



**ANDREA SANDERS
COMMISSIONER**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Congregate Care and Child Placing Agency Services

RFP No. 2024ICCCP001

RFx Number: **3140004080**

Issue Date: December 16, 2024

CLOSING LOCATION

Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services

750 North State Street

Jackson, Mississippi 39202

CONTACT

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601-359-4368

contracts@mdcps.ms.gov

CLOSING DATE & TIME

Proposals must be received no later than
January 29, 2025 at 12:00 PM, Central Standard Time

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SECTION 1: Procurement Process

1.1 Background

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services was created as the state's lead child welfare agency by the 2016 Mississippi Legislature, separating it from the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The mission of MDCPS is to lead Mississippi's efforts in keeping children and youth safe and thriving by:

- strengthening families;
- preventing child abuse, neglect and exploitation; and,
- promoting child and family well-being and permanent family connections.

MDCPS is seeking to procure the services of Congregate Care and Child Placing Agency Services vendors to join its Continuum of Care (CoC) network. The CoC is a network of agencies that work together to protect children and offer a wide range of family-centered services, including prevention, medical and legal support, licensed foster homes, and residential treatment. This solicitation aims to select vendors to provide specified services, with the option to operate one or multiple facility types. The vendor must be willing to commit to their roles, engage in evidence-based practices, and collaborate with MDCPS on referrals, admissions, discharges, placement transitions and aftercare recommendations/services. Additional information about the services the Agency is seeking can be found in Section 2 of this RFP.

1.2 Procurement Timeline

RFP Issued and First Advertisement	December 16, 2024
Second Advertisement	December 23, 2024
Deadline to Submit Questions or Requests for Clarification	December 27, 2024, 12:00 p.m., CST
Anticipated Posting of Answers to Questions and Requests for Clarifications	December 29, 2024
Deadline to Submit the <i>Recommended</i> Letter of Intent	December 31, 2024, 12:00 p.m., CST
Deadline to Submit Proposals	January 29, 2025, 12:00 p.m., CST
Anticipated Notice of Intent to Award	February 19, 2025
Anticipated Initial Contract Term	April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2028

Note: MDCPS reserves the right to adjust this schedule as it deems necessary. MDCPS may post Answers to Questions or the Notice of Intent to Award on dates other than those stated above without amendment to this RFP. The initial contract term shall be three years, but MDCPS may change the dates of the initial contract term without amendment to this RFP if the date changes are necessary because of the procurement schedule. No other dates shall be changed unless a written amendment is issued.

1.3 Questions and Requests for Clarification

Questions relating to the RFP requirements, or the services shall be submitted in writing to the RFP Coordinator listed on the cover page of this RFP at Contracts@mdcps.ms.gov no later than December 27, 2024, 12:00 p.m., CST. Offerors are cautioned that any statements made by any person at the agency shall not be relied upon where it contradicts any portion of this RFP, unless it is subsequently ratified by a formal written amendment to the RFP. All questions and answers will be published on the MDCPS website and the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website in a manner that all Offerors will be able to view.

1.4 Recommended Letter of Intent

Offerors should notify MDCPS of their intention to submit a proposal package. The letter of intent (**Attachment I**) shall be submitted via email to Contracts@mdcps.ms.gov by December 31, 2024, 12:00 p.m. CST. The letter of intent shall include the title and RFX number on the cover page of this RFP, the Offeror's organizational name and address, one (1) to two (2) sentences stating that the Offeror's organization intends to submit a proposal for this service, location of the service area, and the contact person's name, title, phone number, fax number, Tax I.D. number, DUNS number, address, and email address. MDCPS will acknowledge receipt of the letter of intent via return email from contracts@mdcps.ms.gov.

1.5 Proposal Acceptance Period

The Agency will accept proposals until January 29, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., CST. Proposals shall be delivered to the RFP Coordinator listed on the cover page of this RFP. Proposal submission requirements are contained in Section 3 of this RFP.

1.6 Rejection of Proposals

Proposals which do not conform to the requirements set forth in this RFP may be rejected by MDCPS. Proposals may be rejected for reasons which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The proposal contains unauthorized amendments to the requirements of the RFP.
- The proposal is conditional.
- The proposal is incomplete or contains irregularities which make the proposal indefinite or ambiguous.
- The proposal is received late. Late proposals will be maintained unopened in the procurement file.
- The proposal is not signed by an authorized representative of the party.
- The proposal contains false or misleading statements or references.
- The proposal does not offer to provide all services required by the RFP.
- Any other reason MDCPS determines to be in the best interest of the State.

1.7 Expenses Incurred in Preparing Offers

The MDCPS accepts no responsibility for any expense incurred by any Offeror in the preparation and presentation of an offer. Such expenses shall be borne exclusively by the Offeror.

1.8 Proprietary Information

The Offeror should identify any part of the proposal package considered to be proprietary information which may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended), as a "Trade Secret." Any pages not marked accordingly will be subject to review by the general public after award of the contract. Requests to review the

proprietary information will be handled in accordance with applicable legal procedures. The Offeror shall submit a completed Proprietary Information Form, attached to this RFP as **Attachment C**. Additional submission requirements regarding any part of the proposal marked as a “Trade Secret” are contained in Section 3 of this RFP.

1.9 Restrictions on Communication with Agency Staff

At no time shall any Offeror or its personnel contact, or attempt to contact, any MDCPS staff regarding this RFP except the RFP Coordinator listed on the cover page of this RFP in the manner prescribed in Section 1.3. Unauthorized contact regarding the RFP with other employees of the agency may result in the potential Offeror being disqualified, and the potential Offeror may also be suspended or disbarred from the State.

1.10 Registration with Mississippi Secretary of State

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that it is registered to do business in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by Mississippi law and the Mississippi Secretary of State or, if not already registered, that it will do so within five (5) business days of being notified by the agency that it has been selected for contract award. Sole proprietors are not required to register with the Mississippi Secretary of State.

1.11 Debarment

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that it is not currently debarred from submitting proposals for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi or federal government and that it is not an agent of a person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting proposals for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi or federal government. The Offeror shall submit a completed MDCPS Debarment Verification Form, attached to this RFP as **Attachment B**. **Attachment B** shall be received by the MDCPS, in the proposal submitted by the Offeror, no later than 12:00 p.m., CST on January 29, 2025. The MDCPS reserves the right to deem any proposal not containing an executed MDCPS Debarment Verification Form as non-responsive to the RFP.

1.12 Registration with Mississippi’s Accountability System for Governmental Information and Collaboration (MAGIC)

If the Offeror is not already registered as a supplier in MAGIC, the Offeror should register as a supplier with the State of Mississippi. Registering as a supplier with the State of MS allows businesses to register for upcoming opportunity notifications by the products they supply, search the system for upcoming solicitations, respond to solicitations electronically, and receive purchase orders via e-mail. The registration can be completed at the following link: <http://www.dfa.ms.gov/dfa-offices/mmrs/mississippi-suppliershttp://www.dfa.ms.gov/dfa-offices/mmrs/mississippi-suppliers-vendors/supplier-self-service/vendors/supplier-self-service/>. Any questions regarding registration in MAGIC should be directed to the Mississippi Management and Reporting System (MMRS) staff by emailing mash@dfa.ms.gov or calling 601-359-1343.

1.13 Discussions with Offerors

Discussions may be conducted with Offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award; however, proposals or qualifications may be accepted without such discussions. Likewise, MDCPS also reserves the right to accept any proposal as submitted for contract award, without substantive negotiation of proposed terms, services or prices. For these reasons, all parties are advised to propose their most favorable terms initially.

1.14 Solicitation Document

The RFP is comprised of the base RFP document, any attachments, any amendments issued prior to the submission deadline, and any other documents released before contract award. The attachments to this RFP are made a part of this RFP as if copied herein in words and figures.

1.15 Acknowledgement of Amendments

Should an amendment to the RFP be issued, it will be posted on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the MDCPS website in a manner that all Offerors will be able to view. Further, Offerors must acknowledge receipt of any amendment to the solicitation by signing and returning the amendment (**Attachment H**) with the proposal package, by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the amendment, or by letter. The acknowledgment should be received by the MDCPS by the time and at the place specified for receipt of proposals as reflected in Section 1.2. It is the Offeror's sole responsibility to monitor the websites for any updates or amendments to the RFP.

MDCPS reserves the right to amend the contents of this RFP as it deems necessary. This RFP, all questions, requests for clarification, and answers, and any other amendments will be published on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal and the MDCPS website in a manner that all Offerors will be able to view. It is the sole responsibility of the Offeror to monitor the MDCPS website and the procurement portal for amendments to the RFP to ensure their proposal complies with any such amendments.

1.16 Exceptions

Offerors taking exception to any part or section of the solicitation shall indicate such exceptions on the RFP Exception(s) form, **Attachment D**. Failure to indicate any exception will be interpreted as the Offeror's intent to comply fully with the requirements as written. Conditional or qualified proposals, unless specifically allowed, shall be subject to rejection in whole or in part. The proposal must contain a high degree of acceptance of contract terms and conditions listed in **Attachment G** of this RFP.

1.17 Informalities and Irregularities

MDCPS has the right to waive minor defects or variations of a proposal from the exact requirements of the specifications that do not affect the price, quality, quantity, delivery, or performance time of the services being procured. If insufficient information is submitted by a Offeror with the proposal for MDCPS to properly evaluate the proposal, MDCPS has the right to require such additional information as it may deem necessary after the time set for receipt of proposals, provided that the information requested does not change the price, quality, quantity, delivery, or performance time of the services being procured.

