

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

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Request for Applications (RFA) for Safe House in Bernalillo County

The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Division is releasing this Request for Applications (RFA) to identify an Applicant to provide Safe House services to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) survivors in Bernalillo County. The purpose of this RFA is to select one Applicant who will become the service provider for the Safe House program. The following Request for Applications (RFA) will document the Applicant's interest and assess initial feasibility to serve as the Safe House provider.

If selected, the applicant agrees to the following: becoming a vendor with the Behavioral Health Collaborative's Administrative Services Organization (ASO), currently Falling Colors, Inc.; execute an annual Scope of Work (SOW) via the ASO; and submit invoices with supporting documentation for reimbursement to the ASO on a monthly basis. The intended term of the provider agreement will occur on a year-to-year basis.

Safe House Description

Housed under CYFD BHS New or Innovative Programs, this Safe House program will deliver trauma responsive, supportive, gender competent services for up to twelve (12) DMST survivors between the ages of fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) years on a twenty-four (24) hour a day basis in a secure and undisclosed facility location identified by CYFD. Services will include individual and group therapeutic behavioral health interventions, case management, and referrals to appropriate community partners. Supervision must be provided in accordance with NMAC 7.8.3 Regulations Governing Residential Shelter Care Facilities for Children, which requires supervision at all times by monitoring the whereabouts and activities of children in order to ensure health, safety, and welfare. This includes maintaining an active license with the CYFD BHS Licensing and Certification Authority (LCA) and compliance with applicable regulatory requirements pursuant to the type of licensure issued per NMAC 7.8.3.10 to 7.8.3.81.

Need

From 2019-2021, utilizing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) with children's facility-based shelters and Juvenile Justice Services involved populations, CYFD BHS determined that approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of all youth screened had a possible risk

of being trafficked, and that approximately nineteen percent (19%) of all youth screened had a clear concern of being a survivor of DMST. As CYFD BHS expands statewide implementation of DMST training, the use of the CSE-IT screening tool, and internal policies and procedures, more cases are being identified. There is a clear need for a comprehensive continuum of supports throughout New Mexico for young people who are survivors of DMST.

Program Overview

CYFD BHS announces the availability of up to Four Hundred Thousand dollars and no cents (\$400,000) for initial planning and training with CYFD (no direct services) in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 (from contract execution through June 30, 2022). Allocation for SFY 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) is up to Eight Hundred Thousand dollars and no cents (\$800,000) for the purpose of start-up, program development, and implementation of a New or Innovative Program to address the safety and therapeutic needs of youth who are transitioning from involvement with DMST and moving forward with healing. Direct service implementation will begin once the identified facility renovations are complete, anticipated for SFY23 Q2 or Q3.

CYFD BHS is seeking providers who are licensed, or willing to become licensed, under New or Innovative Programs through the CYFD BHS LCA. This includes ensuring that procedures, forms, and training are in regulatory compliance and in accordance with BHS contract requirements for the target population.

The purpose of this RFA is to identify an Applicant capable of providing services to DMST survivors in a state-maintained facility located in a secure and undisclosed location to maintain a safe environment for staff and residents. All services other than building maintenance are expected to be managed by the Applicant. Services include security, therapeutic interventions, nutrition, day-to-day support, education, transportation, daily housekeeping, and access to or provision of medical and behavioral health care.

The facility will support up to twelve (12) young people between fourteen to eighteen (14-18) years of age who reside or are identified in Bernalillo County. All eligible youth, regardless of gender identity, shall have access to the program. Referrals may be made by Local and State law enforcement, CYFD Protective Services Division, CYFD Juvenile Justice Services Division, CYFD Behavioral Health Services Division and Community partners.

Survivors of DMST must be supported through intensive, timely, comprehensive, and trauma-responsive behavioral health services. The selected Applicant will provide a strengths-based, trauma-focused approach by utilizing alternative therapeutic approaches, such as yoga, equine therapy, art therapy, etc.), along with substance misuse programing, in combination with the use of evidence-based interventions, such as Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), or Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), etc.). The selected Applicant will also ensure that provision of trauma responsive behavioral health services is provided by licensed

clinicians and/or staff trained to meet and fulfill fidelity in the specific modalities. These services shall focus on reestablishing and reintegrating youth to a safe and supportive environment while connecting them with available supports when returning to the community.

