

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

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

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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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: Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska

COMPLETE ADDRESS: 530 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 110 Lincoln, NE 68508

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 402-434-3399

FAX NUMBER: 402-434-3390

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: June 12, 2018

TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER: Nick Juliano, President, Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska



## **RFI Combined Services Response**

**June 12, 2018**

The Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska (CAFCON) supports the efforts of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Services to create a new single service approach for families which provides for the safety of children in a home environment; supports biological families; and, only when appropriate, offers a permanent family home to children needing permanency. As evidence suggests and its membership has experienced, CAFCON considers a continuum of care at a systems level to be the best approach in accomplishing the provision of safety, permanency, and well-being of Nebraska children and families. As such, CAFCON offers the following four core principles as essential components of a high-quality continuum of care for children and families in communities across Nebraska:

### **1. Family Driven**

Best practice standards require formal services and informal supports to be developed and delivered with direct input from families about their goals, and, when possible, about which provider to work with. Providers and families should work together to determine the needs of the family and the specific intervention(s) to meet those needs.

*Why is this important?* Families are the experts regarding their own children and often have effective solutions which meet both their needs and the requirements



of court orders. When families are involved in building the supports and services they need they are more likely to experience future success and self-sufficiency. *An example:* Family outcomes improve when visitation and parenting time are managed within the continuum of care as a right rather than a privilege. When visitation and parenting time are managed as a right and not a privilege, the best interest of the child is more adequately addressed and shared responsibility more effectively accomplished between the provider/case manager and the family.

## **2. Comprehensive**

Evidence across the US continues to suggest that in order to attain the best possible outcomes for children and their families, goals should be as comprehensive as possible rather than focused only on the acute episode that caused entry in to the child welfare system. Family goals should address all domains including life skills, finances and employment, housing, physical and mental health, supportive relationships and community connections, family safety, and child well-being.

*Why is this important?* Best-interest determinations must address the whole child and the whole family if recidivism rates within the child welfare system are to decrease. Long-term child and family success depends upon providing timely and sufficient supports and services across domains to ensure that families are best positioned to meet a child's needs and avoid recurring system involvement.



*An example:* Foster parents should work together as one team with the biological parents to mentor, provide support and education, and assist in developing needed parenting skills. When foster parenting is a joint endeavor with biological parents, outcomes for children and families improve.

### **3. Focus on Quality Outcomes**

Services at all levels should be required to adopt standards and practices which demonstrate that the children and families it serves are safe and experience positive outcomes. Accountability for standards, practices, and reporting should be the same for any direct service provision whether by a private agency or the Division of Children and Family Services. Nebraska should stop using programs and services which cannot demonstrate desired positive outcomes both during and after care.

*Why is this important?* Children and families have a right to stay together safely and to become self-sufficient and productive community members. Robustly-funded and flexible services should be oriented around these outcomes. Marks of high quality services should focus on family preservation, self-sufficiency, and productivity.

*An example:* Align accountability measures (contract monitoring and post-service outcomes) with quality measures (utilizing quality standards and measuring



fidelity to approved models) and financial investment in programs and networks that allow for service providers to produce high quality results.

#### **4. Innovative Funding Models**

In order to ensure high quality services that drive long-lasting and positive outcomes, public and private funders increasingly require more sophisticated contracting and funding models. In addition, the desire to shift thinking from purchasing services to purchasing outcomes demands innovative funding approaches. Regardless of the specific funding methodology, providers need adequate funding along with the flexibility to provide the right service, at the right time, for the right duration, leading to the achievement of expected outcomes.

*Why is this important?* Fee for service funding models have proven unsustainable to meet the highly complex needs of the child welfare population. More innovative funding methodologies such as case rates, performance-based contracting, or value-based contracting allow services to be flexible and to adjust to the needs of children and families and while best aligning quality measures and outcomes with financial incentives.

*An example:* Recent experience in Nebraska (Safety & In-Home Services) effectively utilized a case rate methodology. Several states including Iowa have



effectively used performance-based contracting for community-based child welfare services designed to keep children at home with families or relatives.

## 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:	Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska
Vendor Address:	530 South 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Suite 110 Lincoln, NE 68508
Contact Person & Title:	Nick Juliano, President
E-mail Address:	Nick.Juliano@BoysTown.org
Telephone Number (Office):	402-498-1907
Telephone Number (Cellular):	402-350-3971
Fax Number:	402-498-3378

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:	Children and Family Coalition of Nebraska
Vendor Address:	530 South 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Suite 110 Lincoln, NE 68508
Contact Person & Title:	Mary Johnson, Executive Director
E-mail Address:	Johnson@muellerrobak.com
Telephone Number (Office):	402-434-3399
Telephone Number (Cellular):	402-450-8112
Fax Number:	402-434-3390