ANNOUNCEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS)

The Alabama Department of Youth Services hereby solicits Proposals from qualified parties to provide the following in-state services to juveniles:

SERVICE CATEGORY	GENDER (Number of Potential Awards)	CAPACITY AND AREA	SPECIAL CONDITIONS
Community Residential Treatment Program for Medium Risk Youth	Male (2)	16 youth in the program	Medicaid Rehab Provider, Licensed by DYS, Self-contained Educational Program that meets the State of Alabama Education regulations, Family-Oriented Program
Note: modified 1/13/2025			

Proposals are due by **3:00 PM CDT on April 24, 2025** at the Department of Youth Services address below. A mandatory Proposers conference will be held at **2:00 PM CDT on April 4, 2025**, via teleconference/Zoom. See page one (1) for instructions on how to join the teleconference. Further details are outlined in the Request for Proposal Package. Submit this form with your Proposal.

Proposals must be submitted electronically to: <u>Monica.Rowland@dys.alabama.gov</u> by 3 pm on April 24, 2025.

Proposer's Name & Address:		
Contact Person:		
Title:		
Phone:	Fax:	

AFFIRMATION

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES		REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL				
		DATE ISSUED: February 28, 2025				
FOR: RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT OF		PROPOSAL MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE:				
JUVENILE OFFENDERS	DATE: Apri		4, 2025	TIME: 3 PM CDT		
ТО	BE COMPLETI	ED BY PROPOSE	ER			
INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION SHOULD ORIGINAL SIGNATURE AND NOTARIZATION		APPROPRIATE. THIS F	FORM MUST	BE IN INK OR TYPED WITH		
1. PROGRAM CAN BE STARTED WITHIN	DAYS AFTE	R EXECUTION OF CO	NTRACT.			
2. PRICES VALID FOR ACCEPTANCE WITH	IN D.	AYS.				
3. FEDERAL EMPLOYER ID NO. (IF NO FEIN	N, ENTER SSN):					
SUBMIT THIS FORM ELECTRONI	CALLY WITH YOU	R PROPOSAL to:				
Monica.Rowland@dys.alabar	na.gov					
SIGNATURE AND NOTARIZATI	ON REQUIREI)				
I HAVE READ THE ENTIRE REQUEST FOR I						
	QUOTED. I HEREBY AFFIRM I HAVE NOT BEEN IN ANY AGREEMENT OR COLLUSION AMONG PROPOSERS IN RESTRAINT OF FREEDOM OF COMPETITION BY AGREEMENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL AT A FIXED PRICE OR TO REFRAIN FROM SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL.					
SWORN TO AND						
SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS	COMPANY NAME		AUTHORIZ	ZED SIGNATURE (INK)		
DAY OF 20						
DAY OF, 20 j	MAIL ADDRESS		TYPE/PRIN	T AUTHORIZED NAME		
NOTARY PUBLIC	CITY, STATE, ZIP		TITLE			
NOTART PUBLIC	1, ~ 11111, 211					
j	PHONE INCLUDING	AREA CODE	FAX NUME	BER		

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals Due By 3 PM CDT on April 24, 2025

Submit Electronically to: Monica.rowland@dys.alabama.gov

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ATTACHMENTS

- **Board Resolution** 1.
- 2. **Budget Format**
- 3.
- Cost Proposal MANDATORY Estimated Medicaid Billing Units¹

¹This attachment is applicable for Venders with a Medicaid services contract with DYS.

INTRODUCTION

The Alabama Department of Youth Services (hereinafter referred to as "DYS"), is an agency created by state law and is charged with the responsibility of rehabilitating delinquent youth (Ala. Code § 44-1-1 *et. seq.* 1975). The statutory authority of DYS to enter into any contract with any private person, group, organization, or agency capable of contracting for needed services is provided in the <u>Code of Alabama</u>, 1975, § 44-1-24 as amended. Act 2001-955 provides additional mandates that state agencies must follow. Among those requirements is a provision that requires the execution of a disclosure statement by Proposers. Proposers will be required to provide the disclosure statement during contract negotiations. Proposers should follow those provisions when developing their Proposals for this initiative.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) package contains all the information and forms necessary to complete and submit one or more Proposals for the services indicated herein. The RFP is organized to promote an orderly analysis of the requirements of the DYS. The RFP also provides a basis for developing Proposals which should contain all the information necessary for DYS to conduct an evaluation of the Proposals received. The RFP contains several sections and attachments. Each section should be read in its entirety for it establishes the minimum requirements for the format and the contents of the Proposal. The original Proposal and the *Cost Proposal (Attachment 3)* shall be signed by the official authorized to bind the Proposer. For not-for-profit organizations, such authority shall be evidenced by a *Board Resolution (Attachment 1)*.

The term "Proposer" refers to the entity or organization submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP. The term "Proposal" refers to a complete proposal, including the attachments and exhibits herein described, submitted in response to this RFP. The term Vendor refers to a successful Proposer that has entered into a contract with DYS to provide in-state community-based diversion services for court involved youth.

This RFP contains general information and requirements which are applicable to the program service categories indicated herein. This RFP provides the opportunity for Proposers to develop a Proposal for one (1) service category. Proposers seeking contracts for more than one service category must submit separate Proposals for each such service category. Attachment 3: Cost Proposal is provided in the attachment section of the RFP for the responder to provide the per diem costs for the initiative that the Proposer addresses.

Any amendments to the RFP will be issued to all Proposers receiving the RFP. This will be done sufficiently in advance of the Proposal due date to allow all Proposers to take all changes into account when preparing their Proposal(s).

A Proposer's conference will be held at 2:00 pm on **April 4, 2025** via teleconference. The Proposer's conference is mandatory to all Proposers who wish to submit a Proposal for any of the service categories. Any questions concerning the RFP package will be addressed at this meeting. To receive the teleconference link email monica.rowland@dys.alabama.gov by **April 3, 2025** at **5:00pm**.

The deadline for submission of written questions concerning this RFP package is **March 28, 2025.** Questions may be submitted via email to monica.rowland@dys.alabama.gov

Information regarding who submitted Proposals will not be available by telephone or in writing.

Alabama Law provides that a foreign corporation (an out-of-state company/firm) may not transact business in the state until it obtains a Certificate of Authority from the Secretary of State (Section 10-2b-15.01, Code of Alabama 1975). To obtain forms for a Certificate of Authority contact the Secretary of State, Corporations Division, (334) 242-5324.

All Vendors must have an activated account within STAARS. If needed, the account can be activated by verifying the Taxpayer ID Number (TIN) and creating a VSS portal login ID. This can be done by visiting the VSS Portal at https://procurement.staars.alabama.gov. Once the account is created, the Vendor should follow the instructions on the STAARS website to access the account. Finance and DYS will no longer be able to update or correct the billing addresses. This will be the responsibility of the Vendor.

According to STAARS, the name and address on the contract, E-Verify, and invoice must be the same. Please note that if the Vendor is doing business under another company, a Company Profile Page must accompany the E-Verify to associate the two companies.

ACT 2001-955 requires a disclosure statement to be completed and filed with all Proposals, bids, contracts, or grant Proposals submitted to the State of Alabama in excess of \$5000. The form is available at https://www.alabamaag.gov/Documents/files/File-AL-Vendor-Disclosure-Statement.pdf, and instructions to complete the form is available at

https://www.alabamaag.gov/Documents/files/Vendor-Disclosure-Instructions.pdf. ACT 2011-535, as amended by Act 2012-491, requires that you enroll in the federal E-Verify program if awarded the contract. A completed form must be attached. Instructions are available at http://immigration.alabama.gov/eVerify.aspx.

The evaluation criteria outlined in this RFP are intended to assist DYS in the evaluation of Proposals. The actual award of contracts may also be based upon additional information obtained in interviews with Proposers, additional written information obtained from Proposers, and/or information concerning the Proposer's previous performance in the operation of similar programs. The Executive Director of DYS may choose to negotiate directly with Proposers on the final per diem rate to be paid by the State of Alabama.

DYS reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals submitted in response to this Request. DYS is not required to accept any Proposal based solely on costs and is not bound to accept the lowest costs Proposal in any service category.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposal must be received by DYS by 3:00 p.m. CDT on **April 24, 2025** at the following below. Faxed or mailed proposals will not be accepted.

<u>Proposals shall be submitted electronically to:</u>
<u>Monica.rowland@dys.alabama.gov</u>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Alabama Department of Youth Services (hereinafter referred to as "DYS") is soliciting Proposals for in-state services for juvenile offenders. The statutory authority of DYS to enter into any contract with any private person, group, organization, or agency capable of contracting for needed services is provided in the <u>Code of Alabama, 1975</u>, § 44-1-24 as amended. Act 2001-955 provides additional mandates that state agencies must follow. Among those requirements is a provision that requires the execution of a disclosure statement by Proposers. Proposers will be required to provide the disclosure statement during contract negotiations. Proposers should follow those provisions when developing their Proposals for this initiative.