This RFA seeks programming that embodies consistency, clear expectations, flexibility, and reliability in allowing these youth to build trust and to develop and strengthen protective factors to promote success. The selected Applicant must demonstrate its capacity to provide emergency housing within the identified facility for youth immediately upon referral and acceptance. Attention must be focused on safety and the high risk of runaway behavior that often occurs in the days immediately following acceptance into the program. Considering that these youth have left circumstances by which traumatic bonding most likely occurred, the program design should incorporate the premise that progress may be non-linear. The selected Applicant will be expected to participate with CYFD BHS and national experts for best practices related to serving this population through the Safe House program.

RFA RESPONSE

Responses to this RFA will allow CYFD BHS to select an Applicant to provide the Safe House program. If selected, the Applicant agrees to enter into a contract with CYFD BHS through an identified Administrative Services Organization (ASO) for contracting, invoicing and billing.

For general questions about Safe House or the application process, please contact at Elizabeth Hamilton at elizabethj.hamilton@state.nm.us or Bee Chavez at BeAnna.Chavez@state.nm.us.

I. Jurisdiction and Applicant Information

Viable Applicants include community providers that demonstrate the capabilities and expertise to serve this population.

- a. Identify the Applicant for this program.
- b. Indicate a primary point of contact for the Applicant, including a full name, title, phone, email, and organizational affiliation.
- c. Provide a description of the Applicant agency, including general information about the organization's role in the community and the type of services currently and historically provided.
- d. Confirm the Applicant's ability to receive Medicaid reimbursement from each New Mexico Managed Care Organization.
- e. Attach regulatory compliance documents for any current and formerly licensed and/or certified services (in or outside New Mexico) for the past three years. Regulatory documents include survey reports, investigations, and any disciplinary actions taken (revocation, suspension, denial, settlement agreement, etc.).

II. Target Population

This Safe House program's target population is sexually exploited youth fourteen to eighteen (14-18) years of age who either reside in Bernalillo County or are identified in Bernalillo County at the time of their prospective admission.

- a. Provide a summary of the Applicant's history and interest in serving this population, specifically indicate if the Applicant previously implemented a Safe House or similar program.
- b. How will this program meet Bernalillo County's needs for DMST survivors?
- c. Discuss the dynamic of DMST, treatment, and supports required for the survivor.
- d. Summarize risk and resilience factors for this population.

III. Programmatic Design

Discuss the programmatic design that will be implemented in the Safe House.

- a. Describe how the Applicant will provide a strengths-based, evidence supported milieu to DMST survivors.
- b. Describe how the Applicant will provide mental health and substance misuse counseling/treatment within the program that includes trauma responsive services.
 - i. Discuss how this treatment will address the etiology, presentation, and treatment of complex trauma symptoms typical in this population (i.e. Alternative therapeutic approaches, such as yoga, equine and art therapy, etc., along with substance misuse programming and in combination with the use of evidence-based interventions such as TF-CBT, ART, EMDR, DBT, etc.)
- c. Describe how the Applicant will provide access to intensive case management services such as Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS) or High-Fidelity Wraparound to survivors.
- d. Describe how the Applicant will provide access to trauma responsive medical care to survivors. Be specific in describing the special medical needs of this population and how they will be met.
- e. Describe how the Applicant will leverage interpersonal relationships to foster resiliency for survivors.
- f. Describe how the Applicant will provide gender informed, gender fluid and culturally informed care to survivors.
- g. Describe how the Applicant will provide or access life skills and job training to survivors.
- h. If the Applicant plans to subcontract with or establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with collaborative partners to provide any of the above-mentioned survivor needs, discuss how sub-contractors will be identified and the purpose of the sub-contractor or (MOU). If partners are identified prior to response submission identify them.
- i. Describe how the Applicant will provide access to appropriate educational programs for youth in this setting.
- j. Describe how the Applicant will respond to emergency referrals during non-business hours and facilitate a safe and trauma-responsive experience for emergency intakes.

IV. Program Safety and Security

- a. Describe the safety measures that the Applicant will take to provide survivors with a secure environment to include physical, cyber security and awareness regarding communication between clients and traffickers.
- b. Describe how the Applicant will engage with survivors and provide support during the high-risk period immediately after leaving a trafficker.
- c. Describe how the agency will prevent further recruitment into DMST from taking place within the Safe House.

V. Collaborative Partners

Providing services to DMST survivors will require partnership and collaboration from community stakeholders.

- a. Describe how the Applicant will collaborate and team with:
 - i. Schools (at various levels of youths' needs, from remedial testing and services through GED/high school diploma, and college preparation)
 - ii. Religious organizations
 - iii. Vocational training providers, including internship and apprenticeship programs,
 - iv. Life skills providers (banking, budgeting, driver education, independent living, safe use of computers and internet).

VI. Implementation Plan

CYFD BHS intends that the program will begin accepting referrals in SFY23 Q2/Q3, following completion of renovations at the identified facility. Prior to accepting referrals, the selected Applicant will participate with CYFD BHS on program planning and training. CYFD is working with establishing contracts with national DMST experts to provide Technical Assistance (TA) for training and support.

- a. Include the Applicant's detailed timeline for implementation.
- b. Describe required qualifications for the Applicant's director, clinical team members, shift supervisors, and direct care staff. Include number of licensed behavioral health clinicians.
- c. Provide an organizational chart.
- d. Describe training that the Applicant will provide to prospective staff to clearly understand the experiences of youth who have been involved in DMST. Training should include, but not be limited to:
 - i. Trauma responsive care,
 - ii. Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking,
 - iii. Child abuse and neglect reporting,
 - iv. Emergency and disaster planning,

- v. First Aid and CPR,
- vi. Suicide prevention,
- vii. Substance use and dependence,
- viii. Harm reduction,
- ix. Strengths based milieu,
- x. Youth engagement and boundaries, and
- xi. Include description of other trainings that staff will receive.

VII. Performance Measures

Indicate agreement to incorporate, at minimum, the following performance measures into this program, to include tracking and reporting, if selected:

- a. Admission criteria will be created by the Applicant and CYFD BHS after the selection process is complete.
- b. During the intake process, a Safety Plan will be created for each youth that addresses any immediate physical, emotional, or mental health needs that staff are trained to implement. The Safety Plan will be reviewed and updated weekly, or more frequently as needed.
- c. Within forty-eight (48) hours of admission, all youth will receive a comprehensive needs assessment and a medical evaluation by a provider who understand the physical and mental trauma the youth has gone through. No later than five (5) days following admission, a separate wellness exam will be conducted by a specialist who understands sexual trauma to address Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and reassure the individual of physical health status.
- d. Within fourteen (14) days of admission, all youth must begin the process of evaluation for education level and needs.
- e. Seventy-five percent (75%) of youth admitted to the Safe House will be discharged from the Safe House to a Least Restrictive Setting as defined by the team working with the individual, to include youth voice and choice.

VIII. Required Reporting

- a. Indicate agreement to comply with the following requirements, if selected:
 - i. Provide monthly reporting of data inclusive of outcome measures, and service provision information to CYFD BHS Program Manager via the identified invoice platform.
 - ii. Participate in an evaluation program, to be completed either by a third party designated by CYFD BHS.
 - iii. Ongoing program quality assurance, monitoring, and/or audits by CYFD BHS.

IX. Provisional Budget for the Safe House

- a. Submit a copy of the agency's most recent financial statements.
- b. Complete and submit the budget attachment within the following parameters:

- i. Budgetary allocation is up to Four Hundred Thousand dollars and no cents (\$400,000) in SFY 2022 for initial planning and training with CYFD (no direct services). Allocation for SFY 2023 is up to Eight Hundred Thousand dollars and no cents (\$800,000) for start-up, program development and implementation. Direct service implementation will begin once the identified facility renovations are complete, anticipated for SFY23 Q2 or Q3.
- ii. The funds allocated for this program are not intended to cover all the costs of providing services. Utilize the second sheet of the budget template to demonstrate how the entire budget will be covered in a braided funded model.
- iii. Any equipment the vendor purchases with CYFD funding will remain the property of the CYFD Safe House.

The deadline to submit applications is 5:00 PM MST, Friday, May 13, 2022. Submit completed applications electronically to: BeAnna Chavez beanna.chavez@state.nm.us.

There will be an information session on 11:00am – 12:00 PM MST, April 26, 2022. CYFD will be presenting on the RFA. Time will be allocated at the end of the presentation to answer questions. Please contact Elizabeth Hamilton at elizabethj.hamilton@state.nm.us and Bee Chavez at BeAnna.Chavez@state.nm.us to register in advance for this Zoom session.