



SFY18 Child Welfare Service Procurements and Iowa's Child Welfare System of Care

Presented to the Health and Human Services Subcommittee
Of the Iowa General Assembly

By Wendy Rickman, Administrator

Division of Adult, Children & Family Services

Iowa Department of Human Services

& Kristie Oliver, Executive Director

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

February 2016

New Child Welfare Service Contracts Planned To Begin July 1, 2017 for SFY18

- Child Welfare Emergency Services
- Foster Group Care
- Supervised Apartment Living
- Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families

Contractor Capacity and Services Provided in SFY15

- Child Welfare Emergency Services
 - 13 Contractors with 15 shelters across Iowa and a daily average census of 156
- Foster Group Care
 - 14 Contractors with 63 licensed units across Iowa; 1,447 children were served
- Supervised Apartment Living
 - 6 Contractors with a monthly average of 71 youth
- Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families
 - 2,129 family foster care settings serving an average of 1,740 children monthly

Iowa's Child Welfare Vision

The foundation of a child welfare system of care is built on:

- Safety
- Permanency
- Well-Being

Systems to achieve these evolve from meaningful and productive collaborations that address the challenges of:

- setting appropriate policies;
- promoting evidence-based practice;
- choosing the proper courses of care; and,
- buying services that perform as expected and produce desired outcomes

DHS Approach To Upcoming Competitive Procurements

- Conduct public, deliberate, and inclusive conversations with public and private partners to move together toward system enhancement and successful outcomes for children and families
- Work across natural boundaries to encourage dialogue between and among public and private stakeholders
- Build on lessons learned from past competitive procurements, contracts and contractors, and formally requested information from interested entities

DHS Approach To Upcoming Competitive Procurements

- Collectively identify areas needing improvement
- Collaborate to facilitate technical assistance from national experts that is provided to private providers, other key stakeholders, and state government
- Seek and use input from as many stakeholders as possible to inform development of Requests For Proposal (RFP)

DHS Approach To Upcoming Competitive Procurements

- Collaborate with public and private partners for consensus on fundamental vision for and philosophy behind Iowa's child welfare system

Guiding Principles

For Iowa's Future Child Welfare System

Safety for children emerges and is enhanced when we do all the following:

1. Families, children, youth and caregivers will be treated with dignity and respect while having a voice in decisions that affect them.
2. The ideal place for children is with their families; therefore, we will ensure children remain in their own homes whenever safely possible.
3. When services away from the family are necessary, children will receive them in the most family-like setting and together with siblings whenever possible.

Guiding Principles

For Iowa's Future Child Welfare System

4. Permanency connections with siblings and caring and supportive adults will be preserved and encouraged.
5. Children will be reunited with their families and siblings as soon as safely possible.
6. Community stakeholders and tribes will be actively engaged to protect children and support families.
7. Services will be tailored to families and children to meet their unique needs.

Guiding Principles

For Iowa's Future Child Welfare System

8. Child welfare professionals will be supported through ongoing development and mentoring to promote success and retention.
9. Leadership will be demonstrated within all levels of the child welfare system.
10. Decision making will be outcome based, resource-driven and continuously evaluated for improvement.

Movement Toward A Child Welfare System Of Care

- Iowa's child welfare system must develop more evidence based and data driven approaches that support strong children and strong families
- Community networks that focus on the whole person and meet the needs for growth and development must be developed or strengthened

Movement Toward A Child Welfare System Of Care

- Solid collaborations must be achieved to encourage cross-system, effective, community-based supports and services for children and youth from birth through young adulthood
- The focus must be organized into a flexible coordinated network of resources with meaningful partnerships with and between families, children and young adults
- Contracts should be used as vehicles to achieve these goals and focus on desired outcomes rather than simply compliance

Technical Assistance Available

- The Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa in partnership with the DHS will receive technical assistance from the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to help prepare providers for transformational changes and to inform the procurement process
- TA will focus on the challenges of Practice, Policy, Regulation, and Financing

Technical Assistance Available

Technical Assistance will concentrate on the following:

1. Initial meetings with service providers
2. Discussion and interviews with state leaders and key stakeholders
3. TA directed to the DHS to assist with RFP development (e.g., service components, outcomes and performance, financing)

Anticipated Procurement and Related Events Schedule

- Public/private collaborations and input currently and ongoing
- Technical assistance provided for DHS, key stakeholder, and private providers beginning in February 2016 with other phases through the calendar year
- RFPs published in the fall 2016 with competitive bids accepted through early 2017
- New contractors begin services July 1, 2017

Questions and Comments