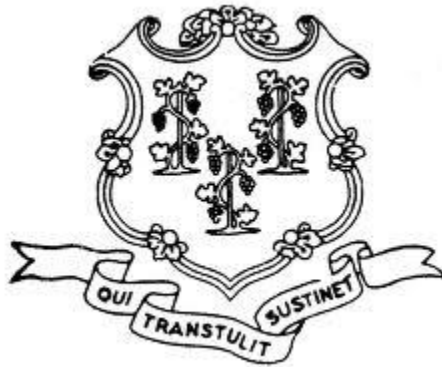


# Request for Information (RFI)

## Urban Trauma Initiative



June 22, 2021

State of Connecticut  
Department of Children and Families

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## **Department of Children and Families Request for Information (RFI)**

### **TITLE**

Urban Trauma Initiative

### **OVERVIEW**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF/Department) is seeking input from current, Connecticut-based entities regarding the development of a network of clinical treatment providers located in four (4) urban communities in Connecticut (Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and Bridgeport) to provide trauma interventions utilizing the Spalding University Center for Behavioral Health Urban Trauma Model (Kentucky).

### **SCHEDULE**

RFI Development	May-June 2021
RFI Published	June 22, 2021
Final Questions Due	June 29, 2021
Final Questions & Answers Posted	June 30, 2021
RFI Submission Deadline	July 6, 2021

### **BACKGROUND**

The continued increase in urban violence and the impact of structural, institutional and personal racism intersecting with the devastating economic impact of the pandemic due to the COVID-19 virus is having a traumatic effect on African American and Latino children, youth and adolescents that is somewhat unique from other populations. The resilience of children has been greatly diminished during this pandemic and has resulted in many children needing emergency mental health interventions from community outpatient providers as well as intensive in-home services.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has contributed to parents and caregivers delaying or avoiding contact with the community mental health system. This has contributed to an increase in the percentage of children and adolescents with serious mental health issues with high acuity needs. This has been reflected in the large increase in the number of children and adolescents who are being seen in Connecticut hospital emergency departments (EDs) for behavioral health concerns. Additionally, those who are showing up in the EDs, have a higher level of acute needs than historically seen.

These problems of race-based trauma and stress are magnified for African American and Latino youth, especially those living in underserved, urban areas, because of historic disparities and the unprecedented impact of the intersectionality of violence, racism and the pandemic.

The Department is seeking to address this population through an alternative intervention designed to uniquely meet the mental health needs of African American and Latino children living in urban communities, with the Urban Trauma Collective Care Center model as the intervention that has demonstrated the most efficacy.

### **RFI PURPOSE AND GOALS**

The purpose of this RFI is to determine the available skill set within the State of Connecticut to partner with the Department on development and implementation of this initiative, as well as to determine the extent to which the Urban Trauma model has been utilized, or could be utilized within the State of Connecticut.

The Department is also seeking, through this RFI, to obtain the critical input of current community providers and other stakeholders to inform the details of the initiative to be implemented in Connecticut and the provision of creative and innovative ways to think about accomplishing this mission critical service.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility to respond to this RFI is limited to entities who possess a valid Connecticut business license (through the Office of the Secretary of the State). All eligible and interested parties are encouraged to respond to this RFI. All parties responding to this RFI must identify themselves and provide a brief explanation of their interest in this initiative.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CLARIFICATION AND QUESTIONS**

Questions related to submission of responses to this RFI must be submitted, via email, to the contact listed below no later than **3:00 P.M., June 29, 2021**.

Subject line of any email sent containing a question related to this RFI must be: **‘Urban Trauma Initiative RFI Questions’**.

Answers to all submitted questions will be de-identified and compiled into a Question and Answer document and posted as an addendum to the RFI on both the Department’s website and the State Contracting Portal administered through the Department of Administrative Services on June 30, 2021. The Department reserves the right to reject any question submitted after this deadline.

**RFI SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

The Department welcomes your response to this RFI by providing feedback to any or all of the Concept Questions posed in this document.

Submissions must be emailed to the contact person at the email address listed below, no later than 3:00 PM, local time, July 6, 2021 with an email subject heading **“Urban Trauma Initiative RFI”**:

Leslie Roy  
Director  
Division of Contract Management  
E: Leslie.Roy@ct.gov

**RFI RESPONSE FORMAT**

Responses to this RFI must be submitted using the outline provided in the “RFI Response Outline” section of this document. Respondents may submit comments with respect to any or all of the questions that the Department has posed. Submissions are not to exceed 10 pages. Please number all pages of the submission and include the question number and the question written out above each response.

Page Limit	10
Submission Format	Email Only

**Please ensure all pages of the RFI submission are numbered and include the number of the question with the question written out above your response.**

**RFI CONCEPT QUESTIONS & DEMONSTRATION OF EXPERTISE**

DCF recognizes the importance of stakeholder input and welcomes responses on the questions below to assist with determining the existing expertise within the State of Connecticut regarding this subject. Respondents may choose to respond to all or a limited number of questions, based on interest and/or knowledge. Response to this RFI will be used to assist with determination of a technical advisor and consultant to collaborate on with the Department on implementation of this initiative. Although these questions have been designed as a guide, respondents are encouraged to provide additional feedback that may be helpful.

1. It is clear that children and youth of color and their families described in this RFI require targeted interventions. What would you consider to constitute such interventions?
2. What model or best practice would you recommend for services to this population?
3. What is your experience with use of the Spalding University Center for Behavioral Health Urban Trauma Model? Be specific about any experience implementing the model within or outside of Connecticut (if any)?
4. What are initial ideas to assist with design of a cohesive statewide network of providers to offer the Urban Trauma Model intervention?
5. What is your experience with serving minority and/or urban based populations with mental health needs? Be specific about the demographics of the populations served.
6. Please describe your organization's experience with providing treatment and/or consultation and technical assistance for the treatment of race-based trauma and stress?
7. Please describe your organization's experience with developing and providing culturally appropriate treatment interventions and/or consultation and technical assistance to those developing and providing culturally appropriate treatment in underserved urban settings?

### **DISPOSITION OF SUBMISSIONS**

The Department is seeking information for information purposes only and will not be obligated in any way to use any of the information received. Individuals and/or agencies responding to the RFI will not be compensated in any way. Responding to this RFI may result award of a contract with the Department for assistance with implementation of the Urban Trauma Initiative, based on the level of expertise regarding this subject, as assessed through responses to this RFI.

**Urban Trauma Initiative  
Request for Information**

Name of Respondent:	
Agency Name:	Address:
Phone:	Email:

**Concept Questions**

*Please include all questions listed below in your response. If choosing to not answer one of the questions listed below, please just list 'NA' in the Answer section.*

- 1. It is clear that children and youth of color and their families described in this RFI require targeted interventions. What would you consider to constitute such interventions?**

**ANSWER:**

- 2. What model or best practice would you recommend for services to this population?**

**ANSWER:**

- 3. What is your experience with use of the Spalding University Center for Behavioral Health Urban Trauma Model? Be specific about any experience implementing the model within or outside of Connecticut (if any)?**

**ANSWER:**

- 4. What are initial ideas to assist with design of a cohesive statewide network of providers to offer the Urban Trauma Model intervention?**

**ANSWER:**

- 5. What is your experience with serving minority and/or urban based populations with mental health needs? Be specific about the demographics of the populations served.**

**ANSWER:**

- 6. Please describe your organization's experience with providing treatment and/or consultation and technical assistance for the treatment of race-based trauma and stress?**

**ANSWER:**

- 7. Please describe your organization's experience with developing and providing culturally appropriate treatment interventions and/or consultation and technical assistance to those developing and providing culturally appropriate treatment in underserved urban settings?**

**ANSWER:**

**Additional Narrative**

*Please include any additional feedback, ideas or narrative not included in answers to the Concept Questions.  
Please be mindful of the page limit for responses to this RFI.*