****

**STATE OF INDIANA**

**Request for Information 22-71662**

**Indiana Department of Administration**

**On Behalf of the**

**The Department of Mental Health and Addiction**

**of the Family and Social Services Administration**

**Solicitation For:**

**Partnerships to Place Mental Health Professionals in Existing Pediatric Health Systems**

**Response Due Date:**

**June 3, 2022**

**by 3:00 PM Eastern Time**

Jay Chaudhary, Director

Division of Mental Health and Addiction

402 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 22-71662**

# INTRODUCTION

This is a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) on behalf of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) of the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) regarding the State’s interest in identifying potential partners to join with the State to fund the placement of mental health professionals in the pediatric provider network of said partners.

It is the intent of DMHA to solicit responses to this Request for Information in accordance with the specifications contained in this document and associated attachments. Neither this RFI nor any response (proposal) submitted hereto is to be construed as a legal offer.

# BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE of the RFI

# Mental health among youth and adolescents is a crisis both in Indiana and nationally. Among children, suicide and emergency room visits for self-inflicted injuries have increased in recent years at an alarming level. Finding avenues to connect young Hoosiers to mental health professionals is more than a need – it is an emergency.

# One potential path to connecting the youth of our State with qualified mental health services is to integrate those services into existing pediatric networks already serving the State’s children.

# DMHA is interested in learning about existing, large pediatric providers interested in partnership with the State to integrate mental health professionals in their networks. In order to maximize the impact of this partnership, the State is soliciting proposals only from Respondents who:

1. Have existing, pediatric provider networks serving children who reside in seven (7) or more counties in the State; and
2. Will commit to matching State investment on a one-to-one basis with cash (no in-kind matches will be permitted).

# This RFI is an opportunity for qualified providers to identify and for the State to gauge interest and potentially explore future grant making. The State does not anticipate issuing a solicitation as a result of this RFI

# RESPONSE Content

Respondents should submit responses to the RFI which answer the following questions (in a Word or PDF format). This information will facilitate future discussions with the State, if any. The State is under no obligation to respond to, or conduct discussions with, any response to this RFI.

1. What is your present pediatric network in the State of Indiana? Approximately how many children do you serve annually? What is the geographic distribution of your providers? Of your patients?
2. What are your present pediatric mental health offerings?
3. What do you propose adding with State support? What types and numbers of professionals and support staff? What types of evidence-based treatments and assessments?
4. How will your proposed offerings (question 3 above) integrate with your present network (question 1 above)? What is the timeline for roll-out?
5. How will you measure and improve the program over time?
6. What is the budget for your proposed program? Can you commit to funding 50% or more of the total cost with cash support (*i.e.* not in-kind support).

# RFI TIMELINE

The following timeline is only an illustration of this RFI process. The dates associated with each step are not to be considered binding.

***Anticipated RFI Dates:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Date** |
| Issuance of RFI | May 3, 2022 |
| Questions due Using Attachment A | May 20, 2022 |
| Answers to Questions Posted | May 27, 2022 |
| Due Date for Submissions | June 3, 2022 or before |

Please note: DMHA is interested in receiving proposals as soon as possible so it may begin discussions with qualified and interested partners. Accordingly, it reserves the right to engage with Respondents prior to the due date of June 3. However, responding sooner will neither advantage nor disadvantage any Respondent as there is not a fixed or finite amount of money contemplated for this potential grant-making program: DMHA wants to learn about *all* qualified partners to help design the program. Any response received on or before June 3, 2022 will be reviewed and considered.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFI prior to the due date for submissions, an addendum will be posted on the IDOA website.

# QUESTION / INQUIRY PROCESS

All questions/inquiries must be submitted in writing via email using Attachment A, Questions and Answers Template, by the deadline of May 20, 2022 by 3:00PM ET to Jay.Chaudhary@fssa.in.gov. The email subject line should contain the following phrase:

“REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 22-71662 QUESTION AND INQUIRIES.”

Following the question/inquiry due date, DMHA will compile a list of the questions/inquiries submitted by all Respondents, if any. The responses will be posted to the IDOA website as soon as possible. Only answers posted on the IDOA website will be considered official and valid by the State. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any State employee.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFI, or if additional information is necessary for a clearer interpretation of provisions of this RFI prior to the due date for submissions, an addendum will be posted on the IDOA website

# CLARIFICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The State reserves the right to request clarifications on information submitted to the State. The State also reserves the right to conduct discussions, either oral or written, with the Respondents. These discussions could include requests for additional information, requests for cost information or technical requirements response attachment revision, etc. Additionally, in conducting discussions, the State may use information derived from the responses submitted by competing Respondents only if the identity of the Respondent providing the information is not disclosed to others. The State will provide equivalent information to all Respondents which have been chosen for discussions.

Any information gathered through oral discussions must be confirmed in writing.

# CONFIDENTIALITY

It is important to note that all information submitted in Respondent’s proposals to this RFI will be kept confidential and will not be made available to the public unless this RFI does not result in the release of a solicitation or grant making program at a later date. If a solicitation results from this RFI, then the information contained in the proposal submissions for this RFI must be made available to the public once the resulting solicitation has been awarded and the protest period has ended.

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 et seq., and, after award, the entire solicitation file may be viewed and copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors.

Please note citing “Confidential” on an entire section is not sufficient. The Public Access Counselor (PAC) provides guidance on APRA. Respondents are encouraged to read guidance from the PAC on this topic as this is the guidance IDOA follows:

* [18-INF-06; Redaction of Public Procurement Documents Informal Inquiry](https://www.in.gov/pac/informal/files/18-INF-06.pdf)

Respondents claiming a statutory exception to the APRA must indicate so on a separate attachment labeled “**Confidential Documentation Listing**”. That document should include the following information:

* List all documents where claiming a statutory exemption to the APRA;
* Specify which statutory exception of APRA that applies for each document;
* Provide a description explaining the manner in which the statutory exception to the APRA applies for each document.

**When claiming confidential information, respondents should submit two versions of their response:**

1. A confidential version (for the State’s review and evaluation)
   1. Confidential Information must be clearly marked in a separate folder.
2. A redacted version (for public records requests)

If the Respondent does not identify the statutory exception, the Procurement Division will not consider the submission confidential. The State also reserves the right to seek the opinion of the PAC for guidance if the State has doubts the cited exception is applicable.

Prices are **NOT** confidential information.

# RESPONSE SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Firms interested in providing information to DMHA should submit responses via email to [Jay.Chaudhary@fssa.IN.gov](mailto:Jay.Chaudhary@fssa.IN.gov). responses must be received no later than June 3, 2022 **by 3:00PM ET.** The subject line of the email submission must clearly state the following:

**“RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 22-71662”**

Any information received after the due date and time may not be considered.

No more than one proposal per Respondent may be submitted.

The State accepts no obligations for costs incurred by Respondents in anticipation of being awarded a contract.