



State of Delaware

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN,  
YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #CYF15-11

## DESCRIPTION

Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant  
*1 - INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR*

- **Clinical Lead Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant/Child Psychologist (1 award)**
  - New Castle County (1 award)

BIDDERS' CONFERENCE: No Bidders' Conference will be held  
PROPOSALS DUE: BY 2:00 PM **MONDAY APRIL 27, 2015**

**The RFP schedule is as follows:**

- Date Submit all questions to H. Ryan Bolles, DSCYF Procurement Administrator, at [herbert.bolles@state.de.us](mailto:herbert.bolles@state.de.us)
- None **NO** bidder's conference will be held regarding this RFP. Deadline to ensure a response to questions is **4/20/15** after which questions will be answered if time allows.

**Monday,  
April 27, 2015  
by 2:00 PM ET**

Cover Letter and Independent Contractor Proposals shall be submitted as follows:

Please submit 1 original proposal marked "ORIGINAL". Please submit 4 copies or your proposal marked "COPY". Please submit **1 electronic copy of your typed letter and ENTIRE proposal on CD, DVD or flash drive.**

Letter and proposals **must be delivered by 2:00PM ET on April 27, 2015.**

**Letters and proposals arriving after 2:00pm ET will not be accepted.**

**You are encouraged to double-side print/copy your proposals.**

Express Courier or hand deliver the sealed bids as follows:

**DELIVERY:**

State of Delaware  
Ryan Bolles, Grants and Contracts  
1825 Faulkland Road  
Wilmington, DE 19805

Although it is not recommended to ship by the US Postal Service, if this is your preferred delivery method, please address as follows:

State of Delaware  
Ryan Bolles, Grants & Contracts  
1825 Faulkland Road  
Wilmington, DE 19805

The bidder bears the risk of delays in delivery. The contents of any proposal shall not be disclosed to competing entities during the negotiation process.

As soon as possible The Department will work diligently to complete the proposal review and selection process in an expeditious fashion. Bidders should plan to be available to respond to questions from the review panel by telephone or in person, if necessary. However, proposals are expected to be able to stand alone based upon the written information submitted.

As soon as possible Decisions are expected to be made and awards announced as soon as possible. Initial notification to all bidders will be announced by email.

## Request for Proposals

The State of Delaware's Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (DSCYF), Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS) is seeking proposals from individual licensed mental health professionals to provide the following professional service: **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC)**. Proposals are requested for the Clinical Lead ECMHC/Child Psychologist. This individual will be the lead consultant to a team of licensed mental health professionals providing the EMCHC service statewide. The service includes child-specific and program consultation and specialized training offered in a variety of early learning settings including pre-schools, child care centers, family-based child care programs, Head Start, and Early Head Start Centers – all sited in the community. Service need currently exists in New Castle County. Primary location of work for the lead ECMHC will be New Castle County with some statewide travel required. **The Department is not accepting proposals from agencies.**

**CONTEXT:** DPBHS operates a comprehensive statewide behavioral health system of care which includes services to support young children, birth to five years, and their families. In recent years, there has been growing concern among many in the mental health arena and early care and education community that increasing numbers of very young children are manifesting serious behavior problems. According to the Center for Mental Health in Schools (2005), the prevalence of clinically significant emotional and behavioral disabilities among young children ranges from 4 – 10%, with significantly higher estimates for children living in families with low income levels. In very young children, these behaviors can be severe enough to warrant their removal from pre-school programs (Gilliam 2005) thus setting into motion a cascade of negative experiences. The 2005 Gilliam findings ranked Delaware as fourth in the nation for expelling young children from public pre-school programs. Evidence shows that early intervention and treatment services increases positive social child behaviors, decreases child behavior problems, decreases caregiver stress and prevents school expulsion. Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is one such service.

DPBHS has provided the ECMHC services at no cost to the early learning community since 2010 with funding received through the State's Child Care Development Fund and the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant and most recently with grant funding to be provided by the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. There is no cost charged to recipients of this service. Priority for this service is early childhood centers enrolled in Delaware Stars and that have a significant proportion of children whose early child care tuition is assisted through the State of Delaware's Purchase of Care program, ensuring that the services are focused on children at high risk for the development of serious emotional disturbance.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is a problem-solving and capacity-building intervention implemented within a collaborative relationship between a professional consultant with mental health expertise and an early care and education provider agency and includes the classroom teacher and a child's family members as appropriate. Early childhood mental health consultation aims to build the capacity and improve the ability of child care professionals, programs and systems to prevent, identify, treat and reduce the impact of mental health problems among young children. Delaware's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) service will primarily focus on children between the ages of two years and five years, inclusive.

This ECMHC service is part of the mental health treatment services continuum for very young children and their families in Delaware provided under the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services. Where available and clinically appropriate, evidence-based interventions/practices and a system of care approach to service delivery provide the framework of this service. The system of care service delivery approach is based on the recognition that the needs of children with serious mental health issues can best be met within their home, school, and community, and that families and youth should be a driving force in making decisions about the services they receive from an array of mental health and support services that are organized on an individualized basis into a coordinated system to meet the unique clinical and functional needs of each child and family. These core values and principles of systems of care guide the work of the project.

It is anticipated that the contractual agreement with the successful bidder will begin in May 2015 and extend through September 30, 2016 at a minimum. There is no guarantee of continued funding beyond that period, but it is anticipated that additional funding re-authorization for the Child Care Development Fund will continue beyond

September 2016 as well as federal grant funding. As good outcomes for children, families and early care and education providers are achieved through this service and as demand for this service increases, it is expected that additional funding will be received by DPBHS from a variety of sources to increase access for early child care and education providers to receive the very effective training and consultation provided through the early childhood mental health consultation service. However, the State states there is no guarantee.

**Only proposals from individual licensed mental health professionals with experience in providing services to children in the early childhood age range (includes birth to 5 years of age) will be reviewed. The individual bidder who is successful in obtaining a contract award under this RFP must be licensed in the state of Delaware at the time of the contract start date. The Department is not accepting proposals from agencies.**

**How to Respond to this RFP:**

A complete response to this RFP is required for consideration by reviewers. Along with a cover letter all items to be submitted with the proposal are described on page 8 of this RFP.

**Professional service areas to be awarded as a result of this RFP (details provided in subsequent pages):**

- Clinical Lead Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant/Child Psychologist – New Castle County (1 award)

**Compensation** is competitive and to be negotiated based on qualifications, experience and expertise; however it is anticipated that total compensation for the contracted lead Clinical Lead Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant/Child Psychologist will not exceed \$90,000 annually. Independent contractors are responsible for payment of any and all federal, state or local taxes that may apply. The successful bidder must accept full payment by conventional check and/or other electronic means and/or procurement (credit) card at the State's option, without imposing any additional fees, costs or conditions.

**A Delaware Business License** is required of the independent contractor at the time of contract execution, but not at time of proposal. The successful bidder must obtain and maintain a Delaware business license for the period of the contract. The contractor is NOT a State of Delaware employee, but rather an independent contracted provider.

It is estimated that the early childhood mental health consultant service will likely require approximately 40 hours per week to complete the expected tasks of the contractor. Each contractor will be compensated for service hours based on a per diem or hourly rate for partial days.

**Criteria** for evaluating the proposals are included below. Additional instructions and forms can be found in Attachment A of this RFP.

**FOR ANY FORMER OR CURRENT STATE EMPLOYEE WHO IS INTERESTED IN COMPETING FOR THESE CONTRACTS:**

To insure compliance with the State's Code of Conduct post-employment law (which provides that former State employees may not work on State projects if they were directly and materially related to their work as State employees), it is required that current State of Delaware employees who respond to this RFA, also contact Deborah Weaver, Esq. (302-739-2399), attorney for the Delaware Public Integrity Commission. Ms. Weaver will assist such individuals in reviewing their situation, determining if a request to the Commission for advice is needed, and in drafting an appropriate letter to the Commission if necessary. Where such a letter is indicated, it must be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Individuals wishing to submit a proposal in response to this RFP who receive a pension benefit from the State Employee's Pension Plan are required to complete Form-SS-8 "Determination of Worker Status" with the Internal Revenue Service. The application and findings from the Internal Revenue Service must be reported to the Delaware Board of Pension Trustees for a determination of the individual meeting the definition of employee within the Plan. For more information visit <http://delawarepensions.com>

**Criminal Background and Child Abuse Registry Checks:**

Pursuant to 31 Del.C. Section 309, a bidder **awarded** a contract resulting from this RFP is required to pass a criminal background check (state and federal). All information required by Delaware Code shall be forwarded to

the DSCYF which will assess the information and make a determination of suitability based on the type of offenses, recency, record since the offenses, and responsibilities of the bidder. In addition, a bidder awarded a contract will be required to obtain certification from DSCYF as to whether the individual is named in the Central Register as the perpetrator of a report of child abuse.

Successful bidder will abide by all DSCYF policies and procedures including the most recent version of the Operating Guidelines for Contracted Client Programs and Services found here:

[http://kids.delaware.gov/mss/mss\\_contracts.shtml](http://kids.delaware.gov/mss/mss_contracts.shtml)

Description and review criteria for this contract opportunity are on the following pages.

## Contracted Service Summary and Review Criteria

### Scope of Work:

- Increase awareness of the importance of young children’s mental health;
- Use indirect approaches to foster the social and emotional well-being of children at child care sites, including providing program-specific consultation focusing on improving the overall quality of the program and/or assisting the program to solve a specific issue that affects more than one child, staff member or family;
- Improve children’s social and emotional well-being by building the capacity of early childcare education teachers and other caregivers to promote health child development and manage challenging behaviors;
- Use evidence-based clinical interventions and promising practices in the overall consultation provided;
- Develop and maintain effective working relationships based on mutual respect with early child care provider staff to enhance their provision of the provision of child care services to promote children’s mental health/social-emotional wellness;.
- Educate, train and coach caregivers so that they develop the skills and confidence to effectively address children’s social and emotional needs – whether it is the needs of one child or a classroom of children;
- Observe children, conduct individual assessments, model effective practices and integrate results and findings into an approach that will enhance caregiver competence in promoting child mental health and managing behavior problems of children;
- Screen/identify children and parent/caregiver who may benefit from treatment to a mental health treatment provider, particularly where screening indicates that there is an appropriate, evidence-based treatment available (e.g. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Attachment Bio-Behavioral Catch-up);
- Gather, organize, maintain and report data on the statewide ECMHC service as requested, including the completion of an annual report;
- Work with DPBHS evaluators to analyze data and to help develop reports that present information about the effectiveness of the various aspects of the service for Delaware children, families and caregivers;
- Provide clinical consultation and oversight to a team of ECMHCs statewide.
- Research and review of evidence-based and emerging practices in early childhood mental health consultation and related strategies. As appropriate, provide training to the team of ECMHCs in such practices and strategies to enhance the delivery of the ECMHC service.

### Review Criteria and Weights (%)

- Possession of a Delaware professional license as a Child Psychologist [**Mandatory**]
- Dependable transportation and valid driver’s license. . (Note - mileage for work-related travel will not be reimbursed separately) [**Mandatory**]
- Training, skill and experience in mental health clinical interventions with young children (birth to age 5), with higher rating where this has included classroom observation/assessment in early childhood setting [30%]
- Experience in providing clinical supervision and providing oversight to a clinical team [10%]
- Experience in coordinating and collaborating across child serving systems, including ability to foster positive relationships with staff as well as families receiving service [10%]
- Education in child development (normal growth and development of young children, including developmental milestones, atypical behavior in young children) as part of child mental health- related education [10%]
- Skill and understanding of the methods, techniques and benefits of early childhood mental health consultation [10%]
- Experience in developing and providing clinical training on young children’s social and emotional development [5%]
- Experience in use of evidence-based interventions [5%]
- Demonstration of cultural competence [5%]
- Proposal reflects excellent communication skills [5%]
- Experience/reputation of bidder with DSCYF or other state agencies [5%]
- Special consideration – preference given to bilingual bidders (English/Spanish) [5%]

***SPECIAL NOTE: Preference will be given to those bidders who are bilingual (English/Spanish). Additionally, feedback from references will also be considered as the panel makes recommendations for contract awards.***

Please complete the questions below: A separate page(s) may be attached to address the bidder's response to each question below. **A response to every question is required to complete the proposal as is the attachment of a resume or vita and a cover letter.**

*Please ensure that the bidder's name and RFP number are at the top of each page attached to your proposal. Number the responses in accordance with the numbered questions below.*

1. **Describe previous work which you believe qualifies you to perform the work** of the contract for which you are bidding.
2. **Describe any knowledge and training that is relevant to the work** of this contract as described in this RFP.
3. **Describe any experience and expertise that is relevant to the work** of this contract as described in this RFP.
4. **List any educational degrees, professional credentials and/or licenses** that relate to the service for which you are bidding.
5. **List what you see as the top three benefits of early childhood mental health consultation.** Please elaborate as necessary to successfully communicate your view.
6. **List key indicators of cultural and linguistic competence** and how they contribute to effective early childhood mental health consultation.
7. **Provide references regarding professional services:** Provide the names and contact information for three (3) sources who may be contacted by DSCYF for a reference who can attest to your ability to perform the work of the contract which you are competing.
8. **Include the following documents:**
  - a. **Cover Letter**
  - b. **Bidder Fact Sheet (as page 1 of proposal provided in the RFP and separately where this RFP is posted)**
  - c. **Resume or vita** outlining your education/experience as part of the proposal.
  - d. **Copy of Professional License** or statement of ability to be licensed in Delaware at the time of contract execution (estimated to be May 2015)
  - e. **Copy of valid driver's license** and a statement that dependable transportation is available for work purposes to the bidder.
9. **Provide signed forms named below and appearing in Appendix B** and include them with the complete Independent Contractor proposal.
  - a. Assurances
  - b. Certification, Representation, and Acknowledgements
10. Submission of a proposal for this contract opportunity serves as acknowledgement that the stated proposed compensation as acceptable. No additional budget information is required.

Bid price negotiations and feedback from provided references will also be considered as the panel makes a final recommendation for contract awards.

***Failure to complete these forms will seriously affect the ability of the review panel to evaluate the bidder's proposal and may be a factor in proposal rejections.***

ATTACHMENT A:

ADDITIONAL BIDDER'S FORMS INSTRUCTIONS

**BIDDER FACT SHEET**  
**Place as Top Page of Proposal**

RFP Title: CYF 15-10 ECMHC Lead Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant – New  
Castle County

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CORPORATE INFORMATION
Bidder Name: _____
Address: _____ _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone #: _____
Cell #: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Indicate below all that apply to the bidder:

- Non-Profit Agency     Woman Owned Agency     Minority Owned Agency     Disadvantaged Business Enterprise

Delaware Business License#: \_\_\_\_\_

A Delaware Business License is not required to bid, but a copy of the license is required at or before the time of contract signing **IF** the bidder will be providing services within the State of Delaware.

## ASSURANCES

The bidder represents and certifies as a part of this offer that:

The organization will complete or provide any information necessary for enrollment in Medicaid requested by the Department, concerning, but not limited to, such areas as licensure and accreditation, Medicaid rates paid by other states for services provided by the organization, the usual and customary charges for medical services, and/or past sanctioning by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The organization will maintain records, documents, and other required evidence to adequately reflect the service under contract.

The organization agrees to maintain or to make available at a location within the State, such records as are necessary or deemed necessary by the Department to fully disclose and substantiate the nature and extent of items and services rendered to the Department clients, including all records necessary to verify the usual and customary charges for such items and services. Organizations that show cause may be exempted from maintaining records or from making such records available within the State.

The organization understands that all records shall be made available at once and without notice to authorized federal and state representatives, including but not limited to Delaware's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, for the purpose of conducting audits to substantiate claims, costs, etc., and to determine compliance with federal and state regulations and statutes.

The organization shall retain medical, financial, and other supporting records relating to each claim for not less than five (5) years after the claim is submitted.

The organization will maintain accurate accounts, books, documents, and other evidentiary, accounting, and fiscal records in accordance with established methods of accounting.

In the event that the Contract with the organization is terminated, the organization's records shall remain subject to the Department's regulations.

The organization will physically secure and safeguard all sensitive and confidential information related to the service given. This includes service activities and case record materials.

The organization shall comply with the requirements for client confidentiality in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 290 and/or 290 cc-3.

The organization will cooperate with designated program monitors, consultants, or auditors from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families or the Criminal Justice Council in connection with reviewing the services offered under contract.

The organization will comply with all applicable State and Federal licensing, certification, and accreditation standards, including the Department's Generic Program Standards, and it will submit documentation of annual renewals of applicable licenses/certifications at whatever point they are renewed during the contract year.

The organization will not let subcontracts without prior approval from the contracting Division.

The organization will attempt to obtain all supplies and materials at the lowest practicable cost and to contain its total cost where possible by competitive bidding whenever feasible.

The organization will, upon signature of the contract, provide written assurance to the Department from its corporate counsel that the organization is qualified to do business in Delaware.

The organization agrees to comply with all requirements and provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination regulations, and any other federal, state, or local anti-discriminatory act, law, statute, regulation, or policy along with all amendments and revisions of these laws, in the performance of the contract. It will not discriminate against any bidder or employee or service recipient because of race, creed or religion, age, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, handicap, or any other discriminatory basis or criteria.

The organization shall comply with: the Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act (16 Del.C., Chapter 22 as amended; Licensing of Drug Abuse Prevention, Control, Treatment, and Education Programs (16 Del.C., Chapter 48 as amended); Drug Free Work Place Act of 1988.

The organization shall comply, when applicable, with the Methadone Regulations (21 CFR, Part III), which prohibit use of methadone for children and youth.

The organization will establish a system through which clients receiving the service under contract may present grievances. Clients will be advised of their appeal rights by the organization.

The organization agrees that it is operating as an independent contractor and as such, it agrees to save and hold harmless the State from any liability which may arise as a result of the organization's negligence.

The organization will abide by the policies and procedures of the Department and will comply with all of the terms, conditions, and requirements as set forth in the contract. The organization understands that failure to comply with any of the terms, conditions, and provisions of the contract may result in delay, reduction, or denial of payment or in sanctions against the organization. The organization also understands that penalties may be imposed for failure to observe the terms of Section 1909, Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

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Name of Organization's Authorized Administrator

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Signature of Authorized Administrator

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Date

**PLEASE SIGN THIS FORM AND SUBMIT WITH THE PROPOSAL**

**CERTIFICATION, REPRESENTATION, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

By signing below, bidder certifies that:

- They are an established vendor in the services being procured
- They have the ability to fulfill all requirements specified for development within this RFP
- They have neither directly nor indirectly entered into an agreement, participated in any collusion, nor otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this proposal
- They are accurately representing their type of business and affiliations
- They are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency

The following conditions are understood and agreed to:

- No charges, other than those negotiated into a final contract are to be levied upon the State as a result of a contract.
- The State will have exclusive ownership of all products of this contract unless mutually agreed to in writing at the time a binding contract is executed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Organization's Authorized Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES (DSCYF)**

### ***Submission Instructions***

*Failure to follow Departmental procedures may disqualify a bidder's organization.*

#### **I. FORMAT**

Proposals should be printed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. To be considered all proposals must be submitted in writing and respond to the items outlined in this RFP. Videos will not be presented to the panel. Binding, color graphics and extensive attachments are unnecessary.

To be considered, bidders must submit a complete response to this RFP. An official authorized to bind the bidder to the proposal must sign proposal documents. The successful bidder must be in compliance with all licensing requirements of the State of Delaware at time of contract execution.

Bidders may be called, only at the discretion of the issuing office, for an interview concerning their proposal. The State reserves the right to reject any non-responsive or non-conforming proposals.

#### **II. QUESTIONS**

All questions regarding this request should be directed to H. Ryan Bolles at [Herbert.Bolles@State.DE.US](mailto:Herbert.Bolles@State.DE.US) or 302-633-2701. Questions will be forwarded to the appropriate DSCYF program administrators. Updates and answers to significant content questions will be posted on the State's solicitation web site [www.bids.delaware.gov](http://www.bids.delaware.gov). **It is the bidder's responsibility to check the website for updates to this RFP.**

#### **III. ETHICS LAW RESTRICTIONS**

Neither the Contractor, including its parent company and its subsidiaries, nor any subcontractor, including its parent company and subsidiaries, may engage, directly or indirectly, any person who, while employed by the State of Delaware during two years immediately preceding the date any Contract entered into as a result of this request for proposals, gave an opinion, conducted an investigation, was directly involved in, or whom otherwise was directly and materially responsible for said service described herein in this request for proposal in the course of official duties as a state employee, officer or official. The Department shall determine, at its sole discretion, whether a person was directly and materially responsible for said program, project, or contract or any other program, project, or contract related to the service described in any contract entered into as a result of this request for proposals.

#### **IV. PROPOSALS BECOME STATE PROPERTY**

All proposals become the property of the State of Delaware and will not be returned to the contractor. Proposals to the State may be reviewed and evaluated by any person other than competing vendors at the discretion of the State. The State has the right to use any or all ideas presented in reply to this RFP. Selection or rejection of the proposal does not affect this right.

#### **V. RFP AND FINAL CONTRACT**

The contents of the RFP may be incorporated into the final contract and become binding upon the successful bidder. If the bidder is unwilling to comply with the requirements, terms, and conditions of the RFP, objections must be clearly stated in the proposal. Objections will be considered and may be subject to negotiation at the discretion of the State.

#### **VI. PROPOSAL AND FINAL CONTRACT**

The content of each proposal will be considered binding on the bidder and subject to subsequent contract confirmation if selected. The content of the successful proposal may be included by reference in any resulting contract. All prices, terms, and conditions contained in the proposal shall remain fixed and valid for ninety (90) days after the proposal due date. Contract negotiations will include price re-verification if the price guarantee period has expired.

## **VII. MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSALS**

Any changes, amendments or modifications to a proposal must be made in writing, submitted in the same manner as the original response and conspicuously labeled as a change, amendment or modification to a previously submitted proposal. Changes, amendments or modifications to proposals shall not be accepted or considered after the hour and date specified as the deadline for submission of proposals.

## **VIII. COST OF PROPOSAL PREPARATION**

All costs of proposal preparation will be borne by the bidding contractor. All necessary permits, licenses, insurance policies, etc., required by local, state or federal laws shall be provided by the contractor at his/her own expense.

## **IX. EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS**

The Proposal Review Committee shall determine the firms that meet the minimum requirements pursuant to selection criteria of the RFP and procedures established in 29 Del. C. §§ 6981, 6982. The Committee may interview at least one of the qualified firms. The Committee may negotiate with one or more firms during the same period and may, at its discretion, terminate negotiations with any or all firms. The Committee shall make a recommendation regarding the award to the contracting Division Director of this RFP, who shall have final authority, subject to the provisions of this RFP and 29 Del. C. § 6982 to award a contract to the successful firm in the best interests of the State of Delaware. The Proposal Review Committee reserves the right to award to one or more than one firm, in accordance to 29 Del. C. § 6986.

The Proposal Review Committee shall assign up to the maximum percentage of points as stated previously in this RFP. All assignments of points shall be at the sole discretion of the Proposal Review Committee.

The Proposal Review Committee reserves the right to:

- Select for contract or for negotiations, a proposal other than that with the lowest costs.
- Accept/Reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP or to make no award or issue a new RFP.
- Waive or modify any information, irregularity, or inconsistency in proposals received.
- Request modification to proposals from any or all contractors during the review and negotiation.
- Negotiate any aspect of the proposal with any firm and negotiate with more than one firm at the same time. The Department reserves the right to contract with more than one vendor.

All proposals shall be evaluated using the same criteria and scoring process. Bidders may be scheduled to make oral presentations in support of their written proposals. However, proposals are expected to stand on their own merits as written. The Review Panel will assess the strength and clarity of any oral presentation and combine the evaluations of both written and oral presentations (when applicable) in determining the overall evaluation of the proposal and in making recommendations. A summary of the Panel's recommendations will be available for review upon request.

## **X. REJECTION OF PROPOSALS**

DSCYF reserves the right to reject any/all proposals received in response to this RFP. Any information obtained will be used in determining suitability of proposed support.

Any proposal called "not accepted" will mean that another proposal was deemed more advantageous or that all proposals were not accepted. Respondents whose proposals were not accepted will be notified as soon as a selection is made, or if it is decided, that all proposals are not accepted.

Any proposal failing to respond to all requirements may be eliminated from consideration and declared not accepted.

The proposal must conform to the requirements as stated in the RFP. The State specifically reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the proposal format.

#### **XI. RESERVED RIGHTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Department reserves the right to:

- o Reject any and all proposals received in response to this RFP
- o Select for contract or for negotiations a proposal other than that with the lowest costs
- o Waive or modify any information, irregularities, or inconsistencies in proposals received
- o Consider a late modification of a proposal if the proposal itself was submitted on time; and, if the modifications make the terms of the proposal more favorable to the Department, accept such proposal as modified
- o Negotiate as to any aspect of the proposal with any proposer and negotiate with more than one proposer at the same time
- o If negotiations fail to result in an agreement within a reasonable period of time, terminate negotiations and select the next most responsive proposer, prepare and release a new RFP, or take such other action as the Department may deem appropriate
- o Negotiate a renewal of the contract resulting from this RFP with appropriate modifications.

#### **XII. STANDARDS FOR SUBCONTRACTORS**

The prime contract with the contractor will bind sub or co-contractors to the terms, specifications, and standards of this RFP, resulting prime contracts, and any subsequent proposals and contracts. All such terms, specifications, and standards shall preserve and protect the rights of the Department under this RFP with respect to the services to be performed by the sub or co-contractor. Nothing in the RFP shall create any contractual relation between any sub or co-contractor and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families.

All sub or co-contractors must be identified in the Contractor's proposal. The proposal's workplan must also state which tasks the sub or co-contractor will perform. Approval of all sub and/or co-contractors must be received from the Department prior to the contract negotiation.

The prime bidder will be the State's primary contractor.

#### **XIII. CONTRACT TERMINATION CONDITIONS**

The State may terminate the contract resulting from this RFP at any time that the Contractor fails to carry out its provisions or to make substantial progress under the terms specified in this request and the resulting proposal.

The State shall provide the Contractor with 15 days notice of conditions which would warrant termination. If after such notice the Contractor fails to remedy the conditions contained in the notice, the State shall issue the Contractor an order to stop work immediately and deliver all work and work in progress to the State. The State shall be obligated only for those services rendered and accepted prior to the date of notice of termination.

With the mutual agreement of both parties, upon receipt and acceptance of not less than 30 days written notice, the contract may be terminated on an agreed date prior to the end of the contract period without penalty to either party.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this contract, if funds anticipated for the continued fulfillment of this contract are at any time not forthcoming or insufficient, through the failure of the State of Delaware to appropriate funds or through discontinuance of appropriations from any source, the State of Delaware shall have the right to terminate this contract without penalty by giving not less than 30 days written notice documenting the lack of funding.

**XIV. NON-APPROPRIATION**

In the event that the State fails to appropriate the specific funds necessary to continue the contractual agreement, in whole or in part, the agreement shall be terminated as to any obligation of the State requiring the expenditure of money for which no specific appropriation is available, at the end of the last fiscal year for which no appropriation is available or upon the exhaustion of funds.

**XV. FORMAL CONTRACT AND PURCHASE ORDER**

The successful firm shall promptly execute a contract incorporating the terms of this RFP within twenty (20) days after the award of the contract. No bidder is to begin any service prior to receipt of a State of Delaware Purchase Order signed by two authorized representatives of the agency requesting service, properly processed through the State of Delaware. The Purchase Order shall serve as the authorization to proceed in accordance with the bid specifications and the special instructions, once the successful firm receives it.

**XVI. INDEMNIFICATION**

By submitting a proposal, the proposing firm agrees that in the event it is awarded a contract, it will indemnify and otherwise hold harmless the State of Delaware, DSCYF, its agents, and employees from any and all liability, suits, actions, or claims, together with all costs, expenses for attorney's fees, arising out of the firm, its agents and employees' performance of work or services in connection with the contract, regardless of whether such suits, actions, claims or liabilities are based upon acts or failures to act attributable, in whole or in part, to the State, its employees or agents.

**XII. LICENSES AND PERMITS**

In performance of this contract, the firm is required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations. The cost of permits and other relevant costs required in the performance of the contract shall be borne by the successful firm. The firm shall be properly licensed and authorized to transact business in the State of Delaware as defined in Delaware Code Title 30, Sec. 2502.

**XIII. INSURANCE**

- A. As a part of the contract requirements, the contractor must obtain at its own cost and expense and keep in force and effect during the term of this contract, including all extensions, the insurance specified below with a carrier satisfactory to the State.
  - 1. Workers' Compensation Insurance under the laws of the State of Delaware and Employer's Liability Insurance with limits of not less than \$100,000 each accident, covering all Contractors' employees engaged in any work hereunder.
  - 2. Comprehensive Liability -Up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) single limit per occurrence including:

- a. Bodily Injury Liability -All sums which the company shall become legally obligated to pay as damages sustained by any person other than its employees, caused by occurrence.
  - b. Property Damage Liability -All sums which the company shall become legally obligated to pay as damages because of damages to or destruction of property, caused by occurrence.
  - c. Contractual liability, premises and operations, independent contractors, and product liability.
3. Automotive Liability Insurance covering all automotive units used in the work with limits of not less than \$100,000 each person and \$300,000 each accident as to bodily injury or death, and \$100,000 as to property damage.
- B. Forty-five (45) days written notice of cancellation or material change of any policies is required.

**XIX. NON-DISCRIMINATION**

In performing the services subject to this RFP, the firm agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin. The successful firm shall comply with all federal and state laws, regulations and policies pertaining to the prevention of discriminatory employment practice. Failure to perform under this provision constitutes a material breach of contract.

**XX. COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES**

The successful firm warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement of understanding for a commission or percentage, brokerage or contingent fee excepting bona-fide employees and/or bona-fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the bidder for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the State shall have the right to annul the contract without liability or at its discretion and/or to deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

**XXI. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS**

The RFP, the Purchase Order, and the executed Contract between the State and the successful firm shall constitute the Contract between the State and the firm. In the event there is any discrepancy between any of these contract documents, the following order of documents governs so that the former prevails over the latter: Contract, Contract Amendments, RFP, Purchase Order and Vendor Proposal. No other documents shall be considered. These documents contain the entire agreement between the State and the firm.

**XXII. APPLICABLE LAW**

The Laws of the State of Delaware shall apply, except where Federal law has precedence. The successful firm consents to jurisdiction and venue in the State of Delaware.

**XXIII. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

If the scope of any provision of this Contract is too broad in any respect whatsoever to permit enforcement to its full extent, then such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the parties hereto consent and agree that such scope may be judicially modified accordingly and that the whole of such provisions of the contract shall not thereby fail, but the scope of such provisions shall be curtailed only to the extent necessary to conform to the law.