The purpose of the RFP process is to encourage private organizations to develop program models which will provide cost effective services which are based on research evidence. These services should be designed to aid DYS in meeting the service needs of youth committed to the care and custody of DYS.

Each Proposal will be judged on its own merit. Proposers should assess the need for therapeutic services and staffing levels consistent with the characteristics of the population to be served. Proposers should be mindful of existing fire, health, and life safety concerns when preparing Proposals.

DYS will not provide start-up funds or cash advances to successful Proposers; therefore, we wish to stress that DYS is seeking providers who meet all necessary qualifications and are financially and otherwise capable of immediate response and compliance to the time tables for the beginning of services.

The Proposer must have the financial resources to operate for ninety (90) days as demonstrated by an audited financial statement prepared by a Certified Public Accountant or a letter of credit from a duly recognized financial institution equal to 25% of the first year's operating budget. Proposal(s) not in compliance will be rejected.

Successful Proposers must furnish a performance bond equal to 25% of the operating budget within ten (10) working days after notice of award. It shall be made payable to the DYS and can be a cashier's check, other type of bank certified check (personal/company checks unacceptable), money order, an irrevocable letter of credit, or surety bond issued by a company authorized to do business in the State of Alabama. Under special circumstances a Proposer may make a request to the Executive Director to waive this requirement.

The Proposer must have a minimum of \$2,000,000 liability coverage with \$1,000,000 for each occurrence and worker's compensation insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama. The Proposer is responsible for damage caused by their employees. Insurance must be in effect for the entire length of the contract. The Proposal shall include a statement of insurability as an attachment. At the time of the award, the successful Proposer shall provide an insurance certificate to DYS. This announcement does not commit the State of Alabama or the DYS to award contracts or to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation of Proposals. DYS reserves the right to accept or cancel this announcement or any work statement component at any time.

The contracts awarded shall be based on the Proposals considered most advantageous to DYS as indicated by the evaluation criteria contained in this RFP.

The award of a contract does not automatically commit DYS to any expenditure. In accordance with state statutes any contract must be approved by the Contract Review Permanent Legislative Oversight

Committee (known as the Legislative Contract Review Committee) and signed by the Chief Procurement Officer and the Governor before a legal commitment can be made to expend public funds for a contract.

The deadline for submission of fully executed contracts to the Legislative Contract Review Committee is 1:00 p.m. on **August 10, 2025.** Therefore, fully executed contracts, along with all required exhibits and attachments, must be submitted by the successful Proposer to the DYS Legal Division by close of business on **August 3, 2025.**

DYS may request additional information for the purpose of evaluating the Proposal. The Proposer must submit requested information within **five (5)** working days of the request or the Proposal will be disqualified.

For this RFP the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) Vendor: A successful proposer that has entered into a contract with DYS to provide in-state rehabilitative services to delinquent youth committed to DYS.
- (b) Affirmative Action Policy: The policy adopted by a vendor that is in full compliance with applicable provisions of federal law and the Alabama State Law and that ensures equal opportunity in the areas of employee selection, retention, rate of pay, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, and promotion regardless of age, disabilities, race, religion, sex, or ethnic origin.
- (c) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA): The federal law passed in 2003 that requires agencies to establish a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual assault and sexual harassment in confinement settings, create protocols and procedures in response to such allegations, and adhere to mandatory standards related to the law.
- (d) Juvenile Delinquent: A person below the age of 21 who has been adjudicated delinquent by a court of competent jurisdiction on the basis of commission of an act or omission to act that would have constituted a crime had the person been 18 years of age or older at the time of the act or omission to act.
- (e) Resident: A juvenile delinquent who has been committed to DYS.
- (f) Gender specific: A specialized program of activities that will meet the developmental needs of both males and females and identifies the manner in which the program will meet gender specific treatment goals. A strong emphasis will be placed on gender specific programs directed toward females. Additionally, there is considerable evidence that a large percentage of girls in placement have suffered from trauma and abuse. A gender specific program that provides appropriate trauma intervention services and encompasses the developmental needs of girls is required.
- (g) Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO): A child adjudicated for certain serious offenses and specifically designated a serious juvenile offender by the committing juvenile judge. SJOs must remain in DYS custody a minimum of 12 months in a secure facility maintained and staffed separately and which implements programs for such offenders.
- (h) Self-Contained Education Program: A vendor provided educational services in compliance with Federal and Alabama state laws and regulations. Requirements include program youth participating in a twelve-month comprehensive education program, retention of student records, and mandated professional development. The program must provide state approved courses, evaluations, and

services to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs and limited language students such as English Language Learners (ELL) or English as a second language (ESL).

- (i) Treatment Program: A structured, evidence based behavioral program is *preferred*, which serves youth who have been adjudicated delinquent and who need specialized services in a supervised environment twenty-four (24) hours per day.
- (j) Evidence-based treatment program: A prevention or treatment practice, regimen, or service that is grounded in consistent scientific evidence showing that it improves client/participant outcomes in both clinically controlled and real-world settings. The practice is sufficiently documented through research to permit the assessment of fidelity. This means elements of the practice are standardized, replicable, measurable, and effective within a given setting and particular population.
- (k) Co-occurring: A secondary behavioral or cognitive disorder that exists in addition to the identified problem.
- (l) Holistic enrichment and intervention: The causes of disorders in youths are multifaceted, requiring an evaluation and intervention system based on a holistic frame of reference that is developmentally appropriate.
- (m) Safe rooms: The use of a single occupancy room which meets the requirements for a secure room but is not necessarily the youth's own room. The requirements for a single occupancy room are found in DYS Operations Manual in Chapter 7.8 and 13.3.1. Youth who are placed in a single occupancy room designated as a safe room are those who are classified as meeting the criteria established in Chapter 13.10.3. Students placed in safe rooms require maximum contact with adult supervisors, including a minimum of 15-minute visual observation. The use of safe rooms may also be considered use of isolation. All facilities are to minimize the use of any type of room confinement, isolation, and segregation, particularly as a form of behavior management.
- (n) Room confinement: Instances when a Youth is confined for cause or punishment for 15 minutes or more in the room or cell in which he or she usually sleeps, rather than being confined in an Isolation cell or room. Youth may be transferred to a designated unit for confinement. Room Confinement may occur in locked or unlocked rooms but cannot occur in open-bay dormitories.
- (o) Isolation: Instances when a Youth is confined alone for cause or punishment for 15 minutes or more in a room other than the room or cell in which he or she usually sleeps. Isolation can occur in locked or unlocked rooms but cannot occur in open-bay dormitories.
- (p) Powerschool: The state mandated web-based student information system that stores data such as standardized tests, daily class work, credits, attendance, discipline, and health and special education data.
- (q) No eject/no reject: A policy that recognizes that services should be based on the needs of the youth and an expectation that contract providers should provide services to the types of youth placed with the provider by contractual agreement. DYS maintains the right to determine the appropriate service program based on the individual needs of the child. Every effort will be made to place youth in the program which DYS determines best meets the youth's individual needs. That decision will be made by DYS only. The vendor will not have the right to reject the youth. The vendor should document treatment efforts prior to any request for placement reconsideration to remove any youth

from the program. This request must comply with DYS policy, procedure, and criteria developed by DYS. At a minimum, no youth placed in a program will be rejected or ejected without adhering to said procedures.

- (r) Trauma-Informed: A model promoting healing, wellness, and recovery for youth that have experienced childhood trauma. This model includes providing services in a compassionate, culturally sensitive, safe treatment environment that helps youth recognize triggers of their traumatic experiences and how to develop and utilize coping strategies in response to those triggers. Building a trusting and transparent relationship among staff and youth is essential.
- (s) Trauma-Responsive: Addresses the need for an entity to consider every aspect of the organization in relation to the provision of trauma related services and how those services are operationalized throughout the program. This requires a review of programming, treatment environment, values, staff, training, physical environment, and agency culture. Ongoing assessment and improvement is necessary to ensure services are continuously trauma-responsive.
- (t) Transitional Services: Activities that prepare youth to function outside of the facility successfully. These include planning for academic transitions, therapeutic transitions, transition of medical care, and otherwise preparing the youth to return to live in a home environment. Transitional services include interchangeable terms such as Reintegration and Re-Entry.

DYS and any duly authorized representative of DYS shall have access to all facilities, books and records (including electronic files and documentation) of Vendors for the purpose of audit and compliance purposes pertinent to the contract.

The original Proposal and the *Cost Proposal (Attachment 3)* shall be signed by the official authorized to bind the Proposer. For not-for-profit organizations, such authority shall be evidenced by a *Board Resolution (Attachment 1)*.

By submission of a Proposal, the Proposer certifies that in conjunction with this Proposal:

- The prices in the Proposal have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition as to any matter relating to such prices with any other Proposer.
- No attempt has been made or will be made by the Proposer to induce any other Proposer to submit or not submit a Proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.

The "Affirmation" document must be executed to confirm that the Proposer has followed these ethical standards.

