



**Kansas Department for Children and Families
Families First Prevention Services Act
Evidence Based Prevention Grants
Request for Information
(RFI)**

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Executive Summary

There is a need for partnerships alongside families in communities with local organizations, private providers, and other stakeholders to generate innovations alongside families to reduce the need for entry into foster care. On January 31, 2019 in Kansas, there were 7,351 children in foster care out of home placement with a monthly average of 328 children and youth entering care.

Passage of the [Family First Prevention Services Act](#) (FFPSA) is an opportunity which offers exciting possibilities for Kansas. The Act provides new options for states to use federal funds to help prevent placing children in foster care out of home placement by keeping them safe with family, offering services for a time limited period of 12 months. We look forward to concentrating and amplifying foster care prevention resources through grant awards for emerging and evidenced-based prevention services, including specified mental health, substance abuse, parenting education programs and kinship navigator programs supported by the prevention clearinghouse. This RFI is to understand capacity in communities to provide evidenced based services to prevent the need for foster care and associated costs of administration of such prevention services.

Agency Overview

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) was established in 1937 as the State Welfare Office to participate in programs offered by the Federal Social Security Act and to establish programs for the care of the needy. In 1968, the State Legislature provided for the transfer of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Education Department to the State Welfare Office. In 1973, the State Legislature, pursuant to the Governor's Reorganization order, created the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). In 2012, pursuant to the Governor's Reorganization order, healthcare services and associated administrative duties were removed from SRS and the agency was renamed the Department for Children and Families (DCF). Today, DCF serves more than 500,000 Kansans. For more information, visit www.dcf.ks.gov.

DCF serves children and families by providing services in offices and at access points located throughout the state. DCF is comprised of Economic and Employment Services (EES), Prevention and Protection Services (PPS), Rehabilitation Services (RS) and Child Support Services (CSS). Services are provided directly by the agency or through contracted providers and/or community partnerships. Work encompasses services to children, to families with children and to vulnerable adults or adults who have special needs. The overarching emphasis is to secure a safe, permanent and self-reliant environment for the individuals and families who are the agency's clients.

DCF's PPS division is the lead program in the Request for Information and responsible for administering the following programs for the State of Kansas:

- Child protection services (CPS) programs review child abuse and/or neglect investigations, assessments of non-abuse/neglect situations and make recommendations for family services.
- Child and family preservation services, family services, reintegration services, foster care services and adoption services are provided through state contractors.
- Independent Living (IL) programs are Kansas Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) purpose is to assist youth who have experienced out-of-home (OOH) placement in foster care, the transition to adulthood often occurs without the support of family or identified resources in transitioning adulthood.

Project Overview

Introduction and Purpose of the RFI

The department seeks information on interest and capacity of agencies and organizations to provide emerging and evidenced based prevention programs to families with children at imminent risk of placement in foster care. Children and youth may enter foster care related to various presenting situations. This RFI aspires to identify the array of programs that will achieve outcomes of preventing the need for entry into foster care out of home placement. For more information on reasons for entry into foster care for Kansas children and youth, visit http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/FY2019DataReports/FCAD_Summary/RemovalsByPrimaryReasonFY2019.pdf

PPS requests a non-binding; rough order of magnitude estimate for the length and cost of the proposed services. DCF staff, within various divisions, intend to use the information from this RFI to educate themselves on the viable vendors and options available in order to fulfill the purpose of foster care/ out of home care prevention. For more information on the number of children in care, visit http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/FY2019DataReports/FCAD_Summary/FACTSRemovalsExitsOOHSFY19.pdf

Three community conversation meetings regarding Families First Prevention Services Act are planned for Salina March 19, Wichita March 20 and Olathe March 21 to provide information on the Act and initiate initial assessment of foster care prevention needs and opportunities for collaboration with other requirements in the Act. The meetings are 10 a.m. to 3p.m. Seating is limited and interested agencies may contact Pamela.Hahn@ks.gov.

Scope of Work

Programs will receive referrals from a local PPS Child Protection Specialist or program liaison. Program boundaries or service area may be any jurisdiction, collection of jurisdictions or smaller community definition such as school district or existing population parameters of an organization.

PPS will make a referral to the program consistent with the family's needs related to the program's evidence-based intervention focus when a child is at imminent risk of entering foster care.

Families may be eligible for this prevention and treatment services when:

A child or youth placed with a parent who PPS determines is at imminent risk of foster care and out of home placement but can be safe at home with prevention services.

1. A child or youth who exited foster care to adoption or permanent custodianship or guardianship, or who was reunified with parents is at risk of entering foster care and out of home placement.
2. A child or youth or youth in placement with relative caregivers.
3. A child or youth living with parents but needs to be with a relative caregiver as a guardian with prevention services
4. Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care and out of home placement.

Prevention Services in this scope are allowable for up to 12 months with no limit how many times a child or family can receive prevention and treatment services if the child continues to be at risk of entry into foster care out of home placement. Evidenced Based programs in mental health, substance use, parent skill building and kinship navigation in initial prevention clearinghouse notice <https://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/ACYF-CB-PI-18-09-Attachment-C-Clearinghouse-Initial-Criteria.pdf> will be considered as well as emerging or otherwise evidenced based approaches with impact to prevent entry into foster care. Program outcomes will be developed and client level data reporting or tracking for each child or youth served through this program is required and with service dates. Reporting requirements have not yet been developed.

Confidentiality

All information included in this RFI is confidential and only for the recipient's knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party.

RFI Process

How to deliver the answer

Send the response and any supporting documentation by email to Linda.Cambron@ks.gov

Include within the response:

1. Company name
Company address
Contact person responsible for answering this RFI
Contact person's telephone number
Contact person's email address
2. All information requested to support the scope of work
3. A detailed outline of estimated implementation time and costs. Please include in these costs any initial start-up and on-going estimated costs of operations.
4. Cost requested per day per resident.
5. Any additional information your organization would like to share regarding your services available.

RFI Schedule

The timeline for this RFI is as follows:

RFI release date *March 5, 2019*

Submittal date of RFI responses *April 3, 2019*

RFI Coordinator

Linda Cambron
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Liabilities of Agency

This RFI is only a request for information about potential services and no contractual obligation on behalf of the Kansas Department for Children and Families shall arise from the RFI process. This RFI does not commit the Kansas Department for Children and Families to pay any cost incurred in the preparation or submission of any response to the RFI.

Confidentiality & RFI Ownership

RFI Ownership: All responses to the RFI will become the property of the Kansas Department for Children and Families and will not be returned.

Open Records Act: Under the Kansas Open Records Act (reference K.S.A. 45-215) all materials received or created by DCF are considered ***public records***. These records include but are not limited to proposal submittals, agreement documents, contract work product, or other information submitted by an applicant to DCF.

The State of Kansas Open Records Act requires public records be promptly disclosed by DCF upon request unless those records are excluded in accordance with K.S.A. 45-221 (27)n (Specifications for competitive bidding, until the specifications are officially approved by the agency).

Marking Records Exempt From Disclosure (Protected, Confidential, or Proprietary): If you believe any of the documents you are submitting to DCF as part of your informational material are exempt from disclosure due to patent or proprietary issues, you can request they not be released. To do so, identify which areas are confidential and the reason why.

Only the specific records or portions of records properly identified will be protected and withheld for notice. All other records will be considered fully disclosable upon request.

By submitting a response to this RFI, Respondent acknowledges this obligation; and also acknowledges DCF will have no obligation or liability to the proposer if the records are disclosed.

If you have any questions about disclosure of the records you submit with your informational material, please contact the RFI Coordinator.