

## 2026 Cat 2 Boys RFP Provider Conference Q&A

**Attendees via zoom based meeting:** Chris Narcisse (Deputy Director of Community Services), Monica Roland (Proposal Development Administrator), Donna Kilgore (Services For Our Youth/Beacon House), Kimmy Fail (Pathway), Joe Peeples (Pathway), Brad Wood (Pathway), Suzanne Smith (ROP), Joseph Schuler (ROP)

1. **Q:** Do you have any available facilities to house the program?

**A:** No, DYS is not providing the building for this proposed program. We are aware of the existence of a building that previously was used for this purpose in Tuskegee. When last utilized for this purpose, it was owned by Brighter Path. DYS is not aware of the current status or ownership of the building. Previous applicants for similar programs have independently found closed private school campuses and converted them into facilities to house programs. With that said, DYS is not aware of any such locations at this time.

2. **Q:** The RFP does not specify a date that the provider will be notified of the potential award of the contract. When do you anticipate the notification date?

**A:** Yes. In accordance with the rules of the state procurement office, we are no longer allowed to notify the selected applicant. DYS is required to notify state procurement, which we expect to do by the end of February. Then that office notifies the chosen applicant. This allegedly can take a few weeks or more, but once we notify the procurement office, it is out of our hands. That office must provide official notification before we can initiate the contract negotiations.

3. **Q:** If the proposer intends to build a new structure will the provider have the opportunity to extend the start date due to possible construction mishaps?

**A:** Yes, possibly. Please clarify in the application documents that you intend to build a new structure and include a projected time line. If that application is chosen, we can accommodate some slight delays. However, every effort should be made to initiate services by 10/1/2027.

4. **Q:** In reviewing the cost proposal requirements, we did not see a separately designated education rate. Is there a designated education rate for this program, or should all education related costs be incorporated into the overall daily per diem rate?

**A:** Yes, all education cost should be incorporated into the overall daily per diem rate.

5. **Q:** On page 14, *Health Care Coverage*, the RFP states that the cost for non-routine expenses not covered by a youth's designated health care provider will be coordinated between DYS and the Supplier on a case by case basis. Can DYS clarify how non-routine expenses are defined and outline the coordination and approval process, including how financial responsibility is determined?

**A:** This is a rare occurrence. DYS expects that most medical expenses will be covered by Medicaid, however, if there are other needs that are not covered because a child doesn't have Medicaid yet or for some other reason, DYS will work with the program to determine if it is necessary and if so, to request assistance. There is no formal process because it happens so rarely.

6. **Q:** For planning and staffing purposes, can DYS provide guidance on the expected average caseload size for clinical staff (e.g., therapists, counselors), or confirm whether there are established clinical caseload standards or expectations associated with this service category?

**A:** There is no definitive answer. However, we expect that one therapist can work with the number of kids in this program for individual sessions. Medicaid will expect 10 clients in group, so, given that, you may want to anticipate two therapists to accommodate their expectations. Overall, DYS expects the program to propose how they would like to structure clinical services and we will consider that when evaluating each RFP response.

7. **Q:** Can the services be provided in the community/in home vs. residential?

**A:** no. this RFP is for residential programming for custodial clients who are committed to the department of human resources. The parameters are outlined in the RFP including requirements for security (locked doors, gates, fences, etc.).