1.18 Right to Reject Proposals

MDCPS reserves the right to reject any and all proposals during any step of the procurement process, even after negotiations have begun. MDCPS reserves the right to reject any and all proposals where the Offeror takes exception to the terms and conditions of the RFP and/or fails to meet the terms and conditions and/or in any way attempts to limit the rights of MDCPS and/or the State of Mississippi, including but not limited to, the required contractual terms and provisions set forth in this RFP.

1.19 Type of Contract

The resultant contracts from this RFP shall consist of this RFP and any amendments, the Offeror's proposal, and/or Offeror's best and final offer (as applicable). Compensation for services under a contract resulting from this RFP will be in the form of a firm-fixed-price contract with price adjustments made by MDCPS as provided in Section 1.19.4 of the RFP. Compensation will be based on a per diem rate. The payment rate for each placement type can be found in Attachment L.

1.19.1 Any work performed by the awarded Offeror prior to start date of a valid, executed contract is done at Offeror's sole risk. The State is under no obligation to pay for work performed prior to contract start date.

1.19.2 Required Contract Terms and Conditions

Any contract entered into between MDCPS and an Offeror pursuant to this RFP shall include the required clauses found in **Attachment G** and those required by the *Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations* as updated and replaced by PPRB.

1.19.3 Optional Contract Terms and Conditions

Any contract entered into between MDCPS and an Offeror pursuant to this RFP may have at the discretion of the MDCPS, the optional clauses found in Appendix E of the *Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations*.

1.19.4 Price Adjustment to Account for Inflation

A price adjustment may be allowed which does not exceed the lesser of either 5% or the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Any such price adjustment will be effective only once per 12-month period, on the anniversary of the contract start date. If the CPI-U is a negative number, no adjustment in price shall be allowed. A negative CPI-U shall be counted against any subsequent increases in the CPI-U when calculating any price adjustment relative to later contract years. The Contractor shall provide any support for the request for a price adjustment required by MDCPS. MDCPS has the sole discretion to determine whether a price adjustment will be allowed. No price adjustment will be allowed other than as described in this paragraph. Any approval of a price adjustment shall be contained in a duly executed written amendment to this Contract.

1.20 General References Throughout the RFP

Throughout this document, the various references below refer to the webpages or documents found at the specified link:

- "The MDCPS website" refers to the website found at www.mdcps.ms.gov.
- "The Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal" or "the procurement portal" refers to the website found at https://www.ms.gov/dfa/contract_bid_search/Home/Buy.
- "The *Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations*" or "the PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations" refers to the rules and regulations found at <https://www.dfa.ms.gov/personal-service-contract-review>.

1.21 MDCPS Rights Reserved

By and through this RFP, MDCPS hereby reserves its rights to the following:

- Reject any and/or all proposals received in response to this RFP.
- Waive minor irregularities if MDCPS determines that waiver would be in its best interest and would not result in an unfair advantage for other Offerors and potential Offerors.
- Reject any timely and properly submitted proposal in its entirety for failing to meet any of the mandatory requirements identified herein.
- Select for contract or for negotiations, a proposal other than that with the lowest cost.
- If negotiations fail to result in a contract or agreement prior to the anticipated contract start date, MDCPS may terminate negotiations and take such other action as MDCPS deems appropriate.

SECTION 2: Scope of Services and Requirements

2.1 Purpose

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) seeks to engage vendors who will actively participate in the MDCPS Continuum of Care (CoC). This solicitation aims to select award recipients to deliver specified services outlined in the proposal. Vendors can submit proposals to operate either a single facility or multiple facilities. Chosen agencies will undergo an organizational needs assessment, receive training for foster caregivers and staff, and review policies to better support and sustain the needs of the youth.

The MDCPS Continuum of Care is a network of partnering agencies working together to protect children and provide a comprehensive range of family-centered services. These services cater to children at all levels of involvement with the child protection system, covering prevention services, medical and legal support, licensed foster homes, and residential treatment settings.

When out-of-home placements are deemed necessary, the CoC ensures that children and youth are placed in quality therapeutic foster homes that are safe, licensed, child and family-centered, and trauma-informed. The CoC's goal is to establish and maintain a robust statewide partnership of organizations serving children and youth in foster care, aiming to significantly reduce placement disruptions, decrease congregate care placements, and achieve permanency.

Each partnering agency within the CoC commits to its designated service role as per the contract and is required to engage in evidence-based practices that promote physical and psychological safety, shared parenting, and a culture of trauma awareness. Agencies must also actively collaborate with MDCPS on youth admissions and discharge transitions, ensuring that youth are not denied admission or discharge based on agreed contract criteria.

It is understood that any contract resulting from this RFP may require approval by the Public Procurement Review Board (PPRB). If any contract resulting from this RFP is not approved by MDCPS and/or PPRB (if required), it is void and no payment shall be made.

2.2 Scope of Services

MDCPS is seeking to procure the services of vendors that will agree to be an active participant in the MDCPS Continuum of Care. The outcome of this Solicitation will be the selection of an award recipient(s) to accomplish specified services contained in the proposal. Proposers may submit a proposal to operate a single facility or multiple facilities.

The MDCPS Continuum of Care (CoC) serves as a network of partnering agencies that work collectively to ensure that children are protected and are provided with a wide range of family-centered services that meet their needs at any level of involvement with the child protection system. Ultimately, the CoC network of partner providers spans the entire spectrum of child protection services to include prevention services, medical and legal supports, licensed foster homes, and residential treatment settings.

When out-of-home placements have been deemed in the best interest of the child, the CoC ensures that children and youth are provided with quality therapeutic foster homes that are safe, licensed, child and family-centered, and trauma-informed. Moreover, the CoC purpose is to establish and maintain a robust statewide partnership consisting of organizations that serve children and youth in foster care that are committed to significantly decreasing overall placement disruptions, reducing congregate care placements, and achieving permanency.

As a part of the Continuum of Care, each partnering agency commits to its designated service role (according to the contract) within the CoC and is required to engage in evidence-based practices that promote physical and psychological safety, shared parenting, a culture of trauma awareness, and actively collaborate with MDCPS regarding youth admissions and discharge transitions. In addition, CoC members agree to work diligently to ensure that youth are not denied admission and/or discharge based upon agreed contract criteria. Ultimately, CoC members actively coordinate with MDCPS and other members of the CoC regarding referrals, admissions, discharges, placement transitions, and aftercare recommendations/services. Additional details and requirements for each setting type can be at [here](#).

The Continuum of Care statewide partnership is comprised of dedicated organizations that serve children and youth in the following settings:

- **Intake and Assessment Centers (Emergency Shelters) (IAC)** shall be designated to provide emergency and/or temporary residential services (up to 60 days) to meet the basic needs of children and youth ages ten (10) to twenty-one (21). Intake and Assessment Centers are short-term solutions for children and youth entering care until permanency may be achieved. No child shall remain in an Intake and Assessment Center for more than sixty (60) calendar days unless there are exceptional circumstances and the MDCPS Deputy Commissioner of Well-Being and Safety has granted express written approval and documented the need for the extension.
- **Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)** are a specific category of a congregate care setting, for which agencies must meet detailed assessment, case planning, documentation, judicial determination and ongoing review and permanency hearing requirements for a child to be placed in and continue to receive title IV-E FCMP's for the placement. The facility must also meet the definition of a CCI at sections 472(c)(2)(A) and (C) of the Social Security Act, including that it must be licensed (in accordance with section 471(a)(10) of the Act and that

criminal record and child abuse and neglect registry checks must be completed in accordance with section 471(a)(20)(D) of the Social Security Act.

- **Specialized Group Care for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking (SGC)** is a setting that is licensed to provide 24-hour care and supervision for children and youth identified to be involved in sex trafficking. Providers of this setting conduct services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) (used synonymously with victims of human trafficking or victims at risk of human trafficking) and must meet the licensing requirements outlined in the Congregate Care Licensure Standards in addition to the program requirements outlined in this rule.
- **Supervised Independent Living (SIL)** is a licensed or approved setting in which young adults in foster care can reside in the least restrictive, non-traditional environment while continuing to receive casework and supportive services that promote independence and will help them become self-sufficient. The program should encompass a balance between independence and dependence. Young adults in the program should not require 24-hour supervision but have scheduled and unscheduled intermittent check-ins. Youth (ages 18-21) currently in foster care that has been assessed and determined to be ready for living independently with supportive services provided by the approved Partner Provider. Supportive services shall be provided by the program Partner Provider.
- **Teen Maternity Homes** are settings specializing in providing therapeutic prenatal, postpartum, or parenting supports for youth in foster care - ages twelve (12) years of age through age twenty (20) years and (11) eleven months.
- **Therapeutic Foster Homes** are licensed or approved by the state as a foster family home that meets the standards established to provide care for children or youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance in a family setting, utilizing specially trained foster parents. Therapeutic Foster Care services are intensive and supportive services provided to children in the custody of MDCPS. These children have significant medical, developmental, emotional, or behavioral needs, who with additional resources, can remain in a family setting and achieve positive growth and development. Services include specialized training, clinical support, and in-home intervention to therapeutic foster parents and the child, allowing the child to remain in a family home setting.
- **Therapeutic Group Home Services** shall provide services to children in MDCPS custody ages ten (10) to twenty (20) years (or until the twenty first (21st) birthday if custody has been extended by the court) and should be designed to meet the needs of children who are unable to live at home, or with a Foster Family) with at least moderate emotional, behavioral, medical, or developmental problems, for instance, bipolar disorder, dysthymia (depression), intermittent explosive disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, sexually deviant behavior, intellectual disability/developmental delays, behavior disorder, mental illness/on medication, other diagnosed psychiatric disorders according to the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Disorders and therefore require temporary therapeutic and mental health services in a group care setting that is integrated within the community. The goal for children in therapeutic group homes is lasting permanency through reunification, relative care, adoption or guardianship. Therefore, the primary work with the child and family should be focused on making this happen. The Therapeutic Group Home Applicant shall provide structure, therapeutic support, behavioral intervention and other services identified in a child's permanency plan for children with moderate clinical and behavioral needs. The Therapeutic Group Home Program shall be designed for children and youth in need of twenty-four (24) hour care and integrated planning to address behavioral, emotional, or family problems and the need for progressive reintegration into family and community living. Children and youth in a therapeutic group home placement

shall remain involved in community-based schools (if possible) and participate in community and school-based recreational activities with appropriate supervision.

