

STATE OF CONNECTICUT PROCUREMENT NOTICE



Request for Proposals (RFP)

For

**Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused
Children (GTFJAC)**

RFP Number: 25090401

Issued By:

Department of Children and Families

September 4, 2024

The Request for Proposal is available in electronic format on the State Contracting Portal by filtering by Organization for Department of Children & Families:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard>

on the Department's website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Contract-Management/Home>

or from the Agency's Official Contact:

Name: Catherine Santiago
Address: 505 Hudson Street / Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 937-3832
E-Mail: DCF.FISCALCONTRACTS@ct.gov

RESPONSES DUE NO LATER THAN: 3:00PM / October 23, 2024

The State of Connecticut and the Department of Children & Families is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. The Agency reserves the right to reject any and all submissions or cancel this procurement at any time if deemed in the best interest of the State of Connecticut (State).

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION**■ A. INTRODUCTION**

1. **RFP Name and Number.** RFP #25090401 / Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children
2. **RFP Summary.** The Children's Justice Act grant, through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requires the state to establish a task force to improve the assessment and investigation of child abuse and neglect, particularly of child sexual abuse and exploitation in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child and the child's family. The Department is seeking to execute a contract to support the basic coordination and work of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children (GTFJAC). This work includes the provision of staff to assist the GTFJAC to monitor and evaluate multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), complete reports on completed evaluation, coordinate, implement and provide training on specialized curriculum to educate members of the MDTs, first responders and members of the community.
3. **RFP Purpose.** Through this procurement, the Department is seeking to procure one (1) Coordinator for the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children program.
4. **Commodity Codes.** The services that the Agency wishes to procure through this RFP are as follows:
 - 93140000: Community and Social Services

■ B. INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Official Contact.** The Agency has designated the individual below as the Official Contact for purposes of this RFP. The Official Contact is the **only authorized contact** for this procurement and, as such, handles all related communications on behalf of the Agency. Proposers, prospective proposers, and other interested parties are advised that any communication with any other Agency employee(s) (including appointed officials) or personnel under contract to the Agency about this RFP is strictly prohibited. Proposers or prospective proposers who violate this instruction may risk disqualification from further consideration.

Name: Catherine Santiago
Address: 505 Hudson Street / Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 937-3832
E-Mail: DCF.FISCALCONTRACTS@ct.gov

Please ensure that e-mail screening software (if used) recognizes and accepts e-mails from the Official Contact.

2. **Registering with State Contracting Portal.** Respondents must register with the State of CT contracting portal at <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/Registration> if not already registered. Respondents must submit the following information pertaining to this application to this portal (on their supplier profile), which will be checked by the Agency contact.
 - Secretary of State recognition (CT Business License)– Click on appropriate response.
 - Non-profit status, if applicable
 - Notification to Bidders, Parts I-V (<https://portal.ct.gov/chro/contract-compliance/contract-compliance/contract-compliance-forms-and-reports>)
 - Campaign Contribution Certification (OPM Ethics Form 1): <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Fin-PSA/Forms/Ethics-Forms>
3. **RFP Information.** The RFP, amendments to the RFP, and other information associated with this procurement are available in electronic format from the Official Contact or from the Internet at the following locations:
 - Agency's RFP Web Page <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/Contract-Management/Home>
 - State Contracting Portal (go to CTsource bid board, filter by "Department of Children and Families" <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard>)

It is strongly recommended that any proposer or prospective proposer interested in this procurement check the Bid Board for any solicitation changes. Interested proposers may receive additional e-mails from CTsource announcing addendums that are posted on the portal. This service is provided as a courtesy to assist in monitoring activities associated with State procurements, including this RFP.

4. Procurement Schedule. See below. Dates after the due date for proposals (“Proposals Due”) are non-binding target dates only (*). The Agency may amend the schedule as needed. Any change to non-target dates will be made by means of an amendment to this RFP and will be posted on the State Contracting Portal and, if available, the Agency’s RFP Web Page.

- RFP Planning Start Date: **July 2024**
- RFP Released: **September 4, 2024**
- RFP Conference: **September 9, 2024 / 10:00am *VIRTUAL***
- Deadline for Questions: **3:00PM, September 11, 2024**
- Answers Released: **September 16, 2024**
- Letter of Intent Due: **3:00PM, September 27, 2024**
- Proposals Due: **3:00PM, October 23, 2024**
- (*) Proposer Selection: **October 25, 2024**
- (*) Start of Contract: **January 1, 2025**

5. Contract Awards. The award of any contract pursuant to this RFP is dependent upon the availability of funding to the Agency. The Agency anticipates the following:

- Total Funding Available: **\$ 171,207**
- Number of Awards: One
- Per Contract Funding: **\$ 171,207**
- Contract Term: 1 year

6. Eligibility. Private provider organizations (defined as nonstate entities that are either nonprofit or proprietary corporations or partnerships), CT State agencies, and municipalities are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Individuals who are not a duly formed business entity are ineligible to participate in this procurement.

*Entities with a pending application for establishment as a private provider organization may respond to this procurement, but DCF reserves the right to reject any proposal that does not detail status of pending application and certify that such status will be granted by the start date of services indicated in Section 4, above. No contract shall be awarded to any entity not meeting this specification.

7. Minimum Qualifications of Proposers. To qualify for a contract award, a proposer must have the following minimum qualifications:

- The agency must possess a current, valid Connecticut Business License, and must provide proof of such through the State procurement website (CTSource);
- Staff assigned to the program must be able to successfully pass DCF and State child and criminal background checks.

8. Letter of Intent. A Letter of Intent (LOI) **is required** for this RFP. The LOI is non-binding and does not obligate the sender to submit a proposal. The LOI must be submitted to the Official Contact via e-mail by the deadline established in the Procurement Schedule. The subject line of the email must read, **"Name of Provider /Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children RFP/Letter of Intent"**. The LOI must clearly identify the sender, including name, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. It is the sender’s responsibility to confirm the Department’s receipt of the LOI. Failure to submit the required LOI in accordance with the requirements set forth herein shall result in disqualification from further consideration.

9. Inquiry Procedures. All questions regarding this RFP or the Agency’s procurement process must be directed, in writing, electronically, (e-mail) to the Official Contact before the deadline specified in the

Procurement Schedule. The early submission of questions is encouraged. Questions will not be accepted or answered verbally – neither in person nor over the telephone. All questions received before the deadline(s) will be answered. However, the Agency will not answer questions when the source is unknown (i.e., nuisance or anonymous questions). Questions deemed unrelated to the RFP or the procurement process will not be answered. At its discretion, the Agency may or may not respond to questions received after the deadline. If this RFP requires a Letter of Intent, the Agency reserves the right to answer questions only from those who have submitted such a letter. The Agency may combine similar questions and give only one answer. All questions and answers will be compiled into a written amendment to this RFP. If any answer to any question constitutes a material change to the RFP, the question and answer will be placed at the beginning of the amendment and duly noted as such.