SUBCONTRACTS:

The Proposer **must** specify in the Proposal which service(s), if any, will be subcontracted. For the purposes of this solicitation, a "subcontractor" is an individual or company who assumes some of the obligations of the Proposer via a contract. DYS will have no direct contractual relationship with the individual or company performing that portion of the program. All subcontracts shall be subject to the same clauses required by law and by the primary contract. All subcontracts must be approved in writing

by the Executive Director of DYS if a contract is awarded. Proposer must submit qualifications of any subcontractors.

AFFIRMATIONS:

The Proposal must contain a suitable affirmative action policy to be adopted by Proposers. The policy must comply with all applicable Alabama and federal legal requirements. The Proposal must contain a suitable plan for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Proposer must certify that they operate in a "drug-free" environment.

The Proposal should be prepared in a straight forward manner and include a concise description of the Proposer's ability to meet the requirements of the RFP.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

- "ANNOUNCEMENT" of the RFP
- "Affirmation" fully completed and executed.
- **Insurance Requirements** Submit appropriate documentation of insurance for liability coverage at a minimum of \$2,000,000 with \$1,000,000 for each occurrence.
- Fully Developed Budget May be submitted under separate folder as proprietary information. This information will be used in the review process to ascertain cost effectiveness of proposed program.
- Cost Proposal Summary Attachment 3
- Estimated Medicaid Billing Units- Attachment 4²

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND SANCTIONS:

While it is a goal of DYS for all vendors to administer a program of rehabilitation for youth which meets the performance requirements of this RFP, it is necessary to have a system of monitoring to assure program performance at the highest possible level. A contract resulting from this RFP may be sanctioned or terminated by the State for:

- Failure to comply with provisions of the contract, including failure to follow licensure obligations, administrative code requirements, and the policies and procedures of DYS.
- Un-availability of funds
- Repeated failure to comply with a corrective plan of action.

² This attachment is applicable for Venders with a Medicaid services contract with DYS.

Sanctions may be imposed on any provider who fails to adhere to any provision of the RFP and/or contract, either intentionally or through gross negligence. These sanctions will/can be issued by DYS or a designated representative. Sanctions are intended to create a positive change of compliance with the RFP and/or contract, and are not intended to cause any negative or detrimental effect on the services available to youth. Continued/repeated sanctions may jeopardize the future of the provider's contract with DYS. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Develop a corrective plan of action
- Placement on probationary status
- Reducing the number of youths assigned to the facility
- Monetary/financial sanctions as specified by DYS within the contract document
- Wholly or partially suspend or terminate the current award for the Proposer's program
- Take other remedies that are legally available

PROCESS AND PROCEDURES:

DYS publishes rules for the operations of the various programs which are subject to the licensure authority of the agency. These rules are promulgated under the provisions of the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act. These rules describe the content of program requirements as well as the procedures for handling programs which are not in compliance with requirements. The general rules for licensure and sanctioning authority are located in the Administrative Code, Chapters 950-1-4. Specific rules for community residential programs are located in 950-1-6. The administrative code is available for review at www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us.

PREA:

Successful Proposers must comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 (Federal Law 42. U.S.C. 15601 ET. Seq.), all applicable PREA standards, and DYS policies related to PREA which outlines measures for the prevention, detection, monitoring, investigating, and eradicating all forms of sexual abuse within all DYS operated or contracted facilities/programs/offices. Proposers must acknowledge that in addition to "self-monitoring requirements" DYS will conduct announced or unannounced compliance monitoring activities, including on-site visits. A failure to comply with PREA, including PREA standards and DYS policies, may result in termination of the contract. Additional PREA related information and resources may be found at http://www.prearesourcecenter.org and http://www.dys.alabama.gov.

HIPAA COMPLIANCE AND CONFIDENTIALITY:

Vendors must comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. HIPAA involves protecting the privacy and security of Protected Health Information (PHI) of Residents that Vendors will have access to. Vendors must enter a Business Associate Agreement with DYS. In addition, Vendors must comply with state law preventing the disclosure, except in specific limited circumstances, of any information concerning any youth for whom DYS provides services or care, which information is derived from the records, papers, files, or communications of DYS. (Code of Alabama, § 44-1-39, 1975, as amended).

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE:

Vendors must make every reasonable effort necessary to obtain health care coverage for program youth. Each youth in the Vendor's care will be enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP/Medicaid) through applications provided by DYS. Some youth may also have private health insurance coverage through their guardian. Those youth who are enrolled in ALL Kids will <u>not</u> be eligible for Medicaid coverage. If the youth has private insurance through his/her family, the Vendor will be responsible for collecting information regarding that insurance (i.e. Name of insurance company, policy number and holder, etc.). All routine medical and/or dental services, co-pays, expenses, and medications not paid by Medicaid, private health insurance, or ALL Kids will be the Vendor's responsibility. The cost for non-routine expenses not covered by a youth's designated health care provider will be coordinated between DYS and the Vendor on a case-by-case basis. Anticipated expenses not covered by health care providers must be reflected in the program budget.

MEDICAID REHABILITATIVE SERVICES:

- All rehabilitative services provided by the vendor shall be rendered in compliance with the requirements outlined in the most current Medicaid Code Chapter 105 Rehabilitative Services Manual, which is available for review at www.medicaid.alabama.gov. It will be a condition of the vendor's contract to ensure that rehabilitative services meet the requirements in the above-mentioned manual. The vendor's contract will provide for monitoring and chargebacks to the vendor for any charges against DYS that were assessed as a result of the vendor's failure to meet Medicaid requirements. The vendor will also be responsible for having on file the necessary credentials (i.e. degrees, licenses, etc.) of those professionals providing rehabilitative service and for submitting such credentials to DYS for approval and enrollment. The vendor shall bill all eligible and medically necessary services (such as Basic Living Skills, Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Medication Administration, Medication Monitoring) to Medicaid or any other insurance.
- All rehabilitative services shall be provided based on the determination of services needed through an assessment/intake process. The assessment process shall culminate in an individualized service plan also known as DYS service plan. The required components of the assessment process are listed in the most current Medicaid Code Chapter 105 manual.
- Vendors must meet requirements of the most current Medicaid Code Chapter 105 Rehabilitative Services DYS which requires that vendors utilize an intake evaluation process resulting in a written treatment plan (service plan) completed within 10 days of admission. Written treatment plans (service plan) must identify clinical treatment focus, necessary services and specific rehabilitative services to meet needs, referrals for other needed services, expected processes/outcomes that youth and therapist will work toward. Treatment plans must be signed off on by professionals as described in the most current Medicaid Code Chapter 105. Treatment plans must be reviewed at least once every three months (within 90 days) by eligible staff to determine the youth's progress toward treatment objectives, the appropriateness of the services furnished, and the need for continued treatment. Documentation of this Medicaid Rehabilitative treatment plan review is required in the youth's treatment record (review and update, or continue).
- Documentation in the youth's record for each session, service or activity for which Medicaid reimbursement is requested must also comply with Medicaid rules in Chapter 105.

- The vendor will be solely responsible for submitting and re-submitting/reversing (when necessary) Medicaid claims using the DYS approved process. The Vendor is responsible for documenting the provision of rehabilitation services in a manner that substantiates the Medicaid claim and meets Medicaid requirements for record-keeping and retention.
- The Vendor may be subject to an audit of its records regarding Medicaid claims and must keep accurate records and maintain original source documentation in preparation for such an audit. An audit of records and documentation may result in DYS being assessed charges if a determination is made that a Vendor's records and documentation are inadequate or inaccurate. Charges assessed to DYS shall be recouped from the contracted Vendor.
- The Vendor will have primary responsibility to bill Medicaid for rehabilitative services rendered upon accepting physical custody of the youth from DYS. All funds will be sent directly to DYS. These Medicaid funds shall be utilized to pay vendors for rehabilitative services delivered to youth in their care. The Vendor must maintain a direct deposit mechanism to receive Medicaid payments.
- The vendor will provide rehabilitative services in accordance with the Alabama Medicaid Agency's Rehabilitative Service Manual, and will bill for eligible treatment costs for rehabilitative services. DYS personnel will monitor Medicaid claims submitted by the vendor. Failure to submit adequate and timely claims could result in DYS withholding a portion of the vendor's per diem or other corrective action.
- The vendor will be expected to work with any duly authorized representative of DYS and provide open access to all facilities and records including electronic files/documentation.
- Medicaid Rehabilitative Service Providers must complete the Estimated Medicaid Billing Units form (Attachment 4)^{3.}

It is the proposers responsibility to ensure that the physical structure identified in the proposal is ready for occupancy on October 1, 2025.

³This attachment is applicable to Vendors with a Medicaid services contract with DYS.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

PERFORMANCE/STATUS REPORT:

Proposers' contracts with DYS will require submission of quarterly reports for the quarters ending December 31st, March 31st, June 30th, and September 30th. These reports are due by the 15th of the month following each quarter. An annual report shall be due within sixty (60) days after the end of each contract year. The quarterly reports and the annual report shall reflect the efficiency and effectiveness of services and the outcome of the services for youth served during the program. The performance areas to be addressed in these reports shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1. A list, including names and dates, of the following: any escapes, AWOLs, transfers, number of participants who successfully completed the program with the length of stay/number of days
- 2. The number of youths who substantially complete the service plan, including an average percentage of treatment plan objectives that are successfully completed at release
- 3. Compliance with agency priority referral policies, as contained in the <u>DYS Operations Manual</u>
- 4. Number of youths who attained GEDs, Alabama high school diplomas, and the number of students who received special educational services while enrolled in the program
- 5. Pre and post testing data in the areas of math and reading for youth enrolled more than 90 days
- 6. Number of youths who, while in the program, were referred to and participated in higher education, vocational training, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), enrolled in Work Keys, and other community-based programs
- 7. Gender specific services provided in the program
- 8. Number of staff completing DYS training and plans for meeting ongoing training needs
- 9. Incident reports that follow the DYS incident reporting policy, including but not limited to, the number of escapes, fights, physical abuse, PREA allegations (including substantiated and unsubstantiated reports), and suicide attempts
- 10. Professional external psychological services including the number of referrals, access to services, and timeliness of services
- 11. Medical services provided, including dates, number of referrals, reasons for the referrals, access to physicians, nurses, and hospital visits
- 12. Number of the following: use of restraints, timeout, isolation, voluntary segregation, and mandatory segregation
- 13. Number of re-staffs, runaways, assaults, injuries, health related and safety issues
- 14. Data on certified teachers and a status report on state mandated professional development for teachers.

If DYS develops the capacity to collect these data electronically, the vendor may be required to participate in the electronic data collection process.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION/PAYMENT:

DYS anticipates that a twelve (12) month contract will be awarded beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, with two one-year renewal options. The initial contract, renewal, or amendment, must be signed by the CPO, LOC, and Governor before it is effective. Any successive contract must have written approval of both the state and the vendor no later than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the previous contract. A contract may be terminated by either party with a thirty-day written notice.

Payment for services will be on a per diem basis (Attachment 3). Proposers must complete the Program Budget (Attachment 2) and provide the calculation that resulted in the per diem for each program for which a proposal has been submitted. The calculated per diem on Attachment 2 must match the per diem

indicated on Attachment 3.

The vendor will invoice DYS each month in arrears for the number of youths served that month. Payment will be made for each day each youth is served, beginning the day of arrival at the facility. No payment will be made for the day of departure of the youth. When there is an interruption of services due to the absence of the youth for hospitalization or court appearance, the vendor may invoice DYS for those days, not to exceed three (3) days unless prior authorization is requested and approved by the DYS Deputy Director of Community Services/Screening and Placement Coordinator or designee. When there is an interruption of services due to an escape of the youth, payment will be allowed for the day of departure, but no other day(s) thereafter unless the youth is returned to that facility at which time, payment may be resumed. DYS will provide an invoice format to the successful Proposer for use in invoicing monthly.

Medicaid Rehabilitation Services are required to be provided within applicable service categories. Therefore, the vendor will be required to file accurate and timely claims each month with the Alabama Medicaid Agency which follow established procedures of that agency. Billing manuals are provided by the fiscal agent for the Alabama Medicaid program. All funds will be sent directly to DYS. Failure to file accurate and timely claims may result in a delay of payment to the vendor.

Vendor is responsible for paybacks to Medicaid for their claims paid for rehabilitative services that do not meet medical requirements or are deemed ineligible or erroneous as a result of an audit. While the DYS team will provide ongoing support, it is the Vendors responsibility to stay abreast of all changes to Medicaid rules and requirements and remain knowledgeable of those requirements.

SPECIAL/MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS:

The vendor shall abide by all relevant and applicable laws and policy and procedures as they now exist or as they may be amended, this includes, but is not limited to, complying with DYS policies related to the reporting of critical incidents. The vendor is responsible for staying abreast and knowledgeable of all applicable state and federal laws and policies of DYS. The vendor shall hold DYS harmless from any consequences occurring as a result of, arising out of, or as related to any failure on the part of the vendor to abide by such laws and/or policies. If a vendor provides sufficient justification that an amended regulation or procedure results in a substantial and unforeseen change in the services the vendor is required to provide, the vendor will have the opportunity to discuss adjusting the per diem rate with the Executive Director of DYS.

The Proposer must provide certificate of insurability. The successful Proposer shall be required to obtain and maintain insurance coverage as outlined in this RFP.

The provider must have an operating license from DYS prior to placement of youth.

Medicaid Rehabilitative Service Providers must complete the Estimated Medicaid Billing Units form (Attachment 4)⁴

The successful Proposer will abide by all requirements outlined in this RFP, including the **Special/Mandatory Requirements** section delineated above.

⁴This attachment is applicable for Vendors with a Medicaid services contract with DYS.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Request for Proposal Announced: February 28, 2025

Deadline to Receive Written Questions:March 28, 2025

Proposers Conference: April 4, 2025

Attendance is mandatory for all Proposers 2:00 p.m.

Location: Teleconference, see page one for details.

Deadline for any additional post-conference questions: April 10, 2025

Proposals Due by 3 PM CDT on: April 24, 2025

Review of Proposals: April 25- May 9, 2025

<u>Notification of Successful Proposer:</u> This will be completed by the State of Alabama Division of Procurement sometime after May 16, 2025.

Completion of Negotiations and Execution of Contract: August 3, 2025

Submission of Fully Executed Contracts, with Attachments: August 10, 2025

Deadline to Begin Program Operations: October 1, 2025

DYS reserves the right to deviate from this schedule.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

The Proposal shall contain at a minimum the following:

Identifying Information

- Name of Proposer
- Name of contact person for Proposer
- Telephone number and e-mail address for contact person
- Complete mailing address
- Municipal address for facility to be used for services
- Federal tax identification number
- Proposer status (i.e.: non-profit, proprietorship)
- Brief history of Proposer

FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTATION MAY RESULT IN DISOUALIFICATION OF THE PROPOSAL.

Proposers shall adhere to the following format in the preparation of Proposals.

- One (1) original Proposal with proprietary information and notarized documents submitted via email.
- Proposal shall be typed on letter-size white paper, 12pt font size, 1-inch margins, no typeface preference
- Pages shall be numbered consecutively throughout the Proposal
- The original Proposal must be clearly marked "Original"
- The cover of the Proposal shall indicate the Proposal is submitted in response to the Request for Proposal and indicate the service category being proposed
- The title page shall state the name, title, address and telephone number of the Proposer and the service category being proposed
- A table of contents page shall indicate page locations for each of the principal sections of the Proposal and additional information as appropriate
- Each page of the Proposal shall include the name of the Proposer and service category proposed in the upper right-hand corner. The Proposal shall be tabbed and divided into three parts:
 - Fechnical: The narrative description of the program (page 16), must not exceed forty (40) double-spaced typewritten pages; addenda, if necessary, must not exceed thirty (30) pages, labeled and listed in the table of contents
 - > Qualifications of Proposer: Capability Statement (page 22), must not exceed thirty (30) pages.
 - ➤ Cost (page 24): The completed and signed *Cost Proposal* (Attachment 3) must be included in the Proposal. Failure to submit a completed and signed Cost Proposal will result in automatic disqualification of the Proposal.
- Proposer Disclosure Statement (page 2)
- Federal E-Verify Program Enrollment Verification Form (page 2)
- Proprietary financial information should only be submitted in the original Proposal or may be provided in a separate sealed envelope, which will only be available to DYS. The financial information will be returned to all Proposers upon award or upon completion of the evaluation process.

The Proposal describes the Proposer's scope of work and programs and services to be provided.

Thus, the Proposal package is the Proposer's plan for carrying out their work as described within the Proposal. Therefore, the Proposal will be a part of the contractual agreement between the Proposer and DYS.

Technical: The Program Description

When preparing the program description, extreme care shall be taken to accurately describe the program, services, staffing, treatment patterns, etc. Successful Proposers will be held responsible for the continued provision of services as described in the Proposal for the entire contract period. If the Proposer chooses to contract with other service providers to meet any of the requirements outlined in the RFP, then a detailed description of those services is required. It is the Proposer's responsibility to ensure the descriptions meet the guidelines noted within this RFP. For example, if a community mental health center will be used to meet the mental health needs of youth, a detailed description of those services and their scope of work is required.

<u>Literature Support and Need Documentation: The problems the program addresses</u>

The need documentation and research section must provide a clear description of the nature of the problems of the youth being served and the conceptual basis for the treatment programs to be utilized with this population of youth. Current research literature should include that from within the last 10 years and shall be presented to describe the client and client systems, trauma-informed care and staff education, including the problems confronting the delivery of services to this population as described by the category. Literature support shall provide the basis for the selection of the service model(s) to be used in the program and services to be delivered. Research findings shall support the treatment approach being proposed. The program and services shall be linked to the philosophy and conceptual basis provided by research studies. The literature and program support information shall aid the Proposer in developing a logic model which pulls together the various **theories and approaches to be integrated within a strength-based**, **holistic program approach**.