- **Traditional Foster Homes** are licensed or approved by the state as a foster home that meets the standards established to provide care for children in a family setting with licensed foster parents to support lasting permanency and/or reunification with biological families.
- **Traditional Group Home Services** shall be designed to provide services to children and youth in MDCPS custody ages ten (10) to twenty (20) years (or until the twenty-first (21st) birthday if custody has been extended by the court). Group Homes may serve children younger than ten (10), upon written approval by the Assistant Deputy Commissioner (ADC), when they are siblings of a resident over age ten (10). The goal for children in Group Home Care is lasting permanency through reunification, relative care, adoption, or guardianship. The purpose of Group Home Care is to provide an environment and services that will help children, and their families develop the necessary skills to support lasting permanency. The Group Home shall provide services to help children and youth return to their families, transition to a less restrictive setting, or to independent living.

The outcome of this Solicitation will be the selection of an award recipient(s) to accomplish specified services contained in the proposal. Proposers may submit a proposal to operate a single facility or multiple facilities. Proposals must explain the Provider's expertise and/or history in the provision of residential services. *Please refer to the specific setting type for additional details and requirements.* All proposals must contain language on how the proposer can meet the identified needs of children and their families.

The proposal shall describe in detail specialized training given to direct care and administrative staff to adequately prepare them to provide care to children in a trauma-informed manner. Proposals must explain how providers will address behavior management, methods of crisis intervention and stabilization, and strategies of behavior de-escalation.

MDCPS is seeking providers who demonstrate they will use a collaborative problem-solving approach and provide a child-centered nurturing environment. Proposers must acknowledge the performance measures outlined in the MDCPS Congregate Care Partner Provider Scorecard that will determine the effectiveness of their program.

2.3 Term

The anticipated term of the contract shall be for a period of three (3) years, beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2028, the contract may be renewed at the discretion of MDCPS for a period of one (1) successive two (2) year periods under the same prices, terms, and conditions as in the original contract, and subject to approval by the PPRB. The total number of renewal years permitted shall not exceed one (1) or extend past March 31, 2030.

Renewal years are subject to the needs of MDCPS, as well as the availability and appropriation of funds. MDCPS shall notify the contractor, on a timely basis, that funds are or are not available for the continuation of the contract for each succeeding fiscal period. A multi-term contract will be canceled if funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support the continuation of performance in any fiscal period succeeding the first; however, this does not affect either the State's rights or the contractor's rights under any termination clause in the contract.

2.4 Insurance

The company represents that it will maintain workers' compensation insurance which shall inure to the benefit of all the company's personnel performing services under this Contract, comprehensive general liability insurance, and employee fidelity bond insurance. All general liability, professional liability and fidelity bond insurance will provide coverage to MDCPS as an additional insured.

All insurance policies shall be issued by companies authorized to do business under the laws of the State of Mississippi. A certificate of insurance providing the aforesaid coverage shall be furnished to MDCPS prior to commencement of services resulting from this RFP. MDCPS reserves the right to request from carriers, certificates of insurance regarding the required coverage. Insurance carriers must be licensed or hold a Certificate of Authority from the Mississippi Department of Insurance.

The Offeror shall be prepared to provide evidence of required insurance upon request by the MDCPS at any point during the contract period and should consult with legal counsel regarding its obligations.

Contractor shall submit to Agency within five (5) business days of notification of intent to award, a certificate of insurance and/or bond which outlines the coverage and limits defined in the procurement and contract. There are no provisions for exceptions to this requirement. Failure to provide the certificates of insurance within five (5) business days may be cause for your proposal to be declared non-responsive or for your contract to be cancelled.

Contractor shall not commence work under this contract until it obtains all insurance and/or bond required under this provision and furnishes a certificate or other form showing proof of current coverage to the State. After work commences, the Contractor will keep in force all required insurance and/or bond until the contract is terminated or expires.

The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that any subcontractors provide adequate insurance and/or bond coverage for the activities arising out of subcontracts.

In no event shall the requirement for an insurance, bond, or other surety be waived. Any failure to comply with the reporting provisions of this clause shall constitute a material breach of Contract and shall be grounds for immediate termination of this Contract by Agency.

2.5 Multiple Awards

MDCPS reserves the right to make multiple awards

SECTION 3: Proposal Submission Requirements

3.1. Proposal Submission Deadline

All proposals submitted in response to this RFP must be received by the RFP Coordinator listed on the cover page of this RFP **no later than January 29, 2025, at 12:00 PM, Central Standard Time.**

Timely submission is the sole responsibility of the Offeror. Proposal packages received by the RFP Coordinator after the specified time shall be rejected and maintained unopened as part of the procurement file. All Offerors are urged to take the possibility of delay into account when submitting a proposal package. The agency will not be responsible for mail delays, lost mail, or any other delivery failure. All risk of late arrival due to unanticipated delay – whether delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier or other delivery service or method – is entirely on the Offeror. A proposal is considered delivered to the Agency when it is received by the RFP coordinator.

The time and date of receipt shall be indicated on the envelope or package by the RFP Coordinator. The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt is the time and date stamp of the RFP Coordinator on the proposal or other documentary evidence of receipt used by the RFP Coordinator. Offerors may request the RFP Coordinator provide them documentation of receipt of their proposals.

3.2 Manner of Submission

Proposals must be submitted by U.S. Mail, other courier, or by hand delivery in a sealed envelope or package. The outside of the envelope or package should be marked:

Request for Proposals for Congregate Care and Child Placing Agency Services

Opening Date: January 29, 2025

RFP No. 2024ICCCP001

RFX Number: 3140004080

Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services

750 North State Street

Jackson, Mississippi 39202

SEALED PROPOSAL PACKAGE

*****DO NOT OPEN*****

Proposals submitted via facsimile (fax) machine, e-mail, or other electronic submission method will not be accepted.

3.3 Content of Proposals

All proposals shall be in writing. Offerors shall submit a labeled binder containing one (1) original, signed proposal package and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal package. The original proposal (physical copy – in the labeled binder) shall include six (6) tabs dividing appropriate sections of Offeror's proposal. The electronic copy shall be stored on a thumb drive that includes separate PDF file folders of each required Tab.

Each Tab should be labeled as follows and include the content discussed in Sections 3.3.1 through 3.3.6 of this RFP.:

Tab 1	Transmittal Letter and Required Documentation
Tab 2	Minimum Qualifications
Tab 3	Technical Proposal
Tab 4	Cost Proposal
Tab 5	Management Proposal
Tab 6	Public Copy of Full Proposal

Electronic files shall not be password protected, shall be in .PDF format, and shall be capable of being copied to other media including a readable version of Microsoft Word.

Modifications or additions to any portion of the procurement document may be cause for rejection of the proposal. MDCPS reserves the right to decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether to reject a proposal with modifications or additions as non-responsive. As a precondition to proposal acceptance, MDCPS may request the Offeror to withdraw or modify those portions of the proposal deemed non-responsive that do not affect quality, quantity, price, or delivery of the service. MDCPS reserves the right to address any minor informalities as provided by Section 3-202.12.4.1 of the PPRB OPSCR Rules and Regulations.

3.3.1 Transmittal Letter and Required Documentation

The Offeror should submit a Transmittal Letter which contains the following minimum information:

- The Offeror’s name, telephone number, location of Offeror’s principal place of business, and if different, the place of performance of services solicited by this RFP.
- The age of the Offerors business and the average number of employees the Offeror has employed for the past three (3) years;
- A statement the Offeror certifies that it is registered to do business in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by the Mississippi Secretary of State or, if not already registered, that it will do so within three (3) business days of written notification of award. Sole proprietors are not required to register with the Mississippi Secretary of State.

