assessment of Benefits and Impact**

Describe the process that Vendor will use to assess the proposed services to determine if the expected benefits and their impact have occurred. Include on-going plans to continuously assess and modify services to better meet the needs of the target population. The assessment methodology should provide the Department with meaningful indicators that funded projects are making satisfactory progress toward desired goals.

#### **4.2.5.3.4 Office Location**

The Vendor must provide the physical address of the Vendor's office that will be responsible for maintaining records and performing services under a contract with the Department in the event the Vendor becomes the Contractor.

#### **4.2.5.4 VENDOR CERTIFICATIONS**

Vendors must submit a statement attesting that they warrant and represent to the Department that the vendor accepts and agrees with all certifications and terms and conditions of this RFP. Further, by submitting a response to this RFP, the vendor certifies to the Department that they are legally authorized to conduct business within the State of Alabama and to carry out the services described in this document.

##### **4.2.5.4.1 Revolving Door Policy**

Vendors must attest that neither the vendor nor any of the vendor's trustees, officers, directors, agents, servants or employees is a current employee of the Department, and none of the said individuals have been employees of the Department in violation of the revolving door prohibitions contained in the state of Alabama ethics laws.

##### **4.2.5.4.2 Debarment**

Vendors must attest that neither the vendor nor any of the vendor's trustees, officers, directors, agents, servants or employees (whether paid or voluntary) is debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension."

##### **4.2.5.4.3 Standard Contract**

The vendor must agree to the use of the Department's standard contract document. The vendor will further comply with all the terms and conditions of that document, including, but not limited to, compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Alabama Act No. 2000-775 (governing individuals in direct service positions who have unsupervised access to children), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) as applicable, and all other federal and state laws, rules and regulations applicable to receiving funds from the Department to carry out the services described in this RFP. Further, any contract executed pursuant to the RFP must be subject to review by the Department's legal counsel as to its legality of form and compliance with State contract laws, terms and conditions, and may further be subject to review by the Alabama Legislative Contract Review Committee, Examiners of Public Accounts, the State Finance Director and the Office of the Governor.

##### **4.2.5.4.4 Charitable Choice (applies to faith-based organizations only)**

The vendor must attest that funds received as a result of this procurement will not be used for sectarian instruction, worship, proselytizing or for any other purely religious activities that are not directed toward the secular social goals related to the services described in this RFP. The vendor must agree to serve all eligible members of the public without regard to their religious beliefs and, further, must not require clients' active participation in any religious practice. (In carrying out the said services, the vendor will remain independent from federal, state and local governments; will retain control over the expression of its religious beliefs, and is



NOT required to remove its religious writings or symbols or to alter its internal governance as a condition of doing business with the Department.)

#### **4.2.5.4.5 Financial Accounting**

Vendors must agree that the vendor's accounting system will be consistent with General Accepted Governmental Accounting Principles (GAAP). The vendor must maintain sufficient financial accounting records documenting all funding sources and applicable expenditure of all funds from all sources.

#### **4.2.5.4.6 Vendor Work Product**

The Vendor must attest that the proposal submitted in response to this document is the work product of said vendor. If the proposal is determined not to be the work product of the vendor, the proposal may, at the Department's sole discretion, be rejected.

#### **4.2.5.5 ATTACHMENTS**

Vendors must include all applicable forms identified below as attachments (i.e., Attachment A, B, C, etc), applicable forms must follow the Technical Proposal.

##### **4.2.5.5.1 Disclosure Statement**

The Technical Proposal must be followed by a completed copy of the **Disclosure Statement**.

##### **4.2.5.5.2 Trade Secret Affidavit**

The Disclosure Statement must be followed by a completed copy of the **Trade Secret Affidavit** (*Appendix D*), if applicable.

##### **4.2.5.5.3 Immigration Status Form**

The Trade Secret Affidavit must be followed by a completed copy of the **Immigration Status Form**. *All proposals must include the Immigration Status Form.*

## **SECTION 5: COST PROPOSAL**

### **5.0 COST PROPOSAL**

Vendors must submit the total amount of compensation that will be required to provide the services as prescribed in the program requirements and the core services outlined in this document. The maximum rate of compensation must not exceed \$2,433.60 per month, per family served.