The problem statement can use information from the Proposer's own experience with the population to be served, including successes and difficulties in serving the youth being addressed. However, descriptive information, including program design, without the support of research and practice literature, will be deemed insufficient.

Goals, Priorities, and Objectives

Establishing program goals, determining priorities, and developing measurable objectives is a critical aspect of effective program design. Generally, a broad program goal shall be crafted, followed by subgoals which address the results anticipated for each program component. Each sub-goal will then have a set of objectives which will reflect, with specificity, the measurable attainments anticipated by the specific program component. The goals and objectives shall be based on the needs documentation as described above, and be conceptually linked to the evidence-based research provided within the literature review. It is DYS' expectation that ninety percent (90%) of program participants in the service category will meet the stated objectives of the program and successfully complete the program.

Action for Start-Up

Provide a project timeline/action plan matrix showing the steps required to achieve program

- operation, including target dates.
- Explain how action steps relate to the overall mission statement of the program and the Proposer's parent agency if applicable.
- Develop a logic model for the proposed program, including program goals and objectives. A sample logic model may be viewed at http://www.ojjdp.gov/grantees/pm/logic models.html.
- Describe specific policies and procedures for meeting the intake criteria specified by the agreement with DYS, which makes the ultimate placement decision. As such, Proposers are not permitted to develop independent admission and/or rejection policies that conflict with the contractual agreement.

Release Policies and Procedures

- The program Proposal is expected to demonstrate the presence of a detailed plan for transition/reentry. At a minimum, the plan must include the procedures which will result in a seamless transition of the youth from the program to his or her community. The Proposal shall outline how the program will provide comprehensive transitional services. The transitional services must address the importance of the following program activities: work with the families/guardians, community mental health liaisons, social workers, and court personnel; scheduling appointments, managing medications, and transitioning from program Medicaid to community Medicaid. Community activities must be determined based on the behavior and characteristics of the individual youth with consideration given to community, youth, and staff safety. Program activities, as outlined above, will be a part of the evaluation and monitoring of the program's transitional plan. Transitional Services shall begin at the time of admission and are to be included in the youth's ISP. While transitional services are included in the youth's ISP, a youth's transitional/re-entry/reintegration plan is a separate document and differs from the ISP and/or Individualized Treatment Plan. For purposes of distinguishing roles and responsibilities, the transitional plan will include recommendations for Aftercare, as Aftercare is a function of the Juvenile Court. The program is responsible for making recommendations and initial referrals for programs including, but not limited to, community mental health centers and academic institutions.
- Explain pre-release and aftercare planning requirements
- While minimum length of stay is recommended for each service category, DYS recognizes that some youth may not be able to succeed as expected in some programs. If it appears that a youth is unable to successfully complete a program, the vendor must utilize the internal "Review of Placement" within DYS system. The vendor will not be authorized to contact the committing court requesting or suggesting amendments to the existing court order, or a new court order resulting in an extended length of stay at the program.
- Outline the transitional planning and services; when developmentally appropriate, independent living skills shall be a part of transitional planning
- State policy on release prior to program completion

Provide procedures for the culmination and transfer of school records, including but not limited to, the official student transcript and report card as detailed in the *Alabama State Department of Education: A Transition Guidebook*. The guidebook is available for review at <u>ALSDE EL Guidebook 2023-2024</u>

Programs and Services

A generalized program, where all youth participate in the same treatment plan activities and therapeutic services will not be accepted. The proposal shall discuss plans for differential assessment, policies requiring the development of individualized treatment plans, procedures for developing such treatment plans, and training requirements for staff in the area of assessment and treatment plan development and implementation.

- The program should be individualized and adapted based on assessed need for each youth. Program Description should include descriptions of how the program intends to ensure that the services will be individualized for each youth. Proposers should review DYS Policy 13.5.2 regarding length of stay reporting requirements for youth, with indeterminant commitments.
- The program service philosophy and conceptual basis shall include logical presentation of strength-based, gender specific programming incorporating theories of Trauma-Informed and Trauma-Responsive care. Staff training on appropriate responses to trauma sensitive youth is an essential component of training. The program and services shall be linked to the philosophy and conceptual basis, and support program goals and objectives.
- Cite research and/or articles on the conceptual model that will be used; and explain how this model
 will benefit the youth in the proposed category. Discuss the particular program curriculum that will
 be used. For information regarding evidence-based model programs refer to
 http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg.
- The program design shall specify plans for youth orientation into the program with an established timeframe.
- Screening and assessment are a required component of service provision. The Proposal must identify the screening protocol and process that will be used during youth intake. The assessment tool(s) shall be based on a valid instrument(s) and shall consider youth age and cultural differences. Additionally, the Proposal must describe plans to screen youth for risk and victimization in adherence with PREA requirements and assess youth for risk of sexual exploitation. Screening for self-harm and potential to harm others must be completed and should be comprehensive as set forth in Medicaid Chapter 105. Screening and Assessment for Independent Living skills is also required and should be comprehensive in nature. Assessment should include the family's input as often as possible.
- Describe treatment and the process for youth progression through the program. The progression of treatment shall be based on the chosen treatment model and the conceptual rationale for selecting that modality. Describe the specific treatment interventions used within that modality. Include the proposed balance of treatment, including the percentage of time allocated to individual, group, and family interventions.
- Measurement of treatment gains is essential to indicate the direction of development. Explain methods for measuring youth treatment gains, the tools used to measure those treatment gains, and evaluation strategies (i.e., what are the guidelines for assessing a youth's readiness to progress through the program).
- Both process and outcome measures are required. Process measures include factors such as the number of youth completing the program and the number of problems addressed. Outcome measures include factors such as the level of coping skills attained or changes in the level of self-esteem. The outcome measures require tools to indicate the impact of treatment. Service providers need to identify the tools they will use to measure the factors they identify for treatment. For additional information regarding outcome measures, refer to http://www.ojjdp.gov/grantees/pm/glossary.html.
- Describe programming and activities implemented within the facility and outside of the facility, including accessible community resources and the plan for creating a community partnership to provide those resources and activities. It is the Vendor's responsibility to address the transportation needs of the youth placed in their facility.
- Explain plans for ensuring that youth are provided with the opportunity to participate in religious activities and counseling on a voluntary basis. Describe alternative activities offered to youth not participating in religious activities.
- Describe the service delivery process, admission through transitional planning, list support services available and the sources of these services.
- Identify position(s) responsible for provision of each service.
- The program should be able to describe the expected dosage (hours and intensity) a youth will receive

through the designed program. This should be confirmed in the weekly schedule of the program and include the following:

- ➤ Individual and group sessions
- List types of recreational programs and leisure activities and note frequency and duration of such activities.
- ➤ Describe educational, career and vocational, technology, and employment services, voluntary and community services.
- Explain plans for family/guardian engagement, including frequency and duration.
- Delineate plans for use of subcontracts, cooperative agreements, or community resources in service delivery, if applicable. Include the names of the agencies and letters of commitment from them.
- Selected Vendors will maintain required information on DYS's electronic records management system; therefore, the proposal must describe plans to ensure service plan development/updates, progress reports, admissions, releases, transfers, and any other movement in and out of the facility are entered into the system in a timely manner. Monthly training on the electronic records management system will be offered to selected Vendors and ongoing support will be available, when needed.

The direct and support services provided shall be identified within the categories below:

Service Plan Management

- Individual service plans (ISP) are developed, implemented, and amended for youth in accordance with current DYS policy. The development of these plans must involve the youth at all times. It is further expected that ISP's development will also include the family when possible. For Medicaid Rehabilitation Providers, the ISP must be developed and approved by a qualified professional per provisions laid out in Medicaid Chapter 105.
- Separate treatment plans shall be developed, implemented, and amended in compliance with DYS policy for each youth placed in the Vendor's facility. Progress shall be documented in the DYS electronic records management system and a copy of the treatment plan shall be maintained in the youth's file.
- Proposer shall describe mechanisms for engaging youth, which may include resistant and/or lower functioning youth, in the ISP process. Youth are expected to be treated as active participants in service plan development, modifications, and amendments.
- The program shall maintain monthly contact with probation officers, families/guardians, and Department of Human Resources (DHR), when applicable, regarding the youth's progress on the service plan. This communication begins immediately when the youth is received and shall continue throughout the youth's length of stay, and appropriate follow-up recommendations shall be developed as part of the release planning process and included in the Notice of Release to the court. Follow-up recommendations shall address protective factors such as appropriate services, resources, and conditions that support the youth's successful return to and maintenance in his/her community. Additionally, impediments to release readiness shall be discussed with DYS Community Services administration. Communication with probation officers, families/guardians, and DHR (when applicable) shall be documented.
- Successful Proposers with access to DYS electronic records management system must enter and keep current all information required by the system.
- Progress notes and other daily documentation must be completed for every contact or service provided to program youth. Notes shall reflect treatment progress as related to the treatment plan, and shall be dated, signed, and kept in a secure location.
- Treatment gains must be clearly delineated and included in the reports maintained in DYS electronic records management system.

Intervention Modalities

- Appropriate individual and/or group counseling is provided on a regular basis by properly qualified professional staff that is appropriately degreed. Group size shall not exceed the requirements set out in the Medicaid Code Chapter 105 for the group counseling and/or group basic living skills services.
- All interventions must be validated and based on a conceptual model supported by empirical research.
- Strength-based intervention services must be included in all treatment approaches and interventions.
- The Proposal shall explain how the chosen conceptual model impacts therapy. There must be a clear connection between group services and individual counseling assignments and its role in youth rehabilitation.
- Explain the rationale behind the average length of stay, and how the interventions are adequately accomplished given the proposed time frame.
- Describe plans to modify intervention modalities to accommodate the varying youth needs and changes in the needs of the overall population.
- All youth are actively involved in, at a minimum, basic life skills training, drug and alcohol education and prevention, health and sex education, and academic and vocational education appropriate for youth of their age and ability.
- Describe programming that provides for a combination of incentives and disincentives that are fairly
 and consistently utilized to improve attitudes, values, self-esteem, and responsible behavior of youth
 which are appropriate to the developmental level of the youth.
- De-escalation methods and interventions and staff training in these areas are described.
- The Proposal shall detail the behavior management strategies and interventions that will be implemented with verbally and physically aggressive and volatile youth. It is expected that the behavior management strategies and interventions detailed will match the behavior management model or program identified in the training section of the Proposal.
- The program shall describe suicide and/or self-injurious behavior prevention and intervention strategies and protocols, along with any research supporting the approaches.
- The Proposal shall discuss plans for minimizing confinement, isolation, and group punishment.
- The Proposal shall include descriptions of behavioral intervention training and how it will be provided to staff.
- The Program should describe how Drug and Alcohol Treatment will be provided for a youth that is assessed to need the service.

Educational Services

- A twelve (12) month comprehensive educational plan (special program) must be provided. The educational services in this special program must meet the individual needs for each youth. At a minimum, the special program shall provide K-12 credit bearing coursework, special educational services, workforce development training (i.e. Work Keys), and alternative educational services, such as academic enrichment, remediation, academic, career, and post-secondary counseling, and GED/ACT preparatory services. All online educational programming must be submitted to a designated DYS representative for pre-approval prior to implementation. No online educational service should be the sole educational services for the population.
- Letter of intent from the local educational authority and agreements with post-secondary institutions shall be provided.
- Youth identified as having a disability shall receive special education services in accordance with the guidelines required by the State of Alabama and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

- The special program shall follow the regulations issued by the Alabama Department of Education and all other applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to procedural due process relating to applicable notices, timelines and safeguards.
- The special program will comply with all State Department of Education requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals providing services under the special program.
- The special program will comply with all State Department of Education curriculum content requirements.
- The Proposer is responsible for maintaining all appropriate educational records. Each student's attendance, grades, and other demographic and academic data will be maintained while enrolled in the special program. All classes offered shall be identified according to the most current State of Alabama Courses and Personnel Codes. The course numbers, grades, and credits earned shall be timely documented in the youth's PowerSchool Database as earned and completed prior to their release. Upon request the Provider is responsible for the timely provision of such records to DYS as requested.
- The special program will submit to an annual fiscal audit by the Alabama Department of Education or designee to ensure that all state or federal educational funds were expended in an appropriate manner and in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.
- The special program will maintain and safeguard the confidentiality of personally-identifiable educational data and records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- The special program will not discriminate against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.
- The Proposer must assure that each student is withdrawn from their home school and enrolled in the special program.
- The Proposal shall explain methods for identifying special needs youth and provisions for providing special education services to those youth. The special program will ensure that all students, including those with disabilities, participate in the **State Assessment Program** (ACAP, Workkeys, etc.)
- The Proposer is required to conduct pre and post testing in the areas of math and reading for all youth enrolled more than 90 days. The Proposal shall explain the collection and reporting protocol of collected data.
- The GED component of the educational program must provide opportunities to prepare for, pre-test, remediate, and test for the GED. GED preparation and testing is to be provided at no cost to the youth and his/her family/guardian. All cost related to GED testing and preparation is the responsibility of the program.
- Opportunities to explore career/vocational interests are considered good practice and shall be a part of the educational program. The Proposal shall explain methods for exploring career and vocational opportunities including a workforce develop program for the youth.
- A minimum of three hundred and sixty (360) minutes of instruction are required each school day.
- The Proposal shall demonstrate how educational/academic enrichment will be provided during the summer months. This shall include at a minimum, a schedule, the type of activity, and service provider for each activity.

Support Services

Appropriate recreational programs and leisure activities for youth shall be provided. Recreational opportunities are scheduled even in the event of inclement weather. A staff member trained in recreation or a related field shall be designated to plan and supervise recreation activities. The following support service areas must be addressed in program design:

• The basic living needs of all youth, including a balanced diet, routine medical and dental services, and

- other essentials (e.g. clothing, personal hygiene items, and laundry services) are met.
- The program and services promote and provides for the involvement of the families/guardians of committed youth during their rehabilitation. Describe the interventions and treatment strategies to involve the family/guardian throughout each component of treatment.

Qualifications of the Proposer: Capability Statement

Organizational Structure

- Describe organizational structure to include parent companies and sub-units of organization.
- Include an organizational chart.
- Stated purpose and goals of the organization.
- Describe experience with Medicaid billing.

Qualifications of Staff

- Describe staffing patterns, including administrative and programmatic, and give rationale.
- Provide information regarding the qualifications and experience of program and treatment staff. Include copies of job descriptions and resumes/vitae of key personnel.
- Describe the program's plan to achieve cultural competency and culturally diverse staff.
- Professional treatment staff must be appropriately degreed in a human service field. It is highly desirable for a staff member working a mental health professional to possess a graduate degree in a mental health related field and be licensed in their profession.
- In self-contained educational programs, all teachers must be appropriately degreed and certified through the State Department of Education. Program must be prepared to provide verification of certified and appropriately degreed staff to DYS licensing staff during their temporary licensing audit.
- Educational personnel must maintain at a minimum, a Class B or a Specialty Area 1 teaching certificate in the content area in which they are responsible for instruction from the Alabama State Department of Education.
- All staff (including interns, subcontract providers, and volunteers) must have a criminal records background check completed through the Alabama Bureau of Investigation and receive clearance through the DHR Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) Central Registry prior to an offer of employment and contact with youth.
- Medicaid Rehabilitation providers should have treatment staff providing individual, group, or family therapy that meet the requirements of Medicaid Chapter 105.

Proposers awarded the contracts will be required to comply with DYS training guidelines as outlined by DYS Operations Manual. These requirements will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Describe the designated personnel that will develop, implement, and oversee the staff training program. This may include a designated training coordinator and/or training committee.
- The Proposal shall describe how staff training needs will be developed, evaluated, and updated based on an annual assessment that identifies job-related training needs.
- The Proposal shall present a training plan to achieve cultural competency among diverse staff. The training plan shall also address staff engagement with a diverse population of youth, including an understanding of racial, ethnic, and cultural disparities.
- At a minimum, training plans shall address the following areas:

- o Trauma-Informed and Trauma-Responsive care, including appropriate responses to trauma sensitive youth,
- O Suicide and self-injurious behavior prevention and intervention,
- o Transitional services,
- o PREA compliance which includes working with a special population of youth such as transgender, gay, and intersex (see page 9).
- Working with clients with Problematic Sexual Behaviors, including treatment modalities available for clients exhibiting these behaviors, appropriate language and responses to use with these youth.
- Awareness of Sex Trafficking among youth, warning signs, interventions that can help youth leave their trafficker, the importance of community support and not blaming the victim, and resources that can assist the youth with a safe transition back to a community setting.
- o De-escalation techniques and behavior management techniques.
- o Gender specific services.
- o Proper use of safe room and room confinement.

Explain how the timeline will be met for staff completing the individualized training plan. This plan should include initial training for staff, as well as a schedule for on-going training to address/re-visit these topics as new research is developed in these areas. The plan should also describe the methods for receiving input for the training content from facility and unit administrators, facility and unit training directors, and training advisory committees.

- Include a plan for ensuring that staff training plans are reviewed and updated annually using current literature.
- Explain methods for providing and making readily available, staff development resources such as a library or reference materials, to all personnel.
- Explain provisions for staff to attend training sessions appropriate to their discipline which may exceed DYS's minimum training requirements.
- All training sessions shall be conducted by individuals with expertise in the particular area being taught. The training curriculum shall be based on the most current service delivery literature, and relevant to the population being served.
- The Proposal shall include methods of training evaluation, and describe how training presenters will be evaluated by training participants.
- Describe the evaluation tools that will be used to measure the participants' comprehension of the training content.

Program and Case Auditing

- The Proposal shall describe the program methods for internal auditing, including how often the internal auditing will occur.
- Identify staff person or committee responsible for conducting internal audits.
- Describe the method of program evaluation to be used to determine the effectiveness of the program.
- Explain how the audit findings will be used to correct any identified program deficiencies.
- Identify staff person responsible for overseeing the implementation of any corrective action measures.

Note: It is understood and agreed that DYS is authorized to conduct service delivery audits of all vendors as deemed necessary. This includes any designated DYS personnel and/or parties contracted to provide technical assistance to the agency. The Vendor must make provisions to ensure that DYS has access to the full and complete records regarding all features of the facility, administration, expenditures, management, maintenance, and staff training/development information.

<u>Program Site (applicable to all categories except Category 6):</u>

Unless otherwise noted, Proposers must provide the facility and space needed to operate the proposed program. At a minimum, the facility description must include the following:

- Describe the site. Include square footage and floor plan, to scale, of the proposed site.
- Provide copies of county and state approvals obtained (i.e. zoning of property, fire marshal, health inspection).

Summary Qualifications of Proposer

- The Proposer has significant experience in the provision of the program services being offered.
- Key personnel are well qualified and have experience in performance of similar work.
- The Proposer has sufficient financial strength to bear costs associated with program development and on-going program maintenance.
- The Proposer has access to essential support services (administrative, fiscal, staff development).

Cost Proposal

- Cost Proposal must contain a completed *Budget Format* (Attachment 2) and the itemized statements required therein. Additional information requested by DYS for the purpose of determining the validity of the per diem quoted shall be provided within five (5) working days or the Proposal will be rejected.
- Cost Proposal (Attachment 3) must contain a per diem quote that matches the per diem quote calculated on the Program Budget (Attachment 2). To minimize the need for significant program changes during periods of low census, DYS will guarantee payment of per diem rates based on capacity. Therefore, Vendors must consider that DYS will guarantee payment of per diem rates based on program capacity up to seventy-five percent (e.g. 16 total beds, only 11 beds are used, 100% per diem will be paid for 12 beds which includes the empty bed)."
- Medicaid Rehabilitative Service Providers must provide an estimated number of units that will be billed in a seven (7) day week (Attachment 4).
- Cost Proposals indicating donated goods or services shall include the following:
 - > source of donation including grants, donations from benefactors, or any other subsidies which would serve to offset the cost to the Proposer
 - disclosure of the value of the in-kind donation of goods and services
 - > written statement from the donor guaranteeing that the services, funds, or goods donated will be for the entire term of the contract if it is awarded
- Cost Proposal for educational services shall include at a minimum, all K-12 education, post-secondary, and all alternative educational services (i.e. GED, PowerSchool, transportation, technology, books, etc.). Credit-bearing post-secondary educational expenses are not required.
- All providers must provide a letter of intent from the Local Education Authority (LEA) for the educational program proposed, or the self-contained educational plan that meets educational program requirements.
- Include any additional information the Proposer feels appropriate to substantiate the fee quoted.

Documentation Required With Proposal:

- Announcement Form Completed
- Affirmation Form Executed
- Cost Proposal Summary (Attachment 3)
- Audited Financial Statement
- Budget Format (Attachment 2)
- List of Board of Directors
- Narrative description of the program
- Proposer Capability Statement
- Job Descriptions
- Organizational Chart
- Resume or Position Description for Program Director
- Board Resolution (Attachment 1)
- List of Agency References
- Letter of Tax Exempt Status, if applicable
- Description of Proposed Site including floor plans to scale
- Proposer Disclosure Statement
- Federal E-Verify Program Enrollment Verification Form
- Disclosure of Ownership, Execute affidavit or provide other ownership documents
- Documentation of Insurability
- Agreement of Accountability
- Letter of intent from the local education authority or the self-contained educational plan
- Estimated Medicaid Billing units (Attachment 4)⁵

⁵ This attachment is applicable for Vendors with a Medicaid services contract with DYS.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

<u>Technical Approach</u> - 50 Points

Various elements of the technical approach are provided throughout the RFP. The following components highlight some of the key concepts and requirements. However, it is the Proposer's responsibility to review the requirements included in the body of the RFP and to adequately address the requirements in the Proposal.

- A. The program design is described adequately and links conceptual models to program design and development; specifically addressing the population to be served.
- B. Goals and objectives are presented, feasible, and supported by current literature. Sub goals and specific objectives are provided, measurable, and linked to the conceptual model for the program.
- C. The program describes how **Trauma-Informed and Trauma- Responsive care** is incorporated into treatment approaches and interventions.
- D. Proposal describes methods for engaging youth in ISP development, modifications, and amendments.
- E. Proposal explains how the program will utilize selected assessment and screening tools to inform ISP development and programming.
- F. Suicide and self-injurious behavior prevention and intervention strategies and protocols are clearly explained.
- G. Methods and interventions proposed for **de-escalation and behavior management** shall be explained, including the rationale for selecting chosen methods.
- H. All components of educational and vocational programming and activities are to be extensively described. This description must include but not be limited to GED preparation, PowerSchools, record keeping, teacher training, and post-secondary assistance.
- I. Proposal includes an internal performance monitoring and program evaluation system.
- J. Proposal addresses and also demonstrates a clear understanding of each of the program specifications and technical issues of the RFP.
- K. The program objectives are realistic, reasonable and obtainable.
- L. The Proposal specifically addresses methodologies to accomplish the objectives set forth in the work statement.
- M. The Proposal demonstrates a **creative and innovative approach**.
- N. The Proposal makes use of evidence-based practice approaches and methodologies.
- O. The Proposal delineates a specific rationale for approaches selected to ensure that gender responsive programming is implemented.
- P. Outlines strategies to include **engagement of the family/guardian** and supportive community resources.
- Q. The Proposal details **transitional services and preparation for independent living as a program component.** Also includes networking with community resources, the court system, the education system, and the community services division to ensure proper transitional planning.
- R. The Proposal includes a contingency plan for dealing with critical incidents and/or emergency situations.

Qualifications of Proposer – 15 Points

See the description of the various responsibilities as described in the RFP under the Qualifications of the Proposer: Capability Statement (page 22). The evaluation criteria will include elements of the aforementioned requirements, including the components highlighted below:

- A. Proposal includes sufficient number of staff to deliver the proposed services.
- B. Qualifications of staff are adequately described and are appropriate for the task to be performed.
- C. Job descriptions for all staff are included. Job descriptions clearly outline the task to be performed by each worker.
- D. Lines of authority among staff members are clearly described.
- E. Overall staffing patterns are conducive to achievement of objectives.
- F. Describes how staff training plans are informed by trauma-informed care, gender responsive treatment, job functions, and youth population.
- G. Square footage is adequate to the program needs of the youth served.

Cost - 35 Points

- A. Information provided in the Cost Proposal supports the reasonableness of the per diem quoted. Unreasonable per diems, for example \$10 will be deemed unreasonable and no points given for costs.
- B. Cost points, price per youth per day, will be determined using the following formula:

Lowest Annual Cost/Proposal Annual Cost to be Graded x Maximum Cost Points (35) = Proposal Cost Points.

SERVICE CATEGORY #2 COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR MEDIUM RISK YOUTH

DYS is soliciting Proposals for programs that are geographically dispersed throughout Alabama to provide services for up to sixteen (16) male offenders, in each program, who are in the care and custody of DYS. A total of two (2) separate contracts may be awarded. A provider can propose the operation of more than one program for this category but a separate Proposal and cost figures must be submitted for each program. Youth referred to community residential programs are more likely to have moderate legal involvement and are considered medium risk based on DYS risk assessment, and may include youth who have runaway behavior, physical aggressiveness, gang and weapons related history, and moderate to high behavioral/emotional problems. They often present challenging behavior beyond the behaviors referenced above, as the intensity of the behavior varies with each youth. Youth referred by DYS will have been classified as requiring a high degree of supervision.

DESCRIPTION:

This is a community residential program for medium risk youth designed to provide a goal directed, highly structured, treatment, and counseling program. Programming should include healthy behaviors and the development of interests such as vocations or hobbies. This program is also designed to promote the safe return of youth to their home and prevent a return to criminal behavior. The program should include creative means of involving the family/guardian in the therapeutic process from intake to community transition/discharge. Programming should be gender specific and include at a minimum: concepts of trauma-informed care, strength-based approaches, rites of passage, healthy lifestyle, healthy sexuality, aggression replacement/anger control, gang management curriculum, and family dynamics.

The Proposal should include the activities and program description requirements as described previously in pages 1-19. The Proposer should tailor those requirements specifically to this initiative.

Counseling should be available to the family/guardian and they should be encouraged to use the service. The Proposer must provide an explanation of the model or conceptual rationale they will be basing their program on as well as the implications for use with the population that the program will serve. The Proposer should specify whether the program will cover admissions from a particular geographical area of the state, i.e., north Alabama counties or statewide. Because a total of three (3) to four (4) units may be awarded, the proposer may opt to submit multiple applications covering different (but specifically identified) areas of the state. A separate Proposal should be developed for each program unit being responded to. DYS seeks to provide the Proposer with the flexibility to tailor an effective program model for the specialized group of youth who are proposed to be served.

