

**State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

RETURN TO:
DHHS - Procurement
301 Centennial Mall South, 5th Floor
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 471-6082
E-mail: dhhs.procurement@nebraska.gov

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
RFI Combined Services	May 9, 2018
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
June 12, 2018 2:00 p.m. Central Time	Michelle Thompson

This form is part of the specification package and must be signed in ink and returned, along with information documents, by the opening date and time specified.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

SCOPE OF SERVICE

The State of Nebraska (State), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) for the purpose of gathering information for a service that includes Agency Supported Foster Care, Family Support, Supervised Visitation, and Parenting Time services.

Written questions are due no later than May 17, 2018, and should be submitted via e-mail to dhhs.procurement@nebraska.gov.

Bidder should submit one (1) original of the entire RFI response. RFI responses should be submitted by the RFI due date and time to dhhs.procurement@nebraska.gov.

RFI responses should be received in Department of Health and Human Services by the date and time of RFI opening indicated above.

BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

By signing this Request For Information form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Request for Information.

FIRM: CEDARS Youth Services

COMPLETE ADDRESS: 6601 Pioneers Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (402) 434-5437 FAX NUMBER: (402) 437-8833

SIGNATURE:  DATE: June 11, 2018

TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER: James R. Blue, President and CEO

Form A

Vendor Contact Sheet

Request for Information Number Combined Services

Form A should be completed and submitted with each response to this solicitation document. This is intended to provide the State with information on the vendor's name and address, and the specific persons who are responsible for preparation of the vendor's response.

Preparation of Response Contact Information	
Vendor Name:	CEDARS Youth Services
Vendor Address:	6601 Pioneers Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506
Contact Person & Title:	James R. Blue, President and CEO
E-mail Address:	jblue@CEDARS-kids.org
Telephone Number (Office):	(402) 437-8812
Telephone Number (Cellular):	(402) 440-5275
Fax Number:	(402) 437-8833

Each vendor shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the vendor's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Communication with the State Contact Information	
Vendor Name:	CEDARS Youth Services
Vendor Address:	6601 Pioneers Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506
Contact Person & Title:	James R. Blue, President and CEO
E-mail Address:	jblue@CEDARS-kids.org
Telephone Number (Office):	(402) 437-8812
Telephone Number (Cellular):	(402) 440-5275
Fax Number:	(402) 437-8833

RFI for Combined Services Response

CEDARS extensive organizational, programmatic, and fiscal management experience uniquely positions the organization to offer feedback to DCFS on the design of services that will provide safety, stability and permanency to children and families in Nebraska as detailed in this Request for Information for Combined Services.

CEDARS Youth Services currently provides licensed and accredited Foster Care, Kinship Care, Family Support, and Family Time/Supervised Visitation. In addition, CEDARS offers in-home prevention, family preservation, and crisis stabilization services and parenting education classes (ex. Circle of Security, Parents as Teachers, Darkness to Light, Safe With You, and Risking Connections). CEDARS continuum of services also includes independent living, street outreach, a youth drop in center, emergency shelter, community learning centers, early childhood development, individual, group and family therapy, tracker, electronic monitoring, and reporting center.

The continuum of services offered through Combined Services should provide safety, stability and permanency to support the well-being of Nebraska children and families. The following areas are recommended for inclusion in future service development:

Staff and Foster Parent Training

Preference should be given to organizations that exceed the licensed minimums for pre-service and ongoing training for staff and foster parents. Training should be evidence based/informed and trauma responsive.

Caseloads/Ratios

Caseload ratios for providers should be reflective of best practice research and never be more than 1:16.

Family Choice

Families should have a choice in selecting the provider they work with. Families, in partnership with selected providers, should have input in determining the most appropriate services, within the combined services continuum, to meet their goals and achieve identified outcomes. Adequate time for pre-placement visits to support a successful match is imperative to a successful relationship between foster parents, biological parents and children.

Reimbursement/Payment Flexibility

The payment structure must support flexibility within the service array to meet needs of individual children and families and to achieve expected outcomes.

Focus on Quality

A history of quality service provision should be considered in the selection of providers, including national accreditation, compliance and achievement of long term, positive outcomes. Outcome evaluation should also include bio parent, child and foster family satisfaction.