In addition to the Transmittal Letter, the following completed and signed documents should be included under Tab 1:

- Proposal Cover Sheet with Certifications and Assurances (Attachment A)
- Debarment Verification Form (Attachment B)
- Proprietary Information Form (Attachment C)
- Proposal Exception Summary (Attachment D)
- A minimum of 3 References (Attachment E)
- Acknowledgement of Amendments, if applicable (Attachment H)
- Copy of Previously Submitted Recommended Letter of Intent (Attachment I)

- Pre-Offeree's Statement of Acknowledgement (Attachment J)
- Proposal Cost Form (Attachment M)
- Completed W-9

3.3.2 Minimum Qualifications and Information

The Offeror must submit documentation demonstrating that it meets the following minimum qualifications:

- The Offeror must receive a minimum total score of 12 from two references on the Reference Score Sheet, provided as Attachment F to this RFP. The Offeror must have or have had contracts or projects with the references submitted on Attachment E under which services similar in scope, size, or discipline to the services required herein were performed or undertaken during the past three (3) years. References must be familiar with the Offeror's abilities in the areas involved with this RFP. MDCPS will use these references to determine the Offeror's ability to perform the services. It is the responsibility of the Offeror to ensure that the reference contact information is correct and current. Offerors should verify before submitting their response that the contact person and phone number are correct for each reference. MDCPS staff must be able to reach at least two (2) references for an Offeror within two (2) business days of proposal opening. The Offeror may submit as many references as desired. MDCPS will begin contacting references at the top of the list and will continue down the list until MDCPS completes a Reference Score Sheet for two (2) references.
- The Offeror must be financially stable or solvent. Each Offeror shall submit copies of the most recent year's independently audited finance statements as well as financial statements for the preceding two (2) years. The submission must include the audit opinion, the balance sheet, and statements of income, retained earnings, cash flows, notes to the financial statements, and account balances for the past six (6) months. If independently audited financial statements do not exist, Offeror must state the reason and, instead, submit sufficient information to enable the Agency to assess the financial stability or solvency of the Offeror, such as financial statements, credit ratings, a line of credit, or other financial arrangements sufficient to enable the Offeror to be capable of meeting the requirements of the RFP.

Written Proposals shall contain the following MANDATORY Minimum Information:

Proposals that do not include the following MANDATORY information may be deemed non-responsive and not considered for evaluation:

- a. Table of Contents;
- b. Required format followed (typed, indexed, divided, and in numbered);
- c. Required number of identifiable and non-identifiable copies of proposal provided;
- d. Completed and signed Acknowledgement of Amendments, if applicable; and
- e. Statement that the vendor certifies it is registered to do business in the State of Mississippi as prescribed by the Mississippi Secretary of State or, if not already registered, that it will do so within three (3) business days of written notification of award.

- f. Proposals must explain the Provider's expertise and/or history in the provision of residential services.
- g. All proposals must contain language on how the proposer can meet the identified needs of children and their families.
- h. The proposal shall describe in detail the current level of specialized training given to direct care and administrative staff to adequately prepare them to provide care to children in a trauma-informed manner.
- i. Proposals must explain how providers will/ or currently address behavior management, methods of crisis intervention and stabilization, and strategies of behavior de-escalation.
- j. Acknowledgement of MDCPS Congregate Care Partner Provider Scorecard that will determine the effectiveness of their program.

3.3.3 Technical Proposal

Offerors should submit a plan giving as many details as is practical explaining how the services will be performed pursuant to Section 2.2 of this RFP and information for quality control and assurance programs.

3.3.4 Cost Proposal

Offerors must submit a Cost Proposal Form using **Attachment M**. All pricing submitted on **Attachment M** should include all necessary expenditures to provide services requested in this RFP with no additional or hidden fees. Offerors should submit a detailed budget including an itemized list of all expenditures for the services and activities required by this RFP with no additional or hidden fees.

3.3.5 Management Proposal

Offerors should provide the following information in the Management Proposal:

- Detailed approach to the management of the program and ability to keep the program on target and to ensure that the requested services are provided;
- Offeror's plan to ensure that all requests are being met and the ability to identify and resolve problems which occur;
- Identification of in-house resources vs. contracted resources;
- Describe the experience of the firm in providing services of similar scope and size as those required by this RFP, give the number of years that the company has been providing services, and provide a statement on the extent of any corporate expansion required to handle the service;
- Documentation of experience in performing similar work by employees and when appropriate, sub-contractors and understanding the importance of interacting with the appropriate MDCPS staff and presenting a plan to do so appropriately;
- Resumes listing abilities, qualifications and experience of all other individuals who will be assigned to provide the required services; and
- Method(s) for estimating and documenting personnel hours spent by staff on program activities to be sure they are sound and fair; (Personnel, equipment, facilities, to perform the services currently available or demonstrated to be made available at the time of contracting).

3.3.6 Public Copy of Complete Proposal

The Offeror shall prepare a complete copy of the proposal (as required by Sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, and 3.3.5) and redact any information the Offeror deems to be a Trade Secret. For additional information about what constitutes a Trade Secret, see Section 1.8 of this RFP and Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-61-1, *et seq.* and 79-23-1. The redacted copy of the complete proposal shall be considered the “Public Copy” of the Offeror’s proposal.

The Public Copy of the proposal is considered a public record and is subject to release by MDCPS without notice to the Offeror pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* MDCPS may release the Public Copy pursuant to requests under the Mississippi Public Records Act or any other reason deemed necessary by MDCPS. Should the Offeror be awarded a contract, the Public Copy will also be posted to the Transparency Mississippi website.

If an Offeror does not submit a Public Copy, the Agency will consider the proposal submitted in response to Sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, and 3.3.5, to be the Public Copy and subject to being released, in full, without notice to the Offeror.

SECTION 4: Evaluation and Award

MDCPS will evaluate Offerors' proposals in three steps.

4.1 Step One: Determination of Responsive and Responsible Offerors

Proposals will be reviewed to determine whether the Offeror will be deemed responsive and responsible. Proposals which do not comply with the minimum specifications may be deemed Non-Responsive or Not Responsible and rejected immediately, receiving no further consideration. The Offeror shall be notified in writing if their proposal is deemed Non-Responsive and/or Not Responsible and is thereby rejected.

4.1.1 Responsive Respondent

Offeror must submit a proposal which conforms in all material respects to this RFP, as determined by MDCPS.

Nonconforming Terms and Conditions: A proposal response that includes terms and conditions that do not conform to the terms and conditions in the proposal document is subject to rejection as non-responsive. The MDCPS reserves the right to permit the Offeror to withdraw nonconforming terms and conditions from its proposal response prior to a determination by the MDCPS of non-responsiveness based on the submission of nonconforming terms and conditions.

Conditioning Proposal Upon Other Awards: Any proposal which is conditioned upon receiving award of both the particular contract being solicited and another Mississippi contract shall be deemed non-responsive and not acceptable.

4.1.2 Responsible Respondent

Offeror must have capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance, as determined by MDCPS. At a minimum, an Offeror must meet or exceed the minimum qualifications as stated in Section 3.3.2 to be deemed responsible.

4.2 Step Two: Evaluation Committee

Proposals that satisfactorily complete Step One will be reviewed and analyzed by an evaluation committee to determine if the proposal adequately meets the needs of MDCPS. The evaluation committee will award points using the factors listed below. There are a total of 100 points available.

4.2.1 Technical Factors (Proposed Methodology) - 33 Points (33%)

- Does the offeror's proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the scope of work and related objectives? (Does the offeror understand what work needs to be done?) (10 points)
- Has the past performance of the offeror's proposed methodology been documented? (Has the offeror done this work in the past?) (8 points)
- Does the proposal include quality control and assurance programs? (Does the offeror have, or can they keep valid workers?) (5 points)
- Does the vendor use a program (s) registered in the California Clearing House for Child Welfare? (5 points)

- Y/N (5 points for Yes and 0 points for No)
- If Yes, what is the rating?
 - Rating 1-3 (5 points)
 - Rating >3 or no rating (0 points)

4.2.2 Cost Factors (Price) – 35 Points (35%)

- All respondents will receive 35 points for cost factors, as the contract rates are set by MDCPS.

4.2.3 Management Factors – 32 Points (32%)

- History and experience in performing the work: (10 points)
- Does the offeror document a record of reliability? (4 points)
- Does the offeror demonstrate a track record of service as evidenced by on-time, on budget, and contract compliance performance? (5 points)
- Does the offeror document industry or program experience? Has the offeror dealt with state contracts in the past? (5 points)
- Availability of personnel, facilities, equipment and other resources: (8 points)

4.3 Step Three: Negotiation

MDCPS will contact the Offerors with proposals which best meets the agency’s needs (based on factors evaluated in Step Two) and may attempt to negotiate an agreement that is deemed acceptable to both parties.

4.3.1 Negotiating with Next-Ranked Vendor

Should negotiations discussed in Section 4.3 fail to result in a contract that is acceptable to both parties or the State ceases doing business with any Contractor selected through this RFP process, for any reason, the State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked vendor.

4.4 Award

Following evaluation, the Agency will issue a Notice of Intent to Award to the responsible Offerors whose proposal is determined in writing, to be the most advantageous to the State taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation. MDCPS anticipates making multiple awards.

4.4.1 Notice of Intent to Award

The Notice of Intent to Award for this procurement will be made available to the public through posting on the Mississippi Contract/Procurement Opportunity Search Portal website and the agency website. All participating Offerors will be notified in writing of MDCPS’ intent to award a contract and identify the selected Offeror.

4.4.2 Notice of Contract Award

Following issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award, successful negotiation of the contract, and approval of the contract by the Public Procurement Review Board and any other required entities, MDCPS make a Notice of Contract Award available to the public.