*Note: A fixed rate is specified in this RFP document for provision of services, any proposal submitted exceeding the fixed rate will be deemed non-responsive and no further consideration will be given.*

**SECTION 6: EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**6.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The evaluation committee will review and evaluate the proposals according to the following criteria based on a **maximum possible value of 1,000 points**. Proposals failing to meet the requirements of this RFP may be deemed non-responsive or subject to point deductions. The point value assigned to each component of the **Technical Proposal and Cost Proposal** will be based on the following scoring scale:

<b>Category</b>	<b>RFP Section</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
<b>Vendor Qualifying Information</b>		<b>30% of points for a possible 300 points</b>
A. Vendor Profile and Experience	4.2.5.1.1	200
B. References	4.2.5.1.2	0
C. Past and Present Contractual Relationships with the Department	4.2.5.3.5	10
D. Contract Performance	4.2.5.3.6	<i>To Be Determined</i>
E. Project Staff/Resumes/Job Descriptions	4.2.5.1.3	25
F. Staff Performance Evaluations and Training	4.2.5.1.4	25
G. Background Checks	4.2.5.1.5	25
H. Vendor Financial Stability	4.2.5.2	15
<b>Method of Providing Services</b>		<b>60% of points for a possible 600 points</b>
A. Service Delivery Approach	4.2.5.3.1	450
B. Start-up Plan	4.2.5.3.2	75
C. Assessment of Benefits and Impact	4.2.5.3.3	75
D. Office Location	4.2.5.3.4	0
E. Vendor Certifications	4.2.5.4.	0
<b>Cost Proposal</b>		<b>10% of points for a possible 100 points</b>
A. Cost Proposal	5.0	100

## **APPENDIX A: STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**By submitting a response to request for proposal or acceptance of a contract, the vendor agrees to acceptance of the following Standard Terms and Conditions and any other provisions that are specific to this solicitation or contract.**

**ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION OF PROPOSALS:** The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, wholly or in part, and to make awards in any manner deemed in the best interest of the Department. Proposals will be firm for 180 days, unless stated otherwise in the text of the request for proposal.

**ACCESS AND RETENTION OF RECORDS:** The contractor agrees to provide the Department, Legislative Auditor, or authorized agents, access to any records necessary to determine contract compliance. The contractor agrees to create and retain records supporting the services rendered or supplies delivered for a period of three years after either the completion date of the contract or the conclusion of any claim, litigation, or exception relating to the contract taken by the Department or third party.

**ALTERATION OF SOLICITATION DOCUMENT:** In the event of inconsistencies or contradictions between language contained in the Department's solicitation document and a vendor's response, the language contained in the Department's original solicitation document will prevail. Intentional manipulation and/or alteration of solicitation document language will result in the vendor's disqualification and possible debarment.

**ASSIGNMENT, TRANSFER AND SUBCONTRACTING:** The contractor shall not assign, transfer or subcontract any portion of the contract without the express written consent of the Department.

**AUTHORITY:** The following request for proposal, limited solicitation, or contract is issued under authority of Section 41-16-72 of the Alabama Code (Act 2001-956, 2001 3<sup>rd</sup> Sp. Sess., p 817, §1.)

**CHARGE BACKS:** The Alabama Department of Human Resources and Medicaid will deduct federal charge backs from future payments.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** The contractor must, in performance of work under the contract, fully comply with all applicable federal, department, or local laws, rules and regulations, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any subletting or subcontracting by the contractor subjects subcontractors to the same provision. The contractor agrees that the hiring of persons to perform the contract will be made on the basis of merit and qualifications and there will be no discrimination based upon race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin by the persons performing the contract.

**DEBARMENT:** The contractor certifies, by submitting this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction (contract) by any governmental department or agency. If the contractor cannot certify this statement, attach a written explanation for review by the Department.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** The Department does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities. Individuals, who need aids, alternative document formats, or services for effective communications or other disability-related accommodations in the programs and services offered, are invited to make their needs and preferences known to this office. Interested parties should provide as much advance notice as possible.

**FACSIMILE RESPONSES:** Facsimile responses will not be accepted for requested for proposals or limited solicitations.

**FAILURE TO HONOR PROPOSAL:** If a vendor to whom a contract is awarded refuses to accept the award (contract) or, fails to deliver in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Department may, in its discretion, suspend the vendor for a period of time from entering into any contracts with the Department.

**FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be responsible for failure to fulfill its obligations due to causes beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, acts or omissions of government or military authority, acts of God, materials shortages, transportation delays, fires, floods, labor disturbances, riots, wars, terrorist acts, or any other causes, directly or indirectly beyond the reasonable control of the non-performing party, so long as such party is using its best efforts to remedy such failure or delays.

**HOLD HARMLESS/INDEMNIFICATION:** The contractor agrees to hold the Department, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, while acting within the scope of their duties as such, harmless from and against all claims, demands, causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, arising in favor of the contractor's employees or third parties on account of bodily or personal injuries, death, or damage to property arising out of services performed or omissions of services or in any way resulting from the acts or omissions of the contractor and/or its agents, employees, representatives, assigns, subcontractors, except for acts of omission resulting from the sole negligence of the Department, under this agreement.

**LATE PROPOSALS:** Regardless of cause, late proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be solely the vendor's risk to assure delivery at the designated office by the designated time. Late proposals will not be opened and may be returned to the vendor at the expense of the vendor or destroyed if requested.