The following services shall be afforded to each youth, as appropriate, according to his needs as detailed in the individual program plan:

- Educational services (as required by state and federal statutes)
- Independent living services
- Substance use counseling/education
- Emotional/behavioral counseling
- Moral/character development training
- Access to therapeutic staff and local community mental health services
- Aggression/Aggressive Behavior Management

A service plan, which includes family/guardian involvement in the youth's rehabilitation process, will be developed by the vendor within ten (10) days for all youth placed within the facility. Input from the youth, family/guardian, and vendor must be included in order to develop a service plan that will address the individual circumstances of each case. The Proposal should specify how the program will individualize therapeutic treatment services, through the use of screening and assessment tools to help determine treatment needs and duration of services. The ISP development, modification, and amendment process must adhere to DYS policy and guidelines. It is an expectation that all youth, including resistant and lower functioning youth, are active contributors in the ISP process. Individual and group counseling should be directed to accomplish the goals of the ISP.

LOCATION AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

The physical location of the program site must be within the State of Alabama, and meet all license requirements.

The physical structure of the building shall have adequate square footage to meet the programmatic needs of the sixteen (16) medium risk youth served in the program. Policy and procedure permit youth to decorate their living and sleeping quarters with personal possessions. Adequate space must be provided for various services and programs within the facility including space for counseling, meals, recreation, and other support services.

The facility should have a sufficient number of safe rooms that allows for the youth to calm down while being monitored for safety (such as a video system or large plexiglass windows).

STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:

Criminal offense and child abuse screening shall be conducted and documented to assure that no staff member has a criminal record involving moral turpitude or a founded complaint of child abuse (see page 20). A plan must be in place to update the screening annually.

The number of staff qualified to provide all structural components shall be adequate to meet the needs of the youth and shall be available to each program participant. There shall be an adequate number of awake program staff to meet the needs of the youth and shall be available to youth twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week. This facility will require, at minimum, a staff to youth ratio of 1:8 while youth are awake and 1:12 when youth are asleep. Staff count shall not include administrative and clinical personnel. Educational and treatment staff must be qualified in accordance with the State of Alabama Law, policy and DYS regulations. Education and treatment programs must operate on a twelve (12) month basis (see page 19).

At a minimum, all staff with direct client contact should be trained in the following areas:

- Trauma-Informed and Trauma-Responsive care, including appropriate responses to trauma
- o sensitive youth,
- o Suicide and self-injurious behavior prevention and intervention,
- o Transitional services,
- o PREA compliance which includes working with a special population of youth such as transgender, gay, and intersex (see page 9).
- o Working with clients with Problematic Sexual Behaviors, including treatment modalities

- o available for clients exhibiting these behaviors, appropriate language and responses to use with these youth.
- Awareness of Sex Trafficking among youth, warning signs, interventions that can help youth leave their trafficker, the importance of community support and not blaming the victim, and resources that can assist the youth with a safe transition back to a community setting.
- o De-escalation techniques and behavior management techniques.
- Gender specific services.
- o Proper use of safe room and room confinement.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

Ninety percent (90%) of participants will complete the program within one hundred-twenty (120) days of entering the program. DYS recognizes that some students may not be able to succeed as expected in some programs. If it appears that a student is unable to successfully complete a program, the vendor must utilize the internal "Review of Placement" within DYS system. The vendor must also comply with DYS policy 13.5.2 regarding youth without a determinant commitment who remain in the program for six months. The vendor will not be authorized to contact the committing court requesting or suggesting amendments to the existing court order, or a new court order resulting in an extended length of stay at the program.

Programs must meet certain designated conditions, as described elsewhere in this document. Some of those requirements include: possessing license as required by the appropriate state agency, be designated as a DYS Medicaid Rehabilitative Services Provider, have a comprehensive twelve (12) month self-contained educational program, and promote and provide for family/guardian involvement in the youth's rehabilitation. A security plan for the needs of youth must be included in the Proposal. The security plan must describe steps that will be taken to minimize escapes and include a suicide and self-injurious behavior prevention and intervention plan. Engagement of the family/guardian in the program is vital and DYS expects the Proposer to outline a methodology for engaging the family/guardian from intake to community transition/discharge. Providers must describe transitional planning techniques anticipated for each youth prior to release from DYS (see page 17). The program must maintain a community resource list/resource bank to assist youth and their families with educational and therapeutic transitional services.

ATTACHMENT 1

BOARD RESOLUTION

State of Alabama County of
On the day of, 20 at a meeting of the Board of Directors of:
with a quorum of the directors present, it was duly moved and seconded that the following resolution be adopted.
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the above corporation do hereby authorize (Name & Title) and
his/her successors in office to negotiate on terms and conditions that he/she may deem advisable, a contract or contracts with DYS and to execute said documents on behalf of the corporation, and further we do hereby give him/her the power and authority to do all things necessary to implement, maintain, amend or review said documents.
The above resolution was passed by a majority of those present and voting in accordance with the by-laws and articles of incorporation.
I certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the part of the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors on the above stated date.
President Date
Secretary Date

ATTACHMENT 2 PROGRAM BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	Administrative	Programmatic
SALARIES & FRINGES:			
Personnel Salaries *			
Fringe Benefits			
Total Salaries & Fringes			
PERSONNEL TRAVEL:			
Transportation			
Conferences			
Training			
Total Personnel Travel			
OPERATING SERVICES:			
Printing			
Insurance			
Maintenance – Auto			
Janitorial			
Rental - Other *			
Dues & Subscriptions			
Postage			
Data/Internet			
Utilities (Electricity & Water Only)			
Auditing/Accounting			
Total Operating Services			
OPERATING SUPPLIES:			
Office Supplies			
Medical Supplies			
Educational Technology & Maintenance			
Food*			
Automotive Supplies			
Maintenance Supplies			
Janitorial Supplies			
Laundry Supplies			
Dietary Supplies*			
Juvenile/Offender Personal			
Total Operating Supplies			
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:			
Accounting & Auditing			
Medical			
Consulting *			
Legal *			
Education *			
Other *			
Total Professional			

ATTACHMENT 2

PROGRAM BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL BUDGET	Administrative	Programmatic
ACQUISITIONS:			
Auto *			
Equipment *			
Other *			
Total Acquisitions			
Other			
Interest Expense *			
Miscellaneous Expenses *			
Total Other			
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET			

Per Diem Calculation	
Total Annual Budget	\$
Less (other non-Medicaid funding sources):	
PowerSchools	\$
Education Grants	\$
Education Foundation Funding	\$
Child Nutrition Funding	\$
Foundations/Corporations	\$
Other*	\$
Net Annual Budget	\$
Net Annual Budget divided by 365 days	365 days
Net Daily Budget	\$
Net Daily Budget divided by capacity daily population	daily youth
Equals the Daily Per Diem Rate ⁶	\$
Percentage of the Daily Per Diem Rate that is considered room and board	%

^{*}Explanation of these line items must be attached to the Budget Format. Positions and salaries for each position must be attached. Indirect costs must be documented.

⁶DYS will guarantee payment of per diem rates based on program capacity up to seventy-five percent (e.g. 16 total beds, only 11 beds are used, 100% per diem will be paid for 12 beds which includes the empty bed)."

ATTACHMENT 3 COST PROPOSAL

This sheet is a MANDATORY requirement of the Request for Proposal and must be signed by the person authorized to bind the

CEDVICE		PROCEDIM	PER DIEM	
SERVICE CATEGORY		PROGRAM	2026- 2028	
2.	Male Medium Risk	Residential Treatment Program		
<u> </u>		I		
ame of Propos	er	Signature of Contract Officer	Date	

ATTACHMENT 4⁷ ESTIMATED MEDICAID BILLING UNITS

Proposer shall estimate the number of units that will be billed to Medicaid weekly (7 days). Estimates must be based on anticipated daily population and intake/release procedures.

Service Description	Max Daily Units Per Youth	Number of Youth Services are Billed	Estimated Weekly Billed Medicaid Units
Individual Treatment (30/45/60 minutes)	1 Unit		
Group Treatment (60 minutes)	1 Unit		
Family Treatment w/Youth Present (60 minutes)	1 Unit		
Family Treatment w/o Youth Present (60 minutes)	1 Unit		
Multi-Family Group Treatment (60 minutes)	1 Unit		
Crisis Intervention Services (15 minutes)	12 Units		
Physician Services (15 minutes)	6 Units		
Medication Administration	1 Unit		
Medication Monitoring (15 minutes)	2 Units		
Individual Basic Living Skills (15 minutes)	20 Units		
Group Basic Living Skills (15 minutes)	8 Units		
Individual Family Support Psychoeducational Services (15 minutes)	8 Units		
Group Family Support Psychoeducational Services (15 minutes)	8 Units		
Mental Health Consultation (15 minutes)	24 Units		
Other (please specify)	Unit(s)		

 $[\]overline{}^7$ This attachment is applicable for Vendors with a Medicaid services contract with DYS.