SECTION 5: Debriefing Information

5.1 Post-Award Vendor Debriefing

A respondent, successful or unsuccessful, may request a post-award debriefing, in writing, by U.S. mail or electronic submission. The written request must be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, LaShunda Williams of the MDCPS within three (3) business days of notification of the contract award. A post-award debriefing is a meeting and not a hearing; therefore, legal representation is not required. A debriefing typically occurs within three (3) business days of receipt of the request. If a respondent prefers to have legal representation present, the respondent must notify the Chief Procurement Officer, LaShunda Williams in writing and identify its attorney by name, address, and telephone number. The MDCPS will schedule and/or suspend and reschedule the meeting at a time when a Representative of the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General can be present.

At a minimum, the debriefing information shall include the following:

1. The agency's evaluation of significant weaknesses or deficiencies in the vendor's bid, proposal, or qualifications, if applicable;
2. The overall evaluated cost or price, and technical rating, if applicable, of the successful vendor(s) and the debriefed vendor;
3. The overall ranking of all vendors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during the selection process;
4. A summary of the rationale for award; and,
5. Reasonable responses to relevant questions about selection procedures contained in the solicitation, applicable regulations, and other applicable authorities that were followed.

For additional information regarding Post-Award Debriefing, as well as the information that may be provided and excluded, please see Section 7-113, Post-Award Vendor Debriefing, of the *Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations* as updated and replaced by PPRB.

By signing below, the Company Representative certifies that he/she has authority to bind the company, and further acknowledges on behalf of the company:

1. That he/she has thoroughly read and understands this Request for Proposals and the attachments thereto;
2. That the company meets all requirements and acknowledges all certifications contained in this Request for Proposals and the attachments thereto;
3. That the company agrees to all provisions of this Request for Proposals and the attachments thereto including, but not limited to, the Required and Optional Clauses to be included in any contract resulting from this RFP (Attachments G);
4. That the company will perform the services required at the prices quoted;
5. That, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the cost or pricing data submitted is accurate, complete, and current as of the submission date;
6. That the company has, or will secure, at its own expense, applicable licensed and certified personnel or personnel with requisite credentials who shall be qualified to perform the duties required to be performed under this Request for Proposals.
7. **NON-DEBARMENT:** By submitting a proposal, the respondent certifies that it is not currently debarred from submitting proposals for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi and that it is not an agent of a person or entity that is currently debarred from submitting proposals for contracts issued by any political subdivision or agency of the State of Mississippi.
8. **REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES**
Contractor represents that it **has not** retained a person to solicit or secure a state contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in Contractor's proposal.
9. **REPRESENTATION REGARDING GRATUITIES**
The bidder, offeror, Contractor represents that it **has not** violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6-204 (Gratuities) of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.
10. **INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION**
The respondent certifies that the prices submitted in response to the solicitation **have** been arrived at independently and without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other respondent or competitor relating to those prices, the intention to submit a proposal, or the methods or factors used to calculate prices offered.

11. PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR’S REPRESENTATION REGARDING CONTINGENT FEES

The prospective Contractor represents as a part of such Contractor’s proposal that such Contractor **has not** retained any person or agency on a percentage, commission, or other contingent arrangement to secure this contract.

Company Name: _____

Printed Name and Title of Representative: _____

Signature/Date: _____

Note: Failure to sign this form may result in the proposal being rejected as nonresponsive. Modifications or additions to any portion of this proposal document may be cause for rejection of the proposal.

ATTACHMENT B: Debarment Verification Form

Subgrantee's/Contractor's Name	
Authorized Official's Name	
DUNS Number	
Address	
Phone Number	
*Are you currently registered with www.sam.gov (Respond Yes or No)	
*Registration Status (Type Active or Inactive)	
*Active Exclusions (Type Yes or No)	

**Offerors shall provide a written justification for any above responses denoted with an "*" as an attachment to this Attachment B, Debarment Verification Form for any responses other than the following: Are you currently registered with www.sam.gov? YES; Registration Status? ACTIVE; Active Exclusions? NO.*

Federal Debarment Certification:

By signing below, I hereby certify that _____ is not on the list
(Subgrantee's Name/Contractor's Name)
 for federal debarment on www.sam.gov – System for Award Management (SAM).

State of Mississippi Debarment Certification:

By signing below, I hereby certify that _____ is not on the list
(Subgrantee's Name/Contractor's Name)
 for debarment for doing business within the State of Mississippi or with any Mississippi State Agencies.

Partnership Debarment Certification:

By signing below, I hereby certify that all entities who are in partnership through this contract with MDCPS (subcontractors, subrecipients, et al.) are not on the federal debarment list on www.sam.gov – System for Award Management or the State of Mississippi debarment list. Proof of documentation of partnership verification with SAM shall be kept on file and the debarment status shall be checked prior to submission of every contract/subgrant and modification to MDCPS.

 Signature of Authorized Official
(No stamped signature)

 Date

ATTACHMENT C: Proprietary Information Form

The Offeror should mark any and all pages of this response considered to contain proprietary information. Such pages may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated §§25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). Each page of this response considered, by the Offeror, to contain trade secrets or other confidential commercial/financial information should be marked in the upper right-hand corner with the word “CONFIDENTIAL.” Any pages not marked accordingly will be subject to review by the general public after the award of the contract. Requests to review the proprietary information will be handled in accordance with applicable legal procedures. Failure to clearly identify trade secrets or other confidential commercial/financial information may result in that information being released in a public records request.

For all procurement contracts awarded by state agencies, the provisions of the contract which contain the personal or professional services provided, the price to be paid, and the term of the contract shall not be deemed to be a trade secret, or confidential commercial or financial information, and shall be available for examination, copying, or reproduction.

If applicable, please indicate which parts/pages below that the contractor wishes to designate as proprietary. In addition, provide the specific statutory authority for the exemption. **If this is not applicable, please indicate with “N/A” below.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

By signing below, I understand failure to clearly mark proprietary information as identified above may result in disclosure of such information as it will be subject to review by the general public after the award of the contract.

Signature of Authorized Official
(No stamped signature)

Date

ATTACHMENT D: Proposal Exception Summary Form

List and clearly explain any exceptions, for all RFP Sections and Attachments, in the table below. **Indicate “N/A”, if there are no exceptions.**

This Form MUST be COMPLETED and SIGNED.

Failure to indicate any exception will be interpreted as the respondent’s intent to comply fully with the requirements as written. Conditional or qualified proposals, unless specifically allowed, shall be subject to rejection in whole or in part.

RFP Reference	Respondent Proposal Reference	Brief Explanation of Exception	MDCPS Acceptance
<i>(Reference specific outline point to which exception is taken)</i>	<i>(Page, section, items in respondent’s proposal where exception is explained)</i>	<i>(Short description of exception being made)</i>	<i>(Sign here only if accepted)</i>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Signature of Authorized Official
(No stamped signature)

Date

ATTACHMENT E: References

Offerors may submit as many references as desired by submitting as many additional copies of Attachment E, References, as deemed necessary. References will be contacted in order listed until two (2) references have been interviewed and Reference Score Sheets completed for each of the two (2) references. No further references will be contacted; however, Offerors are encouraged to submit additional references to ensure that at least two (2) references are available for interview. MDCPS staff must be able to contact two (2) references within two (2) business days of proposal opening to be considered responsive.

REFERENCE 1

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Summary of Project/Contract: _____

REFERENCE 2

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Summary of Project/Contract: _____

REFERENCE 3

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Summary of Project/Contract: _____

REFERENCE 4

Name of Company: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Alternative Contact Person (optional): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Summary of Project/Contract: _____

ATTACHMENT F: Reference Score Sheet
****TO BE COMPLETED BY MDCPS STAFF ONLY****

Name of Offeror: _____

Reference Name: _____

Person Contacted, Title/Position: _____

Date/Time Contacted: _____

Contacted By: _____ Position: _____

Questions	Response (Circle One)	
	Yes	No
Able to provide Congregate Care and Child Placing Agency Services when requested?	Yes	No
Satisfied with the services provided? If no, please explain.	Yes	No
Vendor easy to work with when scheduling Congregate Care and Child Placing Agency Services?	Yes	No
Was the Services completed on time and within budget?	Yes	No
Vendor listened when you had an issue and readily offered a solution? (If never had an issue, please check here ____.)	Yes	No
Would you enter into a contract/project with them again?	Yes	No
Would you recommend them?	Yes	No

Services From/To Dates: _____

Offeror must have a minimum of 6 “yes” answers on the questions above from two (2) references (total of 12 “yes” answers) to be considered responsible and for its proposal to be considered.

Score: Pass/Fail

Do you have any business, professional or personal interest in the Offeror’s organization? If yes, please explain.	Yes	No
--	-----	----

A “yes” to the above question may result in an automatic disqualification of the provided reference; therefore, resulting in a score of zero as responses to previous questions become null and void.

Notes:

**ATTACHMENT G: Sample Contract
TO BE COMPLETED BY MDCPS ONLY**

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
CONTRACT FOR CONGREGATE CARE AND CHILD PLACING AGENCY SERVICES**

1. Parties. The parties to this contract are the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (hereinafter “MDCPS”) and _____ (hereinafter “Independent Contractor”).
2. Purpose. The purpose of this contract is for MDCPS to engage Independent Contractor for **Congregate Care and Child Placing Agency Services**. Independent Contractor hereby agrees to render certain professional services described in Paragraph 3, “Scope of Services.”
3. Scope of Services. Independent Contractor will perform and complete in a timely and satisfactory manner the services described in the Scope of Services, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and the “*2nd Modified Mississippi Settlement Agreement and Reform Plan*”, attached hereto as Exhibit B, and incorporated herein by reference.
4. Consideration. As consideration for the performance of this Contract, Independent Contractor shall be paid a fee not to exceed _____ in accordance with the budget attached hereto as Exhibit C.
5. Period of Performance. This contract will become effective for the period beginning April 1, 2025, and ending on March 31, 2028 upon the approval and signature of both parties hereto.
6. Renewal of Contract. The contract may be renewed at the discretion of MDCPS upon written notice to Independent Contractor prior to the contract anniversary date for one successive one-year period under the same prices, terms, and conditions as in the original contract and/or subsequent contracts. The total number of renewal years permitted shall not exceed one or extend past March 31, 2030. However, if MDCPS does not intend to renew the contract, Independent Contractor shall be notified in writing prior to the contract anniversary date.
7. Method of Payment. Independent Contractor agrees to accept payments referenced in Paragraph 4, “Consideration”, to be paid as billed by Independent Contractor, upon review and approval by MDCPS. Independent Contractor agrees to submit invoices to MDCPS that contain a detailed account of each billing. **The final invoice is to be submitted no later than fifteen (15) days after the contract end date.** Independent Contractor is classified as an independent contractor and not a contractual employee of MDCPS. As such, any compensation due and payable to Independent Contractor will be paid as gross amounts. Independent Contractor invoices shall be submitted to the Agency as set forth in Paragraph 27. Independent Contractor invoices shall be submitted to MDCPS at contract.invoices@mdcps.ms.gov by the 10th day of each month following completion.
8. Applicable Law. The contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi, excluding its conflicts of laws provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the federal courts in the State or in a court of competent jurisdiction in Hinds County, Mississippi. Independent Contractor shall comply with applicable federal, state,

and local laws and regulations.

9. Availability of Funds. It is expressly understood and agreed that the obligation of the MDCPS to proceed under this agreement is conditioned upon the appropriation of funds by the Mississippi State Legislature and the receipt of state and/or federal funds. If the funds anticipated for the continuing fulfillment of the agreement are, at any time, not forthcoming or insufficient, either through the failure of the federal government to provide funds or of the State of Mississippi to appropriate funds or the discontinuance or material alteration of the program under which funds were provided or if funds are not otherwise available to MDCPS, MDCPS shall have the right upon ten (10) working days written notice to Independent Contractor, to terminate this agreement without damage, penalty, cost or expenses to the MDCPS of any kind whatsoever. The effective date of termination shall be as specified in the notice of termination.
10. Representation Regarding Contingent Fees. Independent Contractor represents that it has not retained a person to solicit or secure a state contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except as disclosed in Contractor's bid or proposal.
11. Representation Regarding Gratuities. The Independent Contractor represents that it has not violated, is not violating, and promises that it will not violate the prohibition against gratuities set forth in Section 6-204 (Gratuities) of the Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules and Regulations.
12. Compliance with Laws. Independent Contractor understands that MDCPS is an equal opportunity employer and therefore, maintains a policy which prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical handicap, disability, genetic information, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. All such discrimination is unlawful and Independent Contractor agrees during the term of the agreement that Independent Contractor will strictly adhere to this policy in its employment practices and provision of services. Independent Contractor shall comply with, and all activities under this agreement shall be subject to, all applicable federal, State of Mississippi, and local laws and regulations, as now existing and as may be amended or modified.
13. Insurance. Independent Contractor represents that it will maintain workers' compensation insurance as required by the State of Mississippi which shall inure to the benefit of all the Independent Contractor's personnel provided hereunder; comprehensive general liability or professional liability insurance, and employee dishonesty insurance or fidelity bond insurance with third party liability coverage. All general liability, professional liability, employee dishonesty, and fidelity bond insurance will provide coverage MDCPS as an additional insured. MDCPS reserves the right to request from carriers, certificates of insurance regarding the required coverage. Insurance carriers must be licensed or hold a Certificate of Authority from the Mississippi Department of Insurance.
14. Indemnification. To the fullest extent allowed by law, Independent Contractor shall indemnify, defend, save and hold harmless, protect, and exonerate the agency, its commissioners, board members, officers, employees, agents, and representatives, and the State of Mississippi from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, suits, actions, damages, losses, and costs of every kind and nature whatsoever including, without limitation, court costs, investigative fees and expenses, and attorney's fees, arising out of or caused by Independent Contractor and/or its partners,

principals, agents, employees and/or subcontractors in the performance of or failure to perform this agreement. In the State's sole discretion, Independent Contractor may be allowed to control the defense of any such claim, suit, etc. In the event Independent Contractor defends said claim, suit, etc., Independent Contractor shall use legal counsel acceptable to the State. Independent Contractor shall be solely responsible for all costs and/or expenses associated with such defense, and the State shall be entitled to participate in said defense. Independent Contractor shall not settle any claim, suit, etc. without the State's concurrence, which the State shall not unreasonably withhold.

15. Stop Work Order.

- 1) Order to Stop Work: MDCPS may, by written order to Independent Contractor at any time, and without notice to any surety, require Independent Contractor to stop all or any part of the work called for by this contract. This order shall be for a specified period not exceeding 90 days after the order is delivered to Independent Contractor, unless the parties agree to any further period. Any such order shall be identified specifically as a stop work order issued pursuant to this clause. Upon receipt of such an order, Independent Contractor shall forthwith comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize the occurrence of costs allocable to the work covered by the order during the period of work stoppage. Before the stop work order expires, or within any further period to which the parties shall have agreed, MDCPS shall either:
 - a) cancel the stop work order; or,
 - b) terminate the work covered by such order as provided in the Termination for Default clause or the Termination for Convenience clause of this contract.
- 2) Cancellation or Expiration of the Order: If a stop work order issued under this clause is canceled at any time during the period specified in the order, or if the period of the order or any extension thereof expires, Independent Contractor shall have the right to resume work. An appropriate adjustment shall be made in the delivery schedule or Independent Contractor price, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly, if:
 - a) the stop work order results in an increase in the time required for, or in Independent Contractor's cost properly allocable to, the performance of any part of this contract; and,
 - b) Independent Contractor asserts a claim for such an adjustment within 30 days after the end of the period of work stoppage; provided that, if MDCPS decides that the facts justify such action, any such claim asserted may be received and acted upon at any time prior to final payment under this contract.
- 3) Termination of Stopped Work: If a stop work order is not canceled and the work covered by such order is terminated for default or convenience, the reasonable costs resulting from the stop work order shall be allowed by adjustment or otherwise.
- 4) Adjustments of Price: Any adjustment in contract price made pursuant to this clause shall be determined in accordance with the Price Adjustment clause of this contract.

16. **Termination.** The Commissioner may terminate this contract with or without cause upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Independent Contractor.

17. Termination for Convenience.

- 1) *Termination.* The Commissioner or designee may, when the interests of the State so require, terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the convenience of the State. The Commissioner or designee shall give written notice of the termination to Independent Contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when termination becomes effective.
- 2) *Independent Contractor's Obligations.* Independent Contractor shall incur no further obligations in connection with the terminated work and on the date set in the notice of termination Independent Contractor will stop work to the extent specified. Independent Contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work. Independent Contractor shall settle the liabilities and claims arising out of the termination of subcontracts and orders connected with the terminated work. The Commissioner or designee may direct Independent Contractor to assign Independent Contractor's right, title, and interest under terminated orders or subcontracts to the State. Independent Contractor must still complete the work not terminated by the notice of termination and may incur obligations as are necessary to do so.

18. Termination for Default.

- 1) *Default.* If Independent Contractor refuses or fails to perform any of the provisions of this contract with such diligence as will ensure its completion within the time specified in this contract or any extension thereof, or otherwise fails to timely satisfy the contract provisions, or commits any other substantial breach of this contract, the Commissioner or designee may notify Independent Contractor in writing of the delay or nonperformance and if not cured in ten (10) days or any longer time specified in writing by the Commissioner or designee, such officer may terminate Independent Contractor's right to proceed with the contract or such part of the contract as to which there has been delay or a failure to properly perform. In the event of termination in whole or in part, the Commissioner or designee may procure similar supplies or services in a manner and upon terms deemed appropriate by the Commissioner or designee. Independent Contractor shall continue performance of the contract to the extent it is not terminated and shall be liable for excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods or services.
- 2) *Contractor's Duties.* Notwithstanding termination of the contract and subject to any directions from the procurement officer, Independent Contractor shall take timely, reasonable, and necessary action to protect and preserve property in the possession of Independent Contractor in which the State has an interest.
- 3) *Compensation.* Payment for completed services delivered and accepted by the State shall be at the contract price. The State may withhold from amounts due Independent Contractor such sums as the Commissioner or designee deems to be necessary to protect the State against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders and to reimburse the State for the excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods and services.