**REGISTRATION WITH THE PURCHASING DIVISION:** Any business intending to transact business in Alabama must register with the Alabama Purchasing Division by completing the Vendor Disclosure Statement. A copy of the Vendor Disclosure Statement can be downloaded from the Purchasing website at [www.purchasing.alabama.gov](http://www.purchasing.alabama.gov).

**SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:** A declaration by any court, or any other binding legal source, that any provision of the contract is illegal and void shall not affect the legality and enforceability of any other provision of the contract, unless the provisions are mutually dependent.

**SOLICITATION DOCUMENT EXAMINATION:** Vendors must promptly notify the Department of any ambiguity, inconsistency, or error, which they may discover upon examination of a solicitation document.

**TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:** Unless otherwise stated, the Department may, by written notice to the contractor, terminate the contract in whole or in part at any time the contractor fails to perform the contract.

**UNAVAILABILITY OF FUNDING:** The Department, at its sole discretion, may terminate or reduce the scope of the contract if available funding is reduced for any reason.

**U.S. FUNDS:** All prices and payments must be in U.S. dollars.



**APPENDIX C: TRADE SECRET AFFIDAVIT**

**Alabama Department of Human Resources**

**AFFIDAVIT FOR TRADE SECRET CONFIDENTIALITY**

DEPARTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_)

)ss.

County of \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Affiant), being first duly sworn under oath, and representing  
\_\_\_\_\_ (hereafter "Vendor"), hereby deposes and says that:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of \_\_\_\_\_, representing the Vendor referenced in this matter, and have full authority from the Vendor to submit this affidavit and accept the responsibilities stated herein.

2. I am aware that the Vendor is submitting a proposal to the Alabama Department of Human Resources for RFP # \_\_\_\_\_. Public agencies in Alabama are required by Alabama law to permit the public to examine documents that are kept or maintained by the public agencies, other than those legitimately meeting the provisions of the Alabama Trade Secrets Act, Alabama Code Section 8-27-1, and that the Department is required to review claims of trade secret confidentiality.

3. I have read and am familiar with the provisions of the Alabama Trade Secrets Act, am familiar with the case law interpreting it, and understand that all information received in response to this RFP will be available for public examination except for:

- (a) trade secrets meeting the requirements of the Act; and
- (b) information requested by the Department to establish vendor responsibility unless prior written consent has been given by the vendor.

4. I am aware that in order for the Vendor to claim confidential material, this affidavit must be fully completed and submitted to the Department, and the following conditions must be met by the Vendor:

- (a) information to be withheld under a claim of confidentiality must be clearly marked and separated from the rest of the proposal;
- (b) the proposal may not contain trade secret matter in the cost or price; and
- (c) the Vendor's explanation of the validity of this trade secret claim is attached to this affidavit.

5. I and the Vendor accept that, should the Department determine that the explanation is incomplete, inadequate or invalid, the submitted materials will be treated as any other document in the department's possession, insofar as its examination as a public record is concerned. I and the Vendor are

**APPENDIX C: TRADE SECRET AFFIDAVIT**

solely responsible for the adequacy and sufficiency of the explanation. Once a proposal is opened, its contents cannot be returned to the Vendor if the Vendor disagrees with the Department's determination of the issue of trade secret confidentiality.

6. I, on behalf of the Vendor, warrant that the Vendor will be solely responsible for all legal costs and fees associated with any defense by the Department of the Vendor's claim for trade secret protection in the event of an open records request from another party which the Vendor chooses to oppose. The Vendor will either totally assume all responsibility for the opposition of the request, and all liability and costs of any such defense, thereby defending, protecting, indemnifying and saving harmless the Department, or the Vendor will immediately withdraw its opposition to the open records request and permit the Department to release the documents for examination. The Department will inform the Vendor in writing of any open records request that is made, and the Vendor will have five working days from receipt of the notice to notify the Department in writing whether the Vendor opposes the request or not. Failure to provide that notice in writing will waive the claim of trade secret confidentiality, and allow the Department to treat the documents as a public record.

Documents that, in the opinion of the Department, do not meet all the requirements of the above will be available for public inspection, including any copyrighted materials.

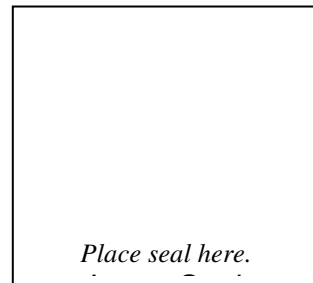
\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant's Signature

Signed and sworn to before me on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Affiant's name).

Name of Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_ for the

Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_





**APPENDIX D: IMMIGRATION STATUS FORM**

I hereby attest that all workers on this project are either citizens of the United States or are in a proper and legal immigration status that authorizes them to be employed for pay within the United States.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contractor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness