

REQUEST FOR IDEAS (RFI)

Mid-Level Residential placement

This document is a Request for Ideas (RFI) about how the City of Philadelphia (City) contracts with providers for Mid-Level placement services. The City will use the information from this RFI as the basis for further discussion and potentially a Request for Proposals (RFP). Entities responding to this RFI should read this document carefully and follow the guidance for submitting ideas.

Cherelle Parker, Mayor
Kimberly Ali, Commissioner, Department of Human Services
The City of Philadelphia

Response Calendar

Informational Session (Virtual)	August 20, 2024 9:30 am– 10:30 am (Local Philadelphia Time) PLEASE JOIN HERE
Deadline for questions, requests for clarification, or requests for additional information	August 26, 2024, before 5:00 pm (Local Philadelphia Time)
City Responds to Questions	September 3, 2024
Responses to RFI Due	September 10, 2024, before 5:00 pm (Local Philadelphia Time)

I. PURPOSE OF REQUEST FOR IDEAS

A. Introduction (Administrative Overview)

Philadelphia’s Department of Human Services (DHS) is conducting this Request for Ideas to gain deeper insights into the service landscape and its offerings that support dependent and justice-involved youth. This information will inform the development of subsequent Request for Proposal language, aiming to enhance the quality-of-service responses. DHS is particularly interested in insights that foster collaboration among local or national organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and educational institutions, aiming to build a comprehensive network of support and resources for dependent and delinquent shared case juveniles.

This Request for Ideas (RFI) seeks to explore different programming options that can be implemented to create various levels of care and support, ensuring appropriate alternatives to secure detention for juveniles. Our aim is to develop a comprehensive service model specifically tailored to this diverse population, enhancing rehabilitation, and reducing reliance on the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Service Center (PJJSC) for juveniles who do not require secure supervision. Through this model, we intend to implement a strategy that promotes successful community reintegration and ensures long-term positive outcomes for dependent and justice-involved youth.

B. Background

Philadelphia DHS recognizes that dependent and justice-involved youth have complex needs that require comprehensive and multifaceted approaches to care. These youth often come from backgrounds marked by trauma, instability, and complex behavioral health needs. Their experiences may include histories of abuse and neglect, substance abuse, running away, delinquency, and truancy. Consequently, addressing these needs effectively demands more than a one-size-fits-all solution; it necessitates a continuum of care that spans various levels of support and intervention.

In accordance with the performance standards and in adherence to Pennsylvania's 55 Pa. Code Ch. 3800, DHS utilizes the following residential levels of care for dependent justice-involved youth whose needs cannot be supported in less structured environments:

1. **Institutional Care Services (ICS)** This category specifically denotes a type of residential setting for youth between the ages of 10-20 years of age, who have been adjudicated delinquent, and may have histories of abuse and neglect, substance abuse, running away, and truancy. The target population often requires behavioral health treatment, rehabilitation and special educational services and supports
2. **Mid-Level Residential Setting Facility (ICS-MLR)**- This category specifically denotes a type of residential setting within the ICS service category that offers a mid-level of supervision and support. It is designed for youth who may still require a structured environment but do not need the highest level of supervision and security provided by secure detention facilities.

DHS is challenged in serving youth of all genders, aged 10-20 through its ICS-MLR service level. These youth are adjudicated delinquent and have complex behavioral health histories, often facing higher offense criminal charges. Our current residential care approach is acknowledged for its efforts, yet it is not fully meeting the diverse and complex needs of these individuals.

We are seeking to learn from local and national leaders about alternatives to detention for justice-involved youth in this demographic. We aim to garner ideas and insights that can inform our approach to developing a comprehensive service model specifically tailored to this diverse population. Our goal is to enhance rehabilitation and reduce dependence on the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center (PJJSC) for youth who do not require secure detention. This includes providing supervision and treatment aligned with principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice and Trauma-Informed Care.

II. REQUEST FOR IDEAS (RFI)

DHS seeks information and ideas to understand the best method for providing alternatives to secure detention at the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center (PJJS), which includes the following criteria:

- **Evidence-Based or Informed:** submissions should be grounded in evidence-based practices with proven success rates. Ideas should include data or case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of the suggested approaches.
- **Gender-Specific Evidence-Based Programming-** suggestions should include programs tailored to address the distinct needs of juveniles, ensuring that interventions are sensitive to the specific needs of all genders. These programs should respect and support the diverse gender identities and expressions of all juveniles, providing equitable access to resources and support.
- **Family Engagement Opportunities-** suggestions should emphasize opportunities for family involvement and support throughout the rehabilitation process.
- **Behavioral Health Services-** ideas should integrate comprehensive behavioral health services, including mental health assessments, individual and group therapy, substance abuse treatment, and crisis intervention. Emphasis should be placed on accessible and ongoing support.
- **Educational and Vocational Programming-** ideas should offer strong educational or vocational training opportunities, helping juveniles to continue their academic education or develop job skills. This might involve partnerships with local schools, vocational training centers, and online learning platforms.
- **Life Skills and Positive Youth Development-** suggestions should focus on teaching life skills and promoting positive youth development. This includes financial literacy, conflict resolution, decision-making skills, and leadership training.
- **Balanced and Restorative Justice Models -** submissions should incorporate balanced and restorative justice principles, offering opportunities for juveniles to understand the impact of their actions, make amends, and engage in community service or victim-offender mediation.
- **Trauma-Informed Care/Training-** ideas should ensure that all staff are trained in trauma-informed care and that programs are designed to address the traumatic experiences that many juveniles have faced. This includes creating a safe and supportive environment that fosters healing and resilience.
- **Gun Violence Prevention Programming-** submissions should include targeted interventions aimed at preventing gun violence among youth.
- **Reintegration and Aftercare Services-** alternatives must include comprehensive reintegration and aftercare services to support juveniles transitioning back into the community.
- **Grief/Loss Therapy-** submissions should include specialized therapy for juveniles dealing with grief and loss, helping them process their emotions and develop healthy coping mechanisms.

Responses should prioritize community-based interventions that provide supportive services within Philadelphia County, ensuring these alternatives are grounded in evidence-based or informed practices with proven success rates, supported by data or case studies demonstrating their effectiveness. Alternatives must be culturally competent and sensitive to the diverse backgrounds of the juveniles served, including understanding, and respecting cultural differences and ensuring programs are accessible and relevant to all. Additionally, responses should address how the suggested alternatives can be scaled to accommodate varying numbers of juveniles and sustained over time, considering funding, staffing, and long-term program evaluation.

DHS seeks ideas that leverage partnerships with local or national organizations, nonprofits, businesses, and educational institutions, emphasizing collaboration to create a network of support and resources to address the multifaceted needs of juveniles. Submissions are also encouraged to include innovative approaches and the use of technology to enhance program delivery and monitoring.

III. USE OF RESPONSES

The City does not intend to announce any further actions taken pursuant to this RFI. If any such announcements are made, at the sole discretion of the City, those announcements will be posted with the original RFI. At the City's sole discretion, the City may issue an RFP. The City will notify Respondents to this RFI if an RFP has been posted on the City's website. The City will notify Respondents if additional information is required in order to evaluate responses to this RFI. Absent such follow-up from the City, we respectfully request that Respondents refrain from requesting additional information on the status of this RFI. In order to protect the integrity of the City procurement process, City personnel will not respond to requests for additional information on the status or outcome of this RFI, other than as described above.

IV. HOW TO SUBMIT RESPONSES

Respondents should submit their responses electronically (hard copies are unacceptable) in MS Word or Adobe PDF format to DHSRFP@phila.gov.

Responses are due September 10, 2024, before 5:00 pm, Local Philadelphia Time.

Note: Response document(s) are limited to 15 MB and preferably submitted as a single document; if necessary, please submit multiple files or zip/compress the file(s).

V. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Respondents shall treat all information obtained from the City which is not generally available to the public as confidential and/or proprietary to the City. Respondents shall

exercise all reasonable precautions to prevent any information derived from such sources from being disclosed to any other person. No other party, including any Respondent, is intended to be granted any rights hereunder.

VI. RIGHTS AND OPTIONS RESERVED

In addition to the rights reserved elsewhere in this RFI, the City reserves and may, in its sole discretion, exercise any or more of the following rights and options with respect to this RFI if the City determines that doing so is in the best interest of the City:

1. Decline to consider any response to this RFI (“response”); cancel the RFI at any time; elect to proceed or not to proceed with discussions or presentations regarding its subject matter with any Respondent and with firms that do not respond to the RFI; to reissue the RFI or to issue a new RFI (with the same, similar or different terms);
2. Waive, for any response, any defect, deficiency or failure to comply with the RFI if, in the City’s sole judgment, such defect is not material to the response;
3. Extend the Submission Date/Time and/or to supplement, amend, substitute or otherwise modify the RFI at any time prior to the Submission Date/Time, by posting notice thereof on the City web page(s) where the RFI is posted;
4. Require, permit or reject amendments (including, without limitation, submitting information omitted), modifications, clarifying information, and/or corrections to responses by some or all Respondents at any time before or after the Submission Date/Time;
5. Require, request or permit, in discussion with any Respondent, any information relating to the subject matter of this RFI that the City deems appropriate, whether it was described in the response to this RFI;
6. Discontinue, at any time determined by the City, discussions with any Respondent or all Respondents regarding the subject matter of this RFI, and/or initiate discussions with any other Respondent or with vendors that did not respond to the RFI;
7. To conduct such investigations with respect to the financial, technical, and other qualifications of the Respondent as the City, in its sole discretion, deems necessary or appropriate;

8. Do any of the foregoing without notice to Respondents or others, except such notice as the City, in its sole discretion, may elect to post on the City web page(s) where this RFI is posted. This RFI and the process described are proprietary to the City and are for exclusive benefit of the City. Upon submission, responses to this RFI shall become the property of the City, which shall have unrestricted use thereof.

VII. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

By submitting a response to this RFI, Respondent acknowledges and agrees i) that the City is a “local agency” under and subject to the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law (the “Act”), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101-67.3104, as the Act may be amended from time to time; and ii) responses may be subject to public disclosure under the Act. In the event the City receives a request under the Act for information that a Respondent has marked as confidential, the City will use reasonable efforts to consult with Respondent regarding the response and, to the