- 4) *Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance.* Except with respect to defaults of subcontractors, Independent Contractor shall not be in default by reason of any failure in performance of this contract in accordance with its terms (including any failure by Independent Contractor to make progress in the prosecution of the work hereunder which endangers such performance) if Contractor has notified the Commissioner or designee within 15 days after the cause of the delay and the failure arises out of causes such as: acts of God; acts of the public enemy; acts of the State and any other governmental entity in its sovereign or contractual capacity; fires; floods; epidemics; quarantine restrictions; strikes or other labor disputes; freight embargoes; or unusually severe weather. If the failure to perform is caused by the failure of a subcontractor to perform or to make progress, and if such failure arises out of causes similar to those set forth above, Independent Contractor shall not be deemed to be in default, unless the services to be furnished by the subcontractor were reasonably obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit Independent Contractor to meet the contract requirements. Upon request of Independent Contractor, the Commissioner or designee shall ascertain the facts and extent of such failure, and, if such officer determines that any failure to perform was occasioned by any one or more of the excusable causes, and that, but for the excusable cause, Independent Contractor's progress and performance would have met the terms of the contract, the delivery schedule shall be revised accordingly, subject to the rights of the State under the clause entitled in fixed-priced contracts, "Termination for Convenience". (As used in this Paragraph of this clause, the term "subcontractor" means subcontractor at any tier).
- 5) *Erroneous Termination for Default.* If, after notice of termination of Independent Contractor's right to proceed under the provisions of this clause, it is determined for any reason that the contract was not in default under the provisions of this clause, or that the delay was excusable under the provisions of Paragraph (4) (Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance) of this clause, the rights and obligations of the parties shall, if the contract contains a clause providing for termination for convenience of the State, be the same as if the notice of termination had been issued pursuant to such clause.
- 6) *Additional Rights and Remedies.* The rights and remedies provided in this clause are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

19. Termination Upon Bankruptcy. This contract may be terminated in whole or in part by MDCPS upon written notice to Independent Contractor, if Independent Contractor should become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or upon the execution by Independent Contractor of an assignment for the benefit of its creditors. In the event of such termination, Independent Contractor shall be entitled to recover just and equitable compensation for satisfactory work performed under this contract, but in no case shall said compensation exceed the total contract price.

20. Modification or Renegotiation. This agreement may be modified only by written agreement signed by the parties hereto. The parties agree to renegotiate the agreement if federal and/or state revisions of any applicable laws or regulations make changes in this agreement necessary. Modifications shall not be initiated by the Independent Contractor within the last 90 days of the contract period, without prior approval from the Commissioner's Office.

21. Price Adjustment. Any price adjustment of this contract shall be done in accordance with Section

1.19.4 of the Request for Proposals.

22. Anti-assignment/Subcontracting. Contractor acknowledges that it was selected by the State to perform the services required hereunder based, in part, upon Contractor's special skills and expertise. Contractor shall not assign, subcontract, or otherwise transfer this agreement, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the State, which the State may, in its sole discretion, approve or deny without reason. Any attempted assignment or transfer of its obligations without such consent shall be null and void. No such approval by the State of any subcontract shall be deemed in any way to provide for the incurrence of any obligation of the State in addition to the total fixed price agreed upon in this agreement. Subcontracts shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement and to any conditions of approval that the State may deem necessary. Subject to the foregoing, this agreement shall be binding upon the respective successors and assigns of the parties.
23. Non-Solicitation of Employees. Each party to this agreement agrees not to employ or to solicit for employment, directly or indirectly, any persons in the full-time or part-time employment of the other party until at least six (6) months after this agreement terminates unless mutually agreed to in writing by the State or Contractor.
24. Waiver. No delay or omission by either party to this agreement in exercising any right, power, or remedy hereunder or otherwise afforded by contract, at law, or in equity shall constitute an acquiescence therein, impair any other right, power or remedy hereunder or otherwise afforded by any means, or operate as a waiver of such right, power, or remedy. No waiver by either party to this agreement shall be valid unless set forth in writing by the party making said waiver. No waiver of or modification to any term or condition of this agreement will void, waive, or change any other term or condition. No waiver by one party to this agreement of a default by the other party will imply, be construed as or require waiver of future or other defaults.
25. E-Payment. Independent Contractor agrees to accept all payments in United States currency via the State of Mississippi's electronic payment and remittance vehicle. The agency agrees to make payment in accordance with Mississippi law on "Timely Payments for Purchases by Public Bodies," which generally provides for payment of undisputed amounts by the agency within forty-five (45) days of receipt of invoice. Mississippi Code Annotated § 31-7-301 et seq.
26. E-Verify. If applicable, Independent Contractor represents and warrants that it will ensure its compliance with the Mississippi Employment Protection Act of 2008, and will register and participate in the status verification system for all newly hired employees. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 71-11-1 et seq. The term "employee" as used herein means any person that is hired to perform work within the State of Mississippi. As used herein, "status verification system" means the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 that is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, also known as the E-Verify Program, or any other successor electronic verification system replacing the E-Verify Program. Independent Contractor agrees to maintain records of such compliance. Upon request of the State and after approval of the Social Security Administration or Department of Homeland Security when required, Independent Contractor agrees to provide a copy of each such verification. Independent Contractor further represents and warrants that any person assigned to perform services hereafter meets the employment eligibility requirements of all immigration laws. The breach of this agreement may subject Independent Contractor to the following:

- (1) termination of this contract for services and ineligibility for any state or public contract in Mississippi for up to three (3) years with notice of such cancellation/termination being made public;
- (2) the loss of any license, permit, certification or other document granted to Independent Contractor by an agency, department or governmental entity for the right to do business in Mississippi for up to one (1) year; or,
- (3) both. In the event of such cancellation/termination, Independent Contractor would also be liable for any additional costs incurred by the State due to Contract cancellation or loss of license or permit to do business in the State.

27. Transparency. This contract, including any accompanying exhibits, attachments, and appendices, is subject to the “Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983,” and its exceptions. See Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 25-61-1 *et seq.* and Mississippi Code Annotated § 79-23-1. In addition, this contract is subject to the provisions of the Mississippi Accountability and Transparency Act of 2008. Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 27-104-151 *et seq.* Unless exempted from disclosure due to a court-issued protective order, a copy of this executed contract is required to be posted to the Department of Finance and Administration’s independent MDCPS contract website for public access at <http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov>. Information identified by Independent Contractor as trade secrets, or other proprietary information, including confidential vendor information or any other information which is required confidential by state or federal law or outside the applicable freedom of information statutes, will be redacted.

28. Paymode. Payments by state agencies using the State’s accounting system shall be made and remittance information provided electronically as directed by the State. These payments shall be deposited into the bank account of Independent Contractor’s choice. The State may, at its sole discretion, require Independent Contractor to electronically submit invoices and supporting documentation at any time during the term of this Agreement. Independent Contractor understands and agrees that the State is exempt from the payment of taxes. All payments shall be in United States currency.

29. Notices. Any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by electronic means provided that the original of such notice is sent by certified United States mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or overnight courier with signed receipt, to the party to whom the notice should be given at their business listed herein. Notice shall be deemed given when actually received or when refused. MDCPS and Independent Contractor agree to promptly notify each other in writing of any change of address.

For the Agency:	For Contractor:
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services 750 N. State Street Jackson, MS 39202	«Vendor_Name» «Contact_Name_» «Address_Street» «City_State_and_Zip» Phone: «Phone_Number_»

30. Procurement Regulations. The contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the *Mississippi Public Procurement Review Board Office of Personal Service Contract Review Rules*

and Regulations, a copy of which is available at 501 North West Street, Suite 700, Jackson, Mississippi 39201 for inspection, or downloadable at <http://www.dfa.ms.gov/pprb/>.

31. Severability. If any term or provision of this Contract is prohibited by the laws of the State of Mississippi or declared invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Contract shall not be affected thereby and each term and provision of this Contract shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
32. Trade Secrets, Commercial and Financial Information. It is expressly understood that Mississippi law requires that the provisions of this contract which contain the commodities purchased or the personal or professional services provided, the price to be paid, and the term of the contract shall not be deemed to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information and shall be available for examination, copying, or reproduction.
33. Requirements Contract. During the period of the contract, Independent Contractor shall provide all the service described in the contract. Independent Contractor understands and agrees that this is a requirements contract and that MDCPS shall have no obligation to Independent Contractor if no services are required. Any quantities that are included in the scope of work reflect the current expectations of MDCPS for the period of the contract. The amount is only an estimate and Independent Contractor understands and agrees that MDCPS is under no obligation to Independent Contractor to buy any amount of the services as a result of having provided this estimate or of having any typical or measurable requirement in the past. Independent Contractor further understands and agrees that MDCPS may require services in an amount less than or in excess of the estimated annual contract amount and that the quantity actually used, whether in excess of the estimate or less than the estimate, shall not give rise to any claim for compensation other than the total of the unit prices in the contract for the quantity actually used.
34. Clean Air Act. The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. The contractor agrees to report each violation to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and understands and agrees that the Mississippi Department of Public Safety will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the U.S. Treasury, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office. The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provided by the U.S. Treasury.
35. Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq. The contractor agrees to report each violation to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and understands and agrees that the Mississippi Department of Public Safety will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the U.S. Treasury, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office. The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provided by the U.S. Treasury.
36. Debarment and Suspension Provision. This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000. As such, the contractor is required to verify that none of

the contractor's principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995) or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000, subpart C, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by MDCPS. If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to MDCPS, the federal government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. Part 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.”

37. Contract Worker Hours and Safety Standards Act Provision. Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

a. (1) Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

b. (2) Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, in the sum of \$27 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

c. (3) Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages. MDCPS shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

d. (4) Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (b)(1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (b)(1) through (4) of this section.

Further Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

a. The contractor or subcontractor shall maintain payrolls and basic payroll records during the course of the work and shall preserve them for a period of three years from the completion of the contract for all laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, working on the contract. Such records shall contain the name and address of each such employee, social security number, correct classifications, hourly rates of wages paid, daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made, and actual wages paid.

b. Records to be maintained under this provision shall be made available by the contractor or subcontractor for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Labor, and the contractor or subcontractor will permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job.

38. Byrd-Anti Lobbying Provision. Contractors who apply or bid for an award of more than \$100,000 shall file the required certification (Exhibit D). Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used federally appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient who in turn will forward the certification(s) to the federal awarding agency.
39. Access to Records. The Contractor agrees to provide MDCPS, Inspectors General, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representative's access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.
40. Entire Agreement. This Contract constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes and replaces any and all prior negotiations, understanding, and agreements, written or oral, between the parties relating thereto.
41. Approval Clause. It is understood that if this contract requires approval by the Public Procurement Review Board and/or the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration Office of Personal Service Contract Review and this contract is not approved by the PPRB and/or OPSCR, it is void and no payment shall be made hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have affixed their signatures on the date indicated below, after first being authorized so to do.

By: _____
Mississippi Department of Child
Protection Services
Andrea Sanders
Commissioner

By: _____
Vendor Name
signing official

ATTACHMENT H: Acknowledgement of Amendments

I, _____, acknowledge that RFP No. 2024ICCCP001 has been amended on
Authorized Official's Name

Date

to include the following:

I, _____, understand that proposals will **only** be accepted from proposers who submit
Authorized Official's Name
this acknowledgement of amendment # _____.

Name of Company

Authorized Official's Typed Name/Title

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

This acknowledgement should be enclosed in accordance with the instructions located in Section 1.15 of this RFP.

ATTACHMENT I: Recommended Letter of Intent

Date _____

Mr./Ms./Dr. _____

Title _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Dear Mr./Ms./Dr.: _____

This letter confirms our intent to submit a proposal pursuant to RFP No. 2024ICCCP001. _____'s
service area includes _____. Also, in compliance with the requirements of the letter of intent

County(ies)
Organization Name submits the following information on or before deadline of _____ a.m./p.m., CST.

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact Person's Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Tax I.D. Number: _____

DUNS Number: _____

Physical Address: _____

Authorized Official's Email Address: _____

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Authorized Official

ATTACHMENT J: Pre-Offeree's Statement of Acknowledgment

I understand and acknowledge that my signature on the attached contract and other documents and exhibits does not constitute a contract until same is approved by the Public Procurement Review Board and signed by the Commissioner of the MDCPS, who is that agency's official signature authority.

I further understand and acknowledge that the Commissioner of MDCPS may direct Contracts and Procurement Unit, to reject any or all proposals.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT K: *Olivia Y* Settlement Agreement

2nd Modified Mississippi Settlement Agreement and Reform Plan

(See Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services Website)

<https://www.mdcpms.gov/about/olivia-y-lawsuit/>

**ATTACHMENT L: Price
Resource Daily Per Diem Payment Amounts**

***RATES ARE SET BY MDCPS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

SETTING TYPE	Clothing	Allowance	Total Daily Per Diem	Notes
INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS *EMERGENCY SHELTERS	-	-	\$ 158.14	
QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS (QRTP)	\$ 80.00	-	\$ 450.00	
SPECIALIZED GROUP CARE FOR MINOR VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING (SGC)	\$ 80.00	-	\$ 192.26	
SUPERVISED INDEPENDENT LIVING (SIL)	\$ 80.00	-	\$ 100.00	
TEEN MATERNITY HOME	\$ 80.00		\$ 192.26	
THERAPEUTIC FOSTER HOMES	\$ 80.00	-	\$ 176.19	Provider keeps \$75 and foster family receives \$101.19
THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOME	\$ 80.00	**	\$ 192.26	
TRADITIONAL FOSTER HOMES BY AGE & STATUS				
• 0-8 (MDCPS)	\$ 80.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.37	
• 0-8 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 80.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 49.40	*Provider keep 50% and foster family receives 50%
• 9-15 (MDCPS)	\$ 80.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 29.22	
• 9-15 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 80.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 56.48	*Provider keep 50% and foster family receives 50%
• 16-21 (MDCPS)	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 31.92	
• 16-21 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 80.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 62.16	*Provider keep 50% and foster family receives 50%
• SPECIAL NEEDS I (MDCPS)	\$ 80.00	**	\$ 33.56	
• SPECIAL NEEDS I (PARTNER PROVIDER)			\$ 65.34	
• SPECIAL NEEDS II (MDCPS)	\$ 80.00	**	\$ 35.85	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPECIAL NEEDS II (PARTNER PROVIDER) 				\$	69.82		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOSTER TEEN PARENT (MDCPS) 	\$	160.00	\$	90.00	\$	57.43	
TRADITIONAL GROUP HOME SERVICES	\$	80.00	**		\$	42.05	All Ages

ATTACHMENT M: PROPOSAL COST FORM FOR CONGREGATE CARE AND CHILD PLACING AGENCY SERVICES

Company	Company Representative	Telephone

Pricing Structure: Compensation will be based on a per diem rate. The payment rate for each placement can be found in Attachment L. Compensation for services will be in the form of a Firm Fixed Price with price adjustments approved by MDCPS as provided in Section 1.19.4 of the RFP.

Setting Type	Per Diem Cost	Number of Beds	Total
Intake and Assessment Centers *Emergency Shelters	\$ 158.14		
Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)	\$ 450.00		
Specialized Group Care for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking (SGC)	\$ 192.26		
Supervised Independent Living (SIL)	\$ 100.00		
Teen Maternity Home	\$ 192.26		
Therapeutic Foster Homes	\$ 176.19		
Therapeutic Group Home	\$ 192.26		
Traditional Foster Homes by Age & Status			
• 0-8 (MDCPS)	\$ 25.37		
• 0-8 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 49.40		
• 9-15 (MDCPS)	\$ 29.22		
• 9-15 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 56.48		
• 16-21 (MDCPS)	\$ 31.92		
• 16-21 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 62.16		
• SPECIAL NEEDS I (MDCPS)	\$ 33.56		
• SPECIAL NEEDS I (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 65.34		
• SPECIAL NEEDS II (MDCPS)	\$ 35.85		
• SPECIAL NEEDS II (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 69.82		
• FOSTER TEEN PARENT (MDCPS)	\$ 57.43		
Traditional Group Home Services	\$ 42.05		
Total Amount			

Initial Contract Term (3 years)	
Renewal Years 4 and 5	
Total Contract Amount	

By signing below, the Company Representative certifies that he/she has the authority to bind the company, and further acknowledges on behalf of the company:

Authorized Representative Signature

ATTACHMENT M: PROPOSAL COST FORM FOR CONGREGATE CARE AND CHILD PLACING AGENCY SERVICES

Example Only

Company	Company Representative	Telephone
EXAMPLE COMPANY	EXAMPLE PERSON	325-529-4978

Pricing Structure: Compensation will be based on a per diem rate. The payment rate for each placement can be found in Attachment L. Compensation for services will be in the form of a Firm Fixed Price with adjustments approved by MDCPS as provided in Section 1.19.4 of the RFP.

Setting Type	Per Diem Cost	Number of Beds	Total
Intake and Assessment Centers *Emergency Shelters	\$ 158.14	5	\$288,605.50
Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)	\$ 450.00	0	\$0.00
Specialized Group Care for Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking (SGC)	\$ 192.26	5	\$350,874.50
Supervised Independent Living (SIL)	\$ 100.00	0	\$ 0.00
Teen Maternity Home	\$ 192.26	0	\$ 0.00
Therapeutic Foster Homes	\$ 176.19	0	\$ 0.00
Therapeutic Group Home	\$ 192.26	0	\$ 0.00
Traditional Foster Homes by Age & Status			
• 0-8 (MDCPS)	\$ 25.37	0	\$ 0.00
• 0-8 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 49.40	0	\$ 0.00
• 9-15 (MDCPS)	\$ 29.22	0	\$ 0.00
• 9-15 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 56.48	0	\$ 0.00
• 16-21 (MDCPS)	\$ 31.92	0	\$ 0.00
• 16-21 (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 62.16	0	\$ 0.00
• SPECIAL NEEDS I (MDCPS)	\$ 33.56	0	\$ 0.00
• SPECIAL NEEDS I (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 65.34	0	\$ 0.00
• SPECIAL NEEDS II (MDCPS)	\$ 35.85	0	\$ 0.00
• SPECIAL NEEDS II (PARTNER PROVIDER)	\$ 69.82	0	\$ 0.00
• FOSTER TEEN PARENT (MDCPS)	\$ 57.43	0	\$ 0.00
Traditional Group Home Services	\$ 42.05	0	\$ 0.00
Total Amount (Per Diem Cost x Number Served x 365 days)			\$1,918,440.00

Initial Contract Term (Years 1, 2, and 3)	\$5,755,320.00 (Total x 3 years)
Renewal Years 4 and 5	\$3,836,880.00 (Total X 2 years)
Total Contract Amount	\$9,592,200.00 (Initial Contract Term + Renewals)

By signing below, the Company Representative certifies that he/she has the authority to bind the company, and further acknowledges on behalf of the company:



 Authorized Representative Signature