The agency will release the answers to questions on the date(s) established in the Procurement Schedule. The Agency will publish any and all amendments to this RFP on the State Contracting Portal and, if available, on the Agency's RFP Web Page.

10. RFP Conference. An RFP conference will be held to answer questions from prospective proposers. Attendance at the conference is **non-mandatory**, but highly recommended. Copies of the RFP will not be available at the RFP Conference. Prospective proposers are asked to bring a copy of the RFP to the conference. At the conference, attendees will be provided an opportunity to submit questions, which the Department's representatives may (or may not) answer at the conference. Any oral answers given at the conference by the Department's representatives are tentative and not binding on the Department. All questions submitted will be answered in a written amendment to this RFP, which will serve as the Department's official response to questions asked at the conference. If any answer to any question constitutes a material change to the RFP, the question and answer will be placed at the beginning of the amendment and duly noted as such. The agency will release the amendment on the date established in the Procurement Schedule. The Department will publish any and all amendments to this RFP on the State Contracting Portal and, if available, on the Department's RFP Web Page.

- Date: September 9, 2024
- Time: 10:00AM
- Virtual (Teams): [Join the meeting now](#)
- Meeting ID: 219 714 727 481
- Passcode: TcyLR7
- Call In: [+1 860-840-2075..547275468#](#)

11. Proposal Due Date and Time. The Official Contact is the **only authorized recipient** of proposals submitted in response to this RFP. Proposals must be received by the Official Contact on or before the due date and time:

- Due Date: October 23, 2024
- Time: 3:00PM

The original proposal must carry original signatures and be clearly marked on the cover as "Original." Unsigned proposals will not be evaluated. The original proposal must be complete, properly formatted and outlined, and ready for evaluation by the Screening Committee.

Proposals received after the due date and time may be accepted by the Department as a clerical function, but late proposals will not be evaluated. At the discretion of the Department, late proposals may be destroyed or retained for pick up by the submitters.

An acceptable submission must include the following:

- one (1) signed electronic copy of the original proposal (unsigned proposals will not be evaluated);

The electronic copy of the proposal must be emailed to the Official Agency Contact for this procurement. The subject line of the email must read: **Name of Provider / Governor's Task Force on Justice for**

Abused Children Electronic Proposal Submission. One attachment must be submitted inclusive of the entire proposal in Portable Document Format (PDF) or similar file format and one attachment inclusive of the Budget and Narrative in Excel or similar file format. The following naming convention shall be used:

- Proposal: **Name of Provider / Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children; and**
- Budget: **Name of Provider / Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children.**

12. Multiple Proposals. The submission of multiple proposals is not an option with this procurement.

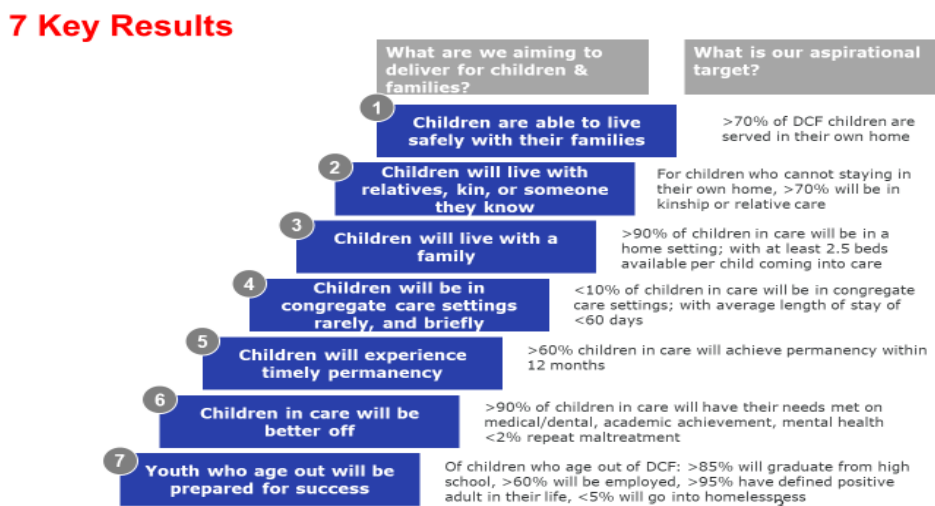
II. PURPOSE OF RFP AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Department's mission is: "Partnering with communities and empowering families to raise resilient children who thrive." The Department seeks to sharpen the safety lens through primary prevention across the child welfare system through 5 strategic goals:

- Keep children and youth safe, with focus on the most vulnerable populations;
- Engage the workforce through an organizational culture of mutual support;
- Connect systems and processes to achieve timely permanency;
- Contribute to child and family wellbeing by enhancing assessments and interventions; and
- Eliminate racial and ethnic disparate outcomes within the Department.

The mission and vision are grounded in a core set of beliefs that encompass the Department's vision for how to provide services to Connecticut's children and families. This philosophy and approach is reflected in the following graphic, inclusive of the Department's aspirational goals:



The Department is aligning all of its efforts to these core set of 7 Key Performance Indicators to ensure that the best outcomes are reached for all children. These key indicators drive the Department's strategic goals for how to best meet the needs and serve Connecticut's children and families. The Department believes that children do best when living safely at home with their family of origin. When living at home with a parent is not reasonably safe, the best alternative is to live with relatives, kin, or someone who they know who can provide a safe and nurturing home. If no family member can provide a suitably safe home that meets the child's needs, the child should receive care and services in an appropriate foster home or a setting that is able to meet their needs, while concurrently working towards a timely permanency outcome. Foster care should only be used as a short-term intervention. The Department believes that when foster care is necessary, while in foster care, regular and ongoing contact with parents and siblings should be maintained. Congregate care, such as group homes and residential treatment centers, should not be used for most children. If absolutely required, children who need to be in congregate care settings should be placed there for as brief a time as possible and these settings should be designed to address specific treatment needs rather than serve as long term placement options. For older youth, treatment in congregate care is expected to be used in a targeted manner with extensive family involvement built into the treatment process. All youth are to exit the Department's care with legal and/or relational permanency.

The Department of Children and Families was instituted by the Connecticut General Assembly as the Department of Children and Youth Services in May, 1969. In 1974, child welfare services were transferred to the Department, with children's mental health services and a unified school district for children in the Department's care and custody added one year later and substance abuse services for children and youth 13 years after that (in 1988). The Department's name (Children and Families) was officially changed through legislation in 1993, to reflect the

Department's still-evolving mission of providing child-centered, family focused, community-based programs and services throughout Connecticut.

In 1987, the Department instituted a regional management model, strengthening community-based services through grants and child-centered social work practice. Fourteen Area Offices, comprising six Regions began managing grants and contracted services within assigned geographical locations, thus cementing the Department's partnerships with local, area community service providers. Since that time, the Department's contracted service milieu has grown to encompass approximately 80 contracted service types overseen by 100 community service agencies providing 350 individual programs to Connecticut's children and their families.

