

**State of Nebraska
Department of Health and Human services**

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RETURN TO:
DHHS:
Office of Procurement and Grants
ATTN: Mike St. Cin & Greg Walklin
PO Box 94926:
Lincoln, NE 68509
dhhs.rfpquestions@nebraska.gov

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
RFI Innovative Child and Family Well-Being Solutions	November 10, 2022
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
March 1, 2023 2:00 p.m. Central Time	Mike St. Cin/Greg Walklin

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, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Children and Family Services Division (CF) is issuing this Request for Information RFI for the purpose of gathering information for Innovative Child and Family Well-Being Solutions.

Written questions are due no later than February 10, 2023, and should be submitted via e-mail to dhhs.rfpquestions@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.

RFI responses should be received in DHHS Office of Procurement and Grants 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: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER: _____

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I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The State of Nebraska, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Children and Family Services Division (CF) is issuing this Request for Information RFI for the purpose of gathering information for Innovative Child and Family Well-Being Solutions.

ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/bidopps.html> and <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Grants-and-Contract-Opportunities.aspx>

A. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The State expects to adhere to the tentative procurement schedule shown below. It should be noted, however, that some dates are approximate and subject to change.

	ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
1	Release Request for Information	11/10/2022
2	Last day to submit written questions	02/10/2023
3	State responds to written questions through Request for Information "Addendum" and/or "Amendment" to be posted to the internet at: http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/bidopps.html	02/17/2023
4	RFI opening WebEx Link: https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=ma922f4d38c97	03/01/2023 2:00 PM Central Time
5	Conduct oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations (if required)	To Be Determined

II. RFI RESPONSE PROCEDURES

A. OFFICE AND CONTACT PERSON

Responsibilities related to this Request for Information reside with the DHHS Office of Procurement and Grants. The point of contact for the RFI is as follows:

Name: Mike St. Cin/Greg Walklin
Agency: DHHS Office of Procurement and Grants
Address: Nebraska State Office Building
301 Centennial Mall South
5th Floor
Lincoln, NE 68508
Telephone: 402-471-0551
E-Mail: dhhs.rfpquestions@nebraska.gov

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

A subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) may not be issued as a result of this RFI. There will not be a contract as a result of this RFI and the State is not liable for any cost incurred by vendors in replying to this RFI. If an RFP is issued, the information provided will assist the State of Nebraska in developing the Request for Proposal. This RFI does not obligate the State to reply to the RFI responses, to issue an RFP, or to include any RFI provisions or responses provided by vendors in any RFP.

C. COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF

From the date the Request for Information is issued and until RFI opening (as shown in the Schedule of Events), contact regarding this RFI between potential vendors and individuals employed by the State should be restricted to written communication with the staff designated above as the point of contact for this Request for Information.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

1. Written communication with the person(s) designated as the point(s) of contact for this Request for Information;
2. Contacts made pursuant to any pre-existing contracts or obligations; and
3. State-requested presentations, key personnel interviews, clarification sessions, or discussions.

Violations of these conditions may be considered sufficient cause to reject a vendor's response to the RFI. No individual member of the State, employee of the State, or member of the Interview Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this RFI. The State of Nebraska will issue any clarifications or opinions regarding this RFI in writing.

D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Any explanation desired by a vendor regarding the meaning or interpretation of any Request for Information provision should be submitted in writing to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Procurement and Grants and clearly marked "RFI Innovative Child and Family Well-Being Solutions; Questions". It is preferred that questions be sent via e-mail to dhhs.rfpquestions@nebraska.gov

It is recommended that Bidders submit questions sequentially numbered, include the RFI reference and page number using the following format.

<u>Question Number</u>	<u>RFI Section Reference</u>	<u>RFI Page Number</u>	<u>Question</u>

Written answers will be provided through an addendum to be posted on the Internet at <http://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/bidopps.html> on or before the date shown in the Schedule of Events.

E. ORAL INTERVIEWS/PRESENTATIONS AND/OR DEMONSTRATIONS

The State reserves the right to conduct oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations if required at the sole invitation of the State.

Any cost incidental to the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations shall be borne entirely by the vendor and will not be compensated by the State.

F. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSE

The State is accepting either electronically submitted responses or hard copy, paper responses for this RFI.

1. For bidders submitting electronic responses:

a. Bidders submitting electronically can upload the response via ShareFile here: <https://nebraska.sharefile.com/home/shared/fo50e5ea-7b2d-4865-b757-151a2023c7b2>

[151a2023c7b2](https://nebraska.sharefile.com/home/shared/fo50e5ea-7b2d-4865-b757-151a2023c7b2)

b. ShareFile works with Firefox, Internet Explorer and Chrome. It does not work with Microsoft Edge.

c. Proprietary information should be uploaded as separate and distinct files. If multiple responses are submitted, the State will retain only the most recently submitted response. It is the bidder's responsibility to submit the response by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Events. Electronic responses must be received by DHHS by the date and time of the response opening per the Schedule of Events. No late responses will be accepted

d. ELECTRONIC RESPONSE FILE NAMES

The bidder should clearly identify the uploaded RFI response files. To assist in identification please use the following naming convention:

- i. RFI Innovative Child and Family Well Being ABC Company
- ii. If multiple files are submitted for one RFI response, add number of files to file names: RFI Innovative Child and Family Well Being ABC Company File 1 of 2.
- iii. If multiple RFI responses are submitted for the same RFI, add the response number to the file names: RFI Innovative Child and Family Well Being ABC Company Response 1 File 1 of 2.

2. For bidders submitting paper/hard copy responses:

- a. Bidders who are submitting a paper response should submit one response marked on the first page: "ORIGINAL". If multiple responses are submitted, the State will retain one copy marked "ORIGINAL" and destroy the other copies. The Contractor is solely responsible for any variance between the copies submitted. Responses should include the completed Form A, "Vendor Contact Sheet". Responses must reference the RFI number and be sent to the specified address. Please note that the address label should appear as specified in Section II A on the face of each container or contractor's response packet. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, 402-471-0551 should be used. The RFI number should be included in all correspondence. The State will not furnish packaging and sealing materials. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure the response is received in a sealed envelope or container and submitted by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Events. Sealed responses must be received at DHHS by the date and time of the opening per the Schedule of Events. No late responses will be accepted.

United States Postal Services (USPS) delivered responses shall be mailed to:

ATTN: Mike St. Cin/Greg Walklin RFI Innovative Child and Family Well Being
DHHS - Central Procurement Services
PO BOX 94926
Lincoln, NE 68509

Hand delivered responses or responses delivered by Federal Express (FedEx), United Parcel Service (UPS), etc. shall be delivered to:

ATTN: Mike St. Cin/Greg Walklin RFI Innovative Child and Family Well Being
DHHS - 3rd Floor Reception Desk
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509

- b. Proprietary Information should be presented in separate sections (loose-leaf binders are preferred) on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper, except that charts, diagrams and the like may be on fold-outs which, when folded, fit into the 8 ½" by 11" format. Pages may be consecutively numbered for the entire response, or may be numbered consecutively within sections. Figures and tables should be numbered consecutively within sections. Figures and tables should be numbered and referenced in the text by that number. They should be placed as close as possible to the referencing text.

3. The State will not furnish packaging or sealing materials. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure the response is received either electronically or in a sealed envelope or container and submitted by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Events. Sealed responses must be received at DHHS by the date and time of the response opening per the Schedule of Events.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to check the website for all information relevant to this Request for Information to include addenda and/or amendments issued prior to the opening date. Website address is as follows: <https://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/bidopps.html>.

The State shall not incur any liability for any costs incurred by contractors in replying to this solicitation, in the demonstrations and/or oral presentations, or in any other activity related to responding on this solicitation.

A separate sheet must be provided that clearly states which sections have been submitted as proprietary or have copyrighted materials. RFI responses should reference the request for information number and be sent to the specified address. Please note that the address label should appear as specified on the face of each container. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, 402-471-7575 should be used. The Request for Information number must be included in all correspondence.

G. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Data contained in the response and all documentation provided therein, become the property of the State of Nebraska and the data become public information upon opening the response. If the vendor wishes to have any information withheld from the public, such information must fall within the definition of proprietary information contained within Nebraska's public record statutes. All proprietary information the vendor wishes the state to withhold must be submitted in a sealed package, which is separate from the remainder of the response. The separate package must be clearly marked PROPRIETARY on the outside of the package. Vendor may not mark their entire Request for Information as proprietary. Failure of the vendor to follow the instructions for submitting proprietary and copyrighted information may result in the information being viewed by other vendors and the public. Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, vendors submitting information as proprietary may be required to prove specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive. Although every effort will be made to withhold information that is properly submitted as proprietary and meets the State's definition of proprietary information, the State is under no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of proprietary information and accepts no liability for the release of such information.

H. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION OPENING

The sealed responses will be publicly opened and the responding entities announced on the date, time, and location shown in the Schedule of Events. Responses will be available for viewing by those present after the opening. Vendors may also contact the state to schedule an appointment for viewing RFI responses.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The bidder should provide the following information in response to this Request for Information. .

Innovative Child and Family Well-Being Solutions

The Children and Family Services Division (CF) of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is announcing a Request for Information (RFI) to gather innovative solutions to current challenges facing the Child and Family Well-Being System as outlined below.

CFS has recently pursued and facilitated a Strategic Transformation initiative with input from key stakeholders including those with lived experience. All responses should be aligned with the values and principles (formal definitions attached in Appendix):

- **Values:** Opportunity for All, Respect, Accountability, Person and Family Centered, and Excellence
- **Principles:** Family Driven, Individual and Community Potential, Honesty and Transparency, Responsive, Affirming, and Authentic Partnership

Intended outcomes for children and families in Nebraska

- Reduction in the number of placements experienced by children in out-of-home care in Nebraska;
- Increase in accessibility and equity across system of care;
- Decrease in length of placement through provision of quality support services;
- Reduced family separation; and
- Improved child and family well-being.

Challenges to be addressed:

1. Continuum of Care

a. Challenge

- i. Children, parents, and family members have needs that require individualized and family-centered treatment in the community. There is a need for trauma-informed care for youth who have serious and complex behavioral health needs that incorporates family and youth voice in treatment options and planning while supporting children and youth to remain safely in the community.
- ii. Currently, there is a need for an enhanced continuum that would allow for a child/family to move from a high level of care to a lower level of care where a continuum can be maintained to prevent a child/family from moving through multiple provider agencies.
- iii. Nebraska is interested in expanding a continuum that provides individual supports for children and youth to maintain placement in a community that supports success in academics, behavioral health treatment, and inclusion in events with peers.

b. Proposed Solution should address

- i. How will a continuum of care be developed and implemented in Nebraska?
- ii. How will family culture and community connections be maintained?
- iii. What, if any, evidence-based practices are included in the solution/model?
- iv. What is the proposed financing model for this solution?
- v. Are you currently providing this service in any other state/jurisdiction, and if so, please provide data outcomes for the past 12 months, as well as references for the state/jurisdiction that we may be able to contact?

- vi. What is the intended duration of the proposed solution?
2. Care Management/Coordination and Navigation for youth involved in multiple systems or with complex needs
- a. Challenge**
 - i. When youth and/or parents/caregivers are in crisis and experiencing severe emotional and behavioral challenges, there are needs which must be met that often fall outside of the realm of child protective services.
 - ii. A design is needed for parents/caregivers to receive support in the home that will reduce the need for children to be in inpatient facilities, foster care, residential facilities, and juvenile detention. These supports would typically be in concert with deeper systems involvement
 - iii. When youth are involved in multiple systems or have complex needs, often coordination to meet their needs is complex. Addressing the needs of youth require broad flexible approaches and solutions. Too often, systems have cookie cutter approaches in services. The unique needs of youth with complex needs should involve innovative and flexible approaches with all systems engaged in one comprehensive approach to ensure the youth's success.
 - b. Proposed Solution should address**
 - i. What is the specific design of the solution?
 - ii. How will the design partner with caregiver(s), probation, school, and community connections to navigate the care management of child(ren)?
 - iii. How does the solution recognize the importance of non-traditional services and cover the cost of mentoring, alternative therapies, tutoring, and other services that fall outside of the traditional healthcare or child welfare services?
 - iv. What, if any, evidence-based practices are included in the solution/model?
 - v. What is the proposed financing model for this solution?
 - vi. Are you currently providing this service in any other state/jurisdiction, and if so, please provide data outcomes for the past 24-months, as well as references for the state/jurisdiction that we may be able to contact?
 - vii. What is the intended duration of the proposed solution?
3. Family Preservation
- a. Challenge**
 - i. Nebraska has a strong focus on prevention and the need to support children and families in the community as families face difficulties and before these difficulties turn to crisis. As we continue to serve children and their families in their communities, we have seen a growing increase in Alternative Response (AR) cases that are designed to be serviced based and there are no findings to be associated with the AR case.
 - ii. With the growing number of AR intakes there are limited resources and capacity of our team to assist the family with service navigation and safety mitigation.
 - b. Proposed Solution should address**
 - i. How are services designed to stabilize the crisis which put children at imminent risk for out-of-home placement, and keep the child, family, and community safe by defusing the ongoing risk and safety factors?
 - ii. How will the solution target parents with severe mental health illness and/or cognitive disabilities to ensure that the needs of the children are able to be met?
 - iii. What is your approach to Safety Management Services which are intended to mitigate present and impending danger by restoring families

in crisis to an acceptable level of functioning, enhance child safety and prevent unnecessary placement of children into out of home care by ensuring compliance with an in-home safety plan?

- iv. What would Wrap-Around services entail that would provide much-needed support to families in crisis and to vulnerable children that would support safe and stable families, as well as facilitate early reunification and/or permanency for children in care?
- v. What, if any, evidence-based practices are included in the solution/model?
- vi. What is the proposed financing model for this solution?
- vii. Are you currently providing this service in any other state/jurisdiction, and if so, please provide data outcomes for the past 12-months, as well as references for the state/jurisdiction that we may be able to contact?
- viii. What is the intended duration of the proposed solution?

Form A

Vendor Contact Sheet

Request for Information: RFI Innovative Child and Family Well-Being Solutions

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:	
Vendor Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

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:	
Vendor Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	