■ B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Children's Justice Act grant, through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requires the state to establish a task force to improve the assessment and investigation of child abuse and neglect, particularly of child sexual abuse and exploitation in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child and the child's family. The Department is seeking to execute a contract to support the basic coordination and work of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children (GTFJAC). This work includes the provision of staff to assist the GTFJAC to monitor and evaluate multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), complete reports on completed evaluation, coordinate, implement and provide training on specialized curriculum to educate members of the MDTs, first responders and members of the community.

Coordination of the GTFJAC will include:

1. Hiring/supervision:

- The Contractor will provide a 1.0 FTE (full-time equivalent) to function as the Coordinator of the GTFJAC and the Finding Words Program and other duties as assigned by the GTFJAC;
- While the Contractor will provide supervision for the Coordinator, overall direction and evaluation will also be provided by DCF, the Chief State's Attorney's office, and the Connecticut Children's Alliance of the Governor's Task Force (the tri-chairs of the GTFJAC). As such, they will participate in the Coordinator's annual performance appraisal;
- Should the current Coordinator leave the position, the tri-chairs of the GTFJAC will participate with the Contractor in the selection of the Coordinator; and
- The Contractor will provide backup when the Coordinator is not available or while the position is being filled.

2. Coordinator duties - GTFJAC:

- The GTFJAC Coordinator will coordinate staff meetings of the Task Force, its subcommittees, and work groups, as requested by the tri-chairs of the GTFJAC;
- The GTFJAC Coordinator will inform the Chairpersons of the activities of these work groups and other GTFJAC business in preparation for the bi-monthly GTFJAC meetings;
- The GTFJAC Coordinator will provide administrative/clerical support to the GTFJAC, its subcommittees, and workgroups, including provision of meeting notices and reminders, developing agendas, taking notes at meetings, following up with members who were not able to attend meetings, producing and disseminating timely minutes, keeping the website current including agendas for upcoming meetings, updating GTFJAC by-laws, and performing other communication activities and supports as necessary;
- The GTFJAC Coordinator will ensure the completion of written summaries, reports, and proposals to the GTFJAC, as required;
- The Contractor will lead and ensure the completion of the Children's Justice Act (CJA) grant application annually, the CJA evaluation every 3-years, and other CJA duties, as needed on behalf of the GTFJAC;
- The GTFJAC Coordinator will enhance/facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration of member agencies of the GTFJAC, as well as support and coordinate activities to assist the GTFJAC, with the implementation of initiatives, training, and special projects;
- The GTFJAC Coordinator may be required to do public speaking and training; and
- The GTFJAC Coordinator will travel to various meetings and training throughout the state and will also attend the annual CJA grantee meeting, typically held out of state.

3. Coordinator duties - MDT Evaluations:

- The GTFJAC Coordinator will perform a minimum of five (5) evaluations annually of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) across the State, as selected and identified by the MDT Evaluation Committee of the GTFJAC. The methodology and format of the MDT Evaluations shall be determined and approved by the MDT Evaluation Committee and approved by the GTFJAC prior to use by the GTFJAC Coordinator.
- The GTFJAC coordinator will employ a variety of methodologies, which may include, but not be limited to, surveys, interviews, site visits of MDT meetings, review of MDT protocols, and review of National Children's Alliance (NCAtrak) data.
- Should the MDT Evaluation Committee and the GTFJAC determine the need to revise the evaluation methodology, the MDT Standards, and/or the Best Practices for Multidisciplinary Investigations and Assessments, they may do so as determined appropriate. The Contractor will provide administrative support for these processes.

- Documentation of Findings and Recommendations:
The GTFJAC coordinator will prepare a draft report that documents findings, makes recommendations, and highlights areas requiring further intervention/technical assistance by the GTFJAC. This draft report will be reviewed and discussed by the MDT Committee, and revised according to Committee members' input, based on their experience and field of expertise.
- The GTFJAC coordinator will provide DCF and the GTFJAC with an electronic copy of each final MDT evaluation report for review, discussion and recommendations.
- The tool, survey, and instrument used in the evaluation of multidisciplinary teams will be reviewed and updated as needed as directed by the GTFJAC and its tri-chairs. The Contractor will provide administrative support for these updates.

4. Coordinator duties - Finding Words training:

The Contractor will coordinate and monitor the presentation of the Finding Words course up to three (3) times annually as well as coordinate other training events sponsored and approved by the GTFJAC. Duties include, but are not limited to the following:

- communicate/collaborate on an ongoing basis with CT's Finding Words faculty and trained actors;
- coordinate and be responsible for the Finding Words registration and selection of training participants;
- prepare training materials, in collaboration with Finding Words faculty;
- distribute training materials to all training participants in a timely manner;
- secure training locations when necessary;
- organize the Finding Words training sites – setting up and breaking down at the end of the week the training rooms and equipment and ensuring equipment is available, arranging for its transportation, etc., or secure a designee;
- attend and facilitate the week-long training courses held in CT;
- assume fiduciary responsibilities for all entities involved with the program (initiating and tracking payments, maintaining a budget, providing financial reports/updates, etc.);
- identify additional funding sources (if necessary);
- ensure course evaluations are made available to training participants. Results will be reviewed and follow-up may be necessary with relevant parties. Compile evaluation results;
- submit reports as required to the national ChildFirst; and
- attend, if requested, a week-long out-of-state Finding Words course and the annual national meeting.

5. Training and Resources Funds:

The Contractor will manage the education, resources, and training funds that have been allocated by the GTFJAC. Decisions related to how the funds will be distributed will be made by the GTFJAC or the Training Subcommittee of the GTFJAC. These training and resources, including but not limited to workshops, presentations, conferences, resource material, equipment, and topic area publications will ensure that individuals associated with the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse receive current and pertinent information and resources related to these cases.

6. Tracking Trainers and Training

The Contractor will utilize a tracking system to document training, keep track of certified trainers in GTFJAC-related curriculum, track individual participants including dates they were trained, and provide reports to the CACs/ MDTs on team members trained and in what curriculum(s). The Contractor will provide quarterly reporting to the GTFJAC.

The Contractor will coordinate Train the Trainer (TOT) sessions to increase the capacity of the GTFJAC-related curriculum. The TOTs may be requested by the GTFJAC, GTFJAC Chairs, or the various GTFJAC subcommittees.

■ C. SCOPE OF SERVICE DESCRIPTION

1. Organizational Requirements (10 points)

- (a) Agency Qualifications: Provide a description of:
- i. Agency qualifications, background, training, and experience that will lead you to achieve all of the contract requirements;
 - ii. Your agency's knowledge of CT's child welfare, behavioral health treatment and recovery systems, practices, and key stakeholders;
 - iii. Your agency's knowledge of the Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children (GTFJAC), legislative mandates, structure, and process of the GTFJAC including reporting requirements and voting guidelines;
 - iv. Your agency's knowledge of the role of the Department of Children and Families statutory requirements, role with the GTFJAC, contracts with the CACs/ MDTs, and participation on the CACs/ MDTs;
 - v. Your agency's knowledge of the office of the Chief States Attorney, their statutory requirements, and role with the GTFJAC and participation on the CACs/ MDTs;

- vi. Your agency's knowledge of the states Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs): state legislation regarding the CACs and MDTs, state protocols, standards of practice, and the states evaluation process.; and
 - vii. Your agency's knowledge of and partnership with the National Children's Alliance, the national standards, accreditation process and requirements.
- (b) Organizational Structure: Describe your agency's organizational structure and governance, and its relationship to administering this project successfully specifically, as it relates to staffing this project. Include, in [Attachment 1](#), your agency's organizational chart. The chart should clearly identify where this program will be positioned within your organization's overall structure, and this program's relationship to other relevant services. Also, include the supervision structure for the coordinator position, coverage when the coordinator is not available, and additional resources the organization will include to ensure the success of the contract requirements.
- (c) Corrective Action: If the agency was under a Corrective Action Plan for any DCF-funded program in the past two (2) years, proposals must identify the program, the primary problem(s), and how the problem(s) was (were) addressed.
- (d) Qualifications / Certification / Licensure: Please describe your agency's experience providing the kinds of services being requested through this RFP. If the agency or program being proposed holds any certifications or licensures, please detail the type and how long it has been held. Applicants must also demonstrate that they possess appropriate licensure to provide clinical services to children.

2. Cultural & Linguistically Competent Care (10 Points)

The Department of Children & Families is committed to ensuring that its service providers deliver effective, equitable, understandable, trauma informed and respectful quality care. The services delivered must be responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, experiences of racism and/or other forms of oppression, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs. Applicants must demonstrate throughout all their responses, that the various partners engaged in the work of the GTFJAC, CACs/ MDTs, are approached, engaged, and cared for in a culturally and linguistically competent manner, including but not limited to: Cultural identity, racial and/or ethnic, religious/spiritual ascription, gender, physical capability, cognitive level, sexual orientation, and linguistic needs. In addition, materials and trainings that are developed and/or provided are culturally and linguistically appropriate for diverse audiences. Please ensure that proposals detail the following:

(a) Culturally Diverse Communities:

- i. Provide any data your agency has that demonstrates your knowledge of the dynamics and diversity within the state of Connecticut.
- ii. Demonstrate your agency's experiences with diverse organizations, teams, and individuals.
- iii. Describe the agency's experience in developing and providing training and resources to culturally diverse audiences and tailored to those with unique needs.

(b) Culturally Responsive and Diverse Organization:

- i. Describe your agency's organizational structure and the level of diversity among the agency's managers, executives, and Board of Directors. Please include a Workforce Analysis as Appendix 10.
- ii. Describe how your agency partners with diverse organizations providing examples.

3. Administrative Requirements (35 points)

Proposals should address each of the following areas. The use of sub-contractors is **not** permitted for these services.

- (a) The applicant should address all the components under the Program Overview.
- (b) Administrative Experience: Provide in detail experience working in an administrative role supporting multiple organizations, teams, and individuals outside of the contractor's organization. Include the assets the organization brings to the table to support the successful implementation of this grant, providing details of the resources that will be provided during the grant period;
- (c) Include experience organizing and successful implementation of large events such as conferences, trainings, and team building;
- (d) Provide details on the organization's capacity to conduct evaluations, provide comprehensive reporting, data analysis, and tracking of outcome measures;
- (e) Describe the organizations system that will be utilized to track training data;
- (f) Describe the organizations capacity to produce reports and informational materials with high quality graphics and charts for data visualization;
- (g) Describe how the contractor will successfully manage their administrative role that is led by large agency chairs, multiple organizations, and individuals committed to the work of the GTFJAC. Please include the agency's definition of an administrative lead organization;
- (h) Describe how the organization will support a joint supervision process with the contractor and the GTFJAC;
- (i) Describe the organizations success in meeting deadlines under circumstances when partner agencies that may not be as efficient;

- (j) Describe how the organization archives information and how their system will support numerous documents of the GTFJAC that needs to be continuously accessible for the duration of the contract and how it will be transferred if the agency's contract is terminated.

4. Staffing Requirements (20 points)

(a) Staff Recruitment and Retention: Proposals must include the following:

- i. Complete the table below for with your agency contractual staffing numbers by role (supervisor, therapist, case manager/therapist assistant/support staff) and the percentage of staffing capacity by the same categories for adult and/or adolescent community based behavioral health programs for the end of the fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023;

Name of Program/Service	Staff Position	Contracted FTE	Actual FTE % (n) on 6/30/2020	Actual FTE % (n) on 6/30/2021	Actual FTE % (n) on 6/30/2022	Actual FTE % (n) on 6/30/2023

- ii. A detailed description of how staff have been and will be recruited and selected, including recruitment efforts to attract diverse candidates.
- iii. A staff retention plan detailing measures taken to reduce staff turnover. The plan should describe how staff hiring and retention has been achieved to maintain contract staffing levels or how challenges in recruitment and turnover have been addressed; and
- iv. A description of how the program will continue to provide administrative oversight and all related tasks that are timely, effective, and true to the contract when there are regularly scheduled staff vacations, experience sickness, training, vacancies, leaves of absence, etc.

(b) Staff Training: The applicant's training plan must include the Finding Words training, Discoverers and First Responders training, and other related trainings to understand the work of the GTFJAC and the CACs/MDTs. The plan shall include educational opportunities on associated state laws, GTFJAC by-laws, protocols, state standards, etc. Include additional required agency training including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. MST-PSB staff will receive model specific training. The Department expects that staff would benefit from and will receive other trainings organized by the applicant agency. Applications must describe additional training or coaching the applicant agency plans to offer to MST staff (e.g., adolescent substance use, Motivational Interviewing, racial justice, recovery, etc.). Describe the training topic, staff role(s) expected to participate, the intensity (e.g., introductory, advanced), and the frequency of training, as well as how this training better prepares staff to meet the needs of the target population.

(c) The GTFGAC Coordinator role requires in state and out of state training. Please provide the agency's guidelines on travel.

5. Work Plan and Implementation Timeline (10 points)

Describe your agency's work plan to specifically achieve the goals stated within this RFP.

- (a) Implementation Experience: Include a narrative description of how your agency's prior successes and challenges informed the design and implementation of this work plan.
- (b) Implementation Timelines: Include proposed timelines for staff hiring, training, and transition plans, if applicable, so that there will be no disruption in present services.

Assume a January 1, 2025, start date and provide specific dates when action steps will be completed.

6. Data and Technology Requirements (10 points)

(a) Quality Improvement Experience: Describe your agency's prior experience collecting and reporting data for program administration, continuous quality improvement (CQI), and for reporting on program progress. Describe the resources (i.e., human, fiscal, physical plant, technology) your agency dedicates to information management, continuous quality improvement, and data analytics. Include your agency's CQI processes, and examples of your agency's success meeting the data and reporting requirements of funders. Describe how this experience positions your organization to meet the data and reporting requirements of this RFP.

(b) Outcome Achievements: Proposals must describe the agency's success in achieving positive outcomes related to the outcomes listed. The applicant shall include examples of similar outcomes they have produced.

■ **D. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

1. Financial Requirements (2 Points)

Proposers must submit cover letters from their auditor for the last three (3) annual audits of their agency and a copy of their most recent financial audit, included as Attachment 2. If the three (3) most recent audits are available via the Office of Policy and Management's EARS system, such must be noted in the proposal, and cover letters and the last audit should **not** be included in the proposal.

If less than three (3) audits were conducted, detail must be provided as to why, and any supporting documentation assuring the financial efficacy of the applicant agency should be included (i.e. an accountant prepared financial statement, a tax return, a profit and loss statement, etc.).

The applicant must provide a description of how they will manage the funding of the GTFJAC included in the contract i.e. training, travel, equipment, etc. Include a description of the agency's payment processes such as how timely payments will be provided to outside organizations and individuals as approved by the GTFJAC.

2. Budget Requirements (3 Points)

Proposals must contain an itemized annual budget on the budget form delineated in Section IV, of this RFP. All startup costs must be clearly identified as 1 line item in the budget.

A budget narrative must be provided, explaining all costs contained in the budget. All start-up costs must be listed separately and clearly detailed in the budget narrative.

All other funding, including agency financial support must be identified.

III. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OVERVIEW**■ A. SUBMISSION FORMAT INFORMATION**

- 1. Required Outline.** All proposals must follow the required outline presented in Section IV – Proposal Outline. Proposals that fail to follow the required outline will be deemed non-responsive and not evaluated.
- 2. Cover Sheet.** The Cover Sheet is Page 1 of the proposal. Proposers must complete and use the Cover Sheet form provided by the Department in Section IV– Forms.
- 3. Table of Contents.** All proposals must include a Table of Contents that conforms with the required proposal outline.
- 4. Attachments.** Attachments other than the required Appendices or Forms identified in the RFP are not permitted and will not be evaluated. Further, the required Appendices or Forms must not be altered or used to extend, enhance, or replace any component required by this RFP. Failure to abide by these instructions will result in disqualification.
- 5. Style Requirements.** Submitted proposals must conform to the following specifications:
 - Paper Size: Standard Letter
 - Print Style: 2-sided
 - Page Limit: 20 Single-Sided (10 sheets of Paper, printed Double-Side) for Section IV.E (Main Proposal)
 - Font Size: 12
 - Font Type: Times New Roman
 - Margins: Normal
 - Line Spacing: 1.5
- 6. Pagination.** The proposer’s name must be displayed in the header of each page. All pages, including the required Appendices and Forms, must be numbered in the footer.
- 7. Declaration of Confidential Information.** Proposers are advised that all materials associated with this procurement are subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act, and all rules, regulations and interpretations resulting from them. If a proposer deems that certain information required by this RFP is confidential, the proposer must label such information as CONFIDENTIAL prior to submission. In Section C of the proposal submission, the proposer must reference where the information labeled CONFIDENTIAL is located in the proposal. *EXAMPLE: Section G.1.a.* For each subsection so referenced, the proposer must provide a convincing explanation and rationale sufficient to justify an exemption of the information from release under the FOIA. The explanation and rationale must be stated in terms of (a) the prospective harm to the competitive position of the proposer that would result if the identified information were to be released and (b) the reasons why the information is legally exempt from release pursuant to C.G.S. § 1-210(b).
- 8. Conflict of Interest- Disclosure Statement.** Proposers must include, in Section D of their proposal, a disclosure statement concerning any current business relationships (within the last three (3) years) that pose a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85. A conflict of interest exists when a relationship exists between the proposer and a public official (including an elected official) or State employee that may interfere with fair competition or may be adverse to the interests of the State. The existence of a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, evidence of wrongdoing. A conflict of interest may, however, become a legal matter if a proposer tries to influence, or succeeds in influencing, the outcome of an official decision for their personal or corporate benefit. The Agency will determine whether any disclosed conflict of interest poses a substantial advantage to the proposer over the competition, decreases the overall competitiveness of this procurement, or is not in the best interests of the State. In the absence of any conflict of interest, a proposer must affirm such in the

disclosure statement. *Example: "[name of proposer] has no current business relationship (within the last three (3) years) that poses a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85."*

■ **B. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS**

1. Evaluation Process. It is the intent of the Agency to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP. When evaluating proposals, negotiating with successful proposers, and awarding contracts, the Agency will conform with its written procedures for POS and PSA procurements (pursuant to C.G.S. § 4-217) and the State’s Code of Ethics (pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-84 and 1-85). Final funding allocation decisions will be determined during contract negotiation.

2. Evaluation Review Committee. The Agency will designate a Review Committee to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The Review Committee will be composed of individuals, Agency staff or other designees as deemed appropriate. The contents of all submitted proposals, including any confidential information, will be shared with the Review Committee. Only proposals found to be responsive (that is, complying with all instructions and requirements described herein) will be reviewed, rated, and scored. Proposals that fail to comply with all instructions will be rejected without further consideration. The Review Committee shall evaluate all proposals that meet the Minimum Submission Requirements by score and rank ordered and make recommendations for awards. The Agency Head will make the final selection. Attempts by any proposer (or representative of any proposer) to contact or influence any member of the Review Committee may result in disqualification of the proposer.

3. Minimum Submission Requirements. To be eligible for evaluation, proposals must (1) be received on or before the due date and time; (2) meet the Proposal Format requirements; (3) meet the Eligibility and Qualification requirements to respond to the procurement, (4) follow the required Proposal Outline; and (5) be complete. Proposals that fail to follow instructions or satisfy these minimum submission requirements will not be reviewed further. The Agency will reject any proposal that deviates significantly from the requirements of this RFP.

4. Evaluation Criteria (and Weights). Proposals meeting the Minimum Submission Requirements will be evaluated according to the established criteria. The criteria are the objective standards that the Review Committee will use to evaluate the technical merits of the proposals. Only the criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals. The weights are disclosed below:

- Organizational Requirements **10 points**
- Cultural & Linguistically Competent Care **10 points**
- Administrative Requirements **35 points**
- Staffing Requirements **20 points**
- Work Plan and Implementation **10 points**
- Data and Technology Requirements **10 points**
- Financial Profile **2 points**
- Budget and Budget Narrative **3 points**

Note: As part of its evaluation of the Staffing Plan, the Review Committee will review the proposer’s demonstrated commitment to affirmative action, as required by the Regulations of CT State Agencies § 46A-68j-30(10).

5. Proposer Selection. Upon completing its evaluation of proposals, the Review Committee will submit the rankings of all proposals to the Commissioner or Agency Head. The final selection of a successful proposer is at the discretion of the Commissioner or Agency Head. Any proposer selected will be so notified and awarded an opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Agency. Such negotiations may, but will not automatically, result in a contract. Any resulting contract will be posted on the State Contracting Portal. All unsuccessful proposers will be notified by e-mail or U.S. mail, at the Agency’s discretion, about the outcome of the evaluation and proposer selection process. The Agency reserves the right to decline to award contracts for activities in which the Commissioner or Agency Head considers there are not adequate respondents.

- 6. Debriefing.** Within ten (10) days of receiving notification from the Agency, unsuccessful proposers may contact the Official Contact and request information about the evaluation and proposer selection process. The e-mail sent date or the postmark date on the notification envelope will be considered "day one" of the ten (10) days. If unsuccessful proposers still have questions after receiving this information, they may contact the Official Contact and request a meeting with the Agency to discuss the evaluation process and their proposals. If held, the debriefing meeting will not include any comparisons of unsuccessful proposals with other proposals. The Agency may schedule and hold the debriefing meeting within fifteen (15) days of the request. The Agency will not change, alter, or modify the outcome of the evaluation or selection process as a result of any debriefing meeting.
- 7. Appeal Process.** Proposers may appeal any aspect the Agency's competitive procurement, including the evaluation and proposer selection process. Any such appeal must be submitted to the Agency head. A proposer may file an appeal at any time after the proposal due date, but not later than thirty (30) days after an agency notifies unsuccessful proposers about the outcome of the evaluation and proposer selection process. The e-mail sent date or the postmark date on the notification envelope will be considered "day one" of the thirty (30) days. The filing of an appeal shall not be deemed sufficient reason for the Agency to delay, suspend, cancel, or terminate the procurement process or execution of a contract. More detailed information about filing an appeal may be obtained from the Official Contact.
- 8. Contract Execution.** Any contract developed and executed as a result of this RFP is subject to the Agency's contracting procedures, which may include approval by the Office of the Attorney General. Fully executed and approved contracts will be posted on State Contracting Portal and the Agency website.

IV. REQUIRED PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OUTLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A. Cover Sheet	1
B. Table of Contents	2
C. Declaration of Confidential Information	Etc.
D. Conflict of Interest - Disclosure Statement	
E. Main Proposal	
1. Organizational Requirements	
a. Agency Qualifications	
b. Organizational Structure	
c. Corrective Action	
d. Qualifications/ Certification/ Licensure	
2. Cultural & Linguistically Competent Care	
a. Culturally Diverse Communities	
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3. Administrative Requirements	
a. Program Overview	
b. Administrative Experience	
c. Organization Experience	
d. Organization Capacity to Conduct Evaluations	
e. Organization System	
f. Organization Capacity to Produce Reports	
g. Management of Administrative Role	
h. Support of Joint Supervision Process	
i. Organization Success in Meeting Deadlines	
j. Archiving Information	
4. Staffing Requirements	
a. Staff Recruitment & Retention	
b. Staff Training	
c. Guidelines on Travel	
5. Work Plan and implementation Timeline	
a. Implementation Experience	
b. Implementation Timelines	
6. Data and Technology Requirements	
a. Quality Improvement Experience	
b. Outcome Achievements	
F. Cost Proposal	
1. Financial Profile	
2. Budget and Budget Narrative	
G. Attachments	
1. Attachment #1 Table of Organization	
2. Attachment #2 Financial Profile.	

V. MANDATORY PROVISIONS**■ A. POS STANDARD CONTRACT, PARTS I AND II**

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the proposer implicitly agrees to comply with the provisions of Parts I and II of the State's "standard contract" for POS:

Part I of the standard contract is maintained by the Department and will include the scope of services, contract performance, quality assurance, reports, terms of payment, budget, and other program-specific provisions of any resulting POS contract. A sample of Part I is available from the Department's Official Contact upon request.

Part II of the standard contract is maintained by OPM and includes the mandatory terms and conditions of the POS contract. Part II is available on OPM's website at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/fin/standard_contract

Note:

Included in Part II of the standard contract is the State Elections Enforcement Commission's notice (pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-612(g)(2)) advising executive branch State contractors and prospective State contractors of the ban on campaign contributions and solicitations. If a proposer is awarded an opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Department and the resulting contract has an anticipated value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts has an anticipated value of \$100,000 or more, the proposer must inform the proposer's principals of the contents of the SEEC notice.

Part I of the standard contract may be amended by means of a written instrument signed by the Department, the selected proposer (contractor), and, if required, the Attorney General's Office. Part II of the standard contract may be amended only in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Office of Policy and Management and the Attorney General's Office.

■ B. ASSURANCES

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a proposer implicitly gives the following assurances:

- 1. Collusion.** The proposer represents and warrants that the proposer did not participate in any part of the RFP development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the RFP prior to its issuance. The proposer further represents and warrants that no agent, representative, or employee of the State participated directly in the preparation of the proposer's proposal. The proposer also represents and warrants that the submitted proposal is in all respects fair and is made without collusion or fraud.
- 2. State Officials and Employees.** The proposer certifies that no elected or appointed official or employee of the State has or will benefit financially or materially from any contract resulting from this RFP. The Agency may terminate a resulting contract if it is determined that gratuities of any kind were either offered or received by any of the aforementioned officials or employees from the proposer, contractor, or its agents or employees.
- 3. Competitors.** The proposer assures that the submitted proposal is not made in connection with any competing organization or competitor submitting a separate proposal in response to this RFP. No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the proposer to induce any other organization or competitor to submit, or not submit, a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition. The proposer further assures that the proposed costs have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other organization or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition. Nor has the proposer knowingly disclosed the proposed costs on a prior basis, either directly or indirectly, to any other organization or competitor.
- 4. Validity of Proposal.** The proposer certifies that the proposal represents a valid and binding offer to provide services in accordance with the terms and provisions described in this RFP and any amendments or attachments hereto. The proposal shall remain valid for a period of 180 days after the submission due

date and may be extended beyond that time by mutual agreement. At its sole discretion, the Agency may include the proposal, by reference or otherwise, into any contract with the successful proposer.

- 5. Press Releases.** The proposer agrees to obtain prior written consent and approval of the Agency for press releases that relate in any manner to this RFP or any resultant contract.

■ **C. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a proposer implicitly agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.** The State is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its hiring, employment, or business practices. The State is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities.
- 2. Preparation Expenses.** Neither the State nor the Agency shall assume any liability for expenses incurred by a proposer in preparing, submitting, or clarifying any proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
- 3. Exclusion of Taxes.** The Agency is exempt from the payment of excise and sales taxes imposed by the federal government and the State. Proposers are liable for any other applicable taxes.
- 4. Proposed Costs.** No cost submissions that are contingent upon a State action will be accepted. All proposed costs must be fixed through the entire term of the contract.
- 5. Changes to Proposal.** No additions or changes to the original proposal will be allowed after submission. While changes are not permitted, the Agency may request and authorize proposers to submit written clarification of their proposals, in a manner or format prescribed by the Agency, and at the proposer's expense.
- 6. Supplemental Information.** Supplemental information will not be considered after the deadline submission of proposals, unless specifically requested by the Agency. The Agency may ask a proposer to give demonstrations, interviews, oral presentations or further explanations to clarify information contained in a proposal. Any such demonstration, interview, or oral presentation will be at a time selected and in a place provided by the Agency. At its sole discretion, the Agency may limit the number of proposers invited to make such a demonstration, interview, or oral presentation and may limit the number of attendees per proposer.
- 7. Presentation of Supporting Evidence.** If requested by the Agency, a proposer must be prepared to present evidence of experience, ability, data reporting capabilities, financial standing, or other information necessary to satisfactorily meet the requirements set forth or implied in this RFP. The Agency may make onsite visits to an operational facility or facilities of a proposer to evaluate further the proposer's capability to perform the duties required by this RFP. At its discretion, the Agency may also check or contact any reference provided by the proposer.
- 8. RFP Is Not An Offer.** Neither this RFP nor any subsequent discussions shall give rise to any commitment on the part of the State or the Agency or confer any rights on any proposer unless and until a contract is fully executed by the necessary parties. The contract document will represent the entire agreement between the proposer and the Agency and will supersede all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, alleged or made, between the parties. The State shall assume no liability for costs incurred by the proposer or for payment of services under the terms of the contract until the successful proposer is notified that the contract has been accepted and approved by the Agency and, if required, by the Attorney General's Office.

■ **D. RIGHTS RESERVED TO THE STATE**

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a proposer implicitly accepts that the following rights are reserved to the State:

- 1. Timing Sequence.** The timing and sequence of events associated with this RFP shall ultimately be determined by the Agency.
- 2. Amending or Canceling RFP.** The Agency reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFP on any date and at any time, if the Agency deems it to be necessary, appropriate, or otherwise in the best interests of the State.
- 3. No Acceptable Proposals.** In the event that no acceptable proposals are submitted in response to this RFP, the Agency may reopen the procurement process, if it is determined to be in the best interests of the State.
- 4. Award and Rejection of Proposals.** The Agency reserves the right to award in part, to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part, for misrepresentation or if the proposal limits or modifies any of the terms, conditions, or specifications of this RFP. The Agency may waive minor technical defects, irregularities, or omissions, if in its judgment the best interests of the State will be served. The Agency reserves the right to reject the proposal of any proposer who submits a proposal after the submission date and time.
- 5. Sole Property of the State.** All proposals submitted in response to this RFP are to be the sole property of the State. Any product, whether acceptable or unacceptable, developed under a contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall be the sole property of the State, unless stated otherwise in this RFP or subsequent contract. The right to publish, distribute, or disseminate any and all information or reports, or part thereof, shall accrue to the State without recourse.
- 6. Contract Negotiation.** The Agency reserves the right to negotiate or contract for all or any portion of the services contained in this RFP. The Agency further reserves the right to contract with one or more proposer for such services. After reviewing the scored criteria, the Agency may seek Best and Final Offers (BFO) on cost from proposers. The Agency may set parameters on any BFOs received.
- 7. Clerical Errors in Award.** The Agency reserves the right to correct inaccurate awards resulting from its clerical errors. This may include, in extreme circumstances, revoking the awarding of a contract already made to a proposer and subsequently awarding the contract to another proposer. Such action on the part of the State shall not constitute a breach of contract on the part of the State since the contract with the initial proposer is deemed to be void *ab initio* and of no effect as if no contract ever existed between the State and the proposer.
- 8. Key Personnel.** When the Agency is the sole funder of a purchased service, the Agency reserves the right to approve any additions, deletions, or changes in key personnel, with the exception of key personnel who have terminated employment. The Agency also reserves the right to approve replacements for key personnel who have terminated employment. The Agency further reserves the right to require the removal and replacement of any of the proposer's key personnel who do not perform adequately, regardless of whether they were previously approved by the Agency.

■ **E. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE**

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the proposer implicitly agrees to comply with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. Freedom of Information, C.G.S. § 1-210(b).** The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) generally requires the disclosure of documents in the possession of the State upon request of any citizen, unless the content of the document falls within certain categories of exemption, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-210(b). Proposers are generally advised not to include in their proposals any confidential information. If the proposer indicates that certain documentation, as required by this RFP, is submitted in confidence, the

State will endeavor to keep said information confidential to the extent permitted by law. The State has no obligation to initiate, prosecute, or defend any legal proceeding or to seek a protective order or other similar relief to prevent disclosure of any information pursuant to a FOIA request. The proposer has the burden of establishing the availability of any FOIA exemption in any proceeding where it is an issue. While a proposer may claim an exemption to the State's FOIA, the final administrative authority to release or exempt any or all material so identified rests with the State. In no event shall the State or any of its employees have any liability for disclosure of documents or information in the possession of the State and which the State or its employees believe(s) to be required pursuant to the FOIA or other requirements of law.

- 2. Contract Compliance, C.G.S. § 4a-60 and Regulations of CT State Agencies § 46a-68j-21 thru 43, inclusive.** CT statute and regulations impose certain obligations on State agencies (as well as contractors and subcontractors doing business with the State) to ensure that State agencies do not enter into contracts with organizations or businesses that discriminate against protected class persons.

- 3. Consulting Agreements, C.G.S. § 4a-81. Consulting Agreements Representation, C.G.S. § 4a-81.** Pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 4a-81 the successful contracting party shall certify that it has not entered into any consulting agreements in connection with this Contract, except for the agreements listed below. "Consulting agreement" means any written or oral agreement to retain the services, for a fee, of a consultant for the purposes of (A) providing counsel to a contractor, vendor, consultant or other entity seeking to conduct, or conducting, business with the State, (B) contacting, whether in writing or orally, any executive, judicial, or administrative office of the State, including any department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority, official or employee for the purpose of solicitation, dispute resolution, introduction, requests for information, or (C) any other similar activity related to such contracts. "Consulting agreement" does not include any agreements entered into with a consultant who is registered under the provisions of chapter 10 of the Connecticut General Statutes as of the date such contract is executed in accordance with the provisions of section 4a-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Such representation shall be sworn as true to the best knowledge and belief of the person signing the resulting contract and shall be subject to the penalties of false statement.

- 4. Campaign Contribution Restriction, C.G.S. § 9-612.** For all State contracts, defined in section 9-612 of the Connecticut General Statutes as having a value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of \$100,000 or more, the authorized signatory to the resulting contract must represent that they have received the State Elections Enforcement Commission's notice advising state contractors of state campaign contribution and solicitation prohibitions, and will inform its principals of the contents of the notice, as set forth in "Notice to Executive Branch State Contractors and Prospective State Contractors of Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Limitations." Such notice is available at:

https://seec.ct.gov/Portal/data/forms/ContrForms/seec_form_11_notice_only.pdf

- 5. Gifts, C.G.S. § 4-252.** Pursuant to section 4-252 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Acting Governor Susan Bysiewicz's Executive Order No. 21-2, the Contractor, for itself and on behalf of all of its principals or key personnel who submitted a bid or proposal, represents:

(1) That no gifts were made by (A) the Contractor, (B) any principals and key personnel of the Contractor, who participate substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating State contracts, or (C) any agent of the Contractor or principals and key personnel, who participates substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating State contracts, to (i) any public official or State employee of the State agency or quasi- public agency soliciting bids or proposals for State contracts, who participates substantially in the preparation of bid solicitations or requests for proposals for State contracts or the negotiation or award of State contracts, or (ii) any public official or State employee of any other State agency, who has supervisory or appointing authority over such State agency or quasi-public agency;

(2) That no such principals and key personnel of the Contractor, or agent of the Contractor or of such principals and key personnel, knows of any action by the Contractor to circumvent such prohibition on

gifts by providing for any other principals and key personnel, official, employee or agent of the Contractor to provide a gift to any such public official or State employee; and

(3) That the Contractor is submitting bids or proposals without fraud or collusion with any person. Any bidder or proposer that does not agree to the representations required under this section shall be rejected and the State agency or quasi-public agency shall award the contract to the next highest ranked proposer or the next lowest responsible qualified bidder or seek new bids or proposals.

- 6. Iran Energy Investment Certification C.G.S. § 4-252(a).** Pursuant to C.G.S. § 4-252(a), the successful contracting party shall certify the following: (a) that it has not made a direct investment of twenty million dollars or more in the energy sector of Iran on or after October 1, 2013, as described in Section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, and has not increased or renewed such investment on or after said date. (b) If the Contractor makes a good faith effort to determine whether it has made an investment described in subsection (a) of this section it shall not be subject to the penalties of false statement pursuant to section 4-252a of the Connecticut General Statutes. A "good faith effort" for purposes of this subsection includes a determination that the Contractor is not on the list of persons who engage in certain investment activities in Iran created by the Department of General Services of the State of California pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 2.7 of the California Public Contract Code. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair the ability of the State agency or quasi-public agency to pursue a breach of contract action for any violation of the provisions of the resulting contract.
- 7. Nondiscrimination Certification, C.G.S. § 4a-60 and 4a-60a.** If a bidder is awarded an opportunity to negotiate a contract, the proposer must provide the State agency with *written representation* in the resulting contract that certifies the bidder complies with the State's nondiscrimination agreements and warranties. This nondiscrimination certification is required for all State contracts – regardless of type, term, cost, or value. Municipalities and CT State agencies are exempt from this requirement. The authorized signatory of the contract shall demonstrate his or her understanding of this obligation by either (A) initialing the nondiscrimination affirmation provision in the body of the resulting contract, or (B) providing an affirmative response in the required online bid or response to a proposal question, if applicable, which asks if the contractor understands its obligations. If a bidder or vendor refuses to agree to this representation, such bidder or vendor shall be rejected and the State agency or quasi-public agency shall award the contract to the next highest ranked vendor or the next lowest responsible qualified bidder or seek new bids or proposals.
- 8. Access to Data for State Auditors.** The Contractor shall provide to OPM access to any data, as defined in C.G.S. § 4e-1, concerning the resulting contract that are in the possession or control of the Contractor upon demand and shall provide the data to OPM in a format prescribed by OPM [or the Client Agency] and the State Auditors of Public Accounts at no additional cost.

VI. APPENDIX

A. ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS / DEFINITIONS

BFO	Best and Final Offer
C.G.S.	Connecticut General Statutes
CHRO	Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity (CT)
CT	Connecticut
DAS	Department of Administrative Services (CT)
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act (CT)
IRS	Internal Revenue Service (US)
LOI	Letter of Intent
OAG	Office of the Attorney General
OPM	Office of Policy and Management (CT)
OSC	Office of the State Comptroller (CT)
POS	Purchase of Service
P.A.	Public Act (CT)
RFP	Request for Proposal
SEEC	State Elections Enforcement Commission (CT)
U.S.	United States

- *contractor*: a private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality that enters into a POS contract with the Agency as a result of this RFP
- *proposer*: a private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality that has submitted a proposal to the Agency in response to this RFP. This term may be used interchangeably with respondent throughout the RFP.
- *prospective proposer*: a private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality that may submit a proposal to the Agency in response to this RFP, but has not yet done so
- *subcontractor*: an individual (other than an employee of the contractor) or business entity hired by a contractor to provide a specific health or human service as part of a POS contract with the Agency as a result of this RFP

B. Appendix #1: Proposal Checklist

To assist respondents in managing proposal planning and document collation processes, this document summarizes key dates and proposal requirements for this RFP. This document does not supersede what is stated in the RFP. It is the responsibility of each respondent to ensure that all required documents, forms, and attachments, are submitted in a timely manner.

C. Appendix #2: Letter of Intent

To be completed and submitted to the Official Agency Contact for this procurement by the due date delineated in this RFP.

D. Appendix #3: Proposal Cover Sheet

To be utilized as Page 1 of all proposals (as indicated in this RFP).

PROPOSAL CHECKLIST**Key Dates**

Procurement Timetable		
The Agency reserves the right to modify these dates at its sole discretion.		
Item	Action	Date
1	Bidders Conference	10:00 am / September 9, 2024
2	Question Submission Deadline	3:00 PM / September 11, 2024
3	Release of Answers	September 16, 2024
4	Letter of Intent Submission Deadline	3:00 PM / September 27, 2024
5	Proposal Submission Deadline	3:00 PM / October 23, 2024
6	Program Implementation Target Date	January 1, 2025

Registration with State Contracting Portal (if not already registered):

- Register at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/Registration>
- Submit Campaign Contribution Certification (OPM Ethics Form 1): <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Fin-PSA/Forms/Ethics-Forms>
- Submit Proof of Entity Status (if applicable)
- Submit Notification to Bidders package
- Submit Proof of Secretary of the State recognition (CT Business License)

Letter of Intent

- Submit by September 27, 2024 (3:00PM)

Proposal Content Checklist

- Cover Sheet** (using RFP Appendix #3)
- Table of Contents** (using RFP Section IV (Table of Contents))
- Declaration of Confidential Information**
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
- Main Proposal**
- Budget**
- Attachments**

Formatting Checklist

- Is the proposal formatted to fit 8 ½ x 11 (letter-sized) paper?
- Is the main body of the proposal within the page limit?
- Is the proposal in 12-point, Times New Roman font?
- Does the proposal format follow normal (1 inch) margins and 1 ½ line spacing?
- Does the proposer's name appear in the header of each page?
- Does the proposal include page numbers in the footer?
- Are confidential labels applied to sensitive information (if applicable)?

**LETTER OF INTENT
(MANDATORY NON-BINDING)**

Date: _____

Our agency is planning to apply for funding in response to the RFP entitled ***Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children***

AGENCY NAME:
FEIN:
AGENCY ADDRESS: (street, city, state, zip)
AGENCY CONTACT:
POSITION/TITLE:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:
FAX NUMBER:
EMAIL ADDRESS:

Mandatory Letter of Intent must be received by **3:00 p.m.** on **September 27, 2024**
Catherine Santiago (DCF.FISCALCONTRACTS@ct.gov).

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

***Governor's Task Force on Justice for Abused Children
Request for Proposals***

Name of Agency: _____

Address _____

Application Contact Person: _____

Contact Person Phone & Fax: _____

Contact Person Email Address: _____

This application must be signed by the applicant's executive director or other individual with executive oversight for agency services delivered in Connecticut

By submitting this application, I attest that all the information included within the application is true.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (Printed): _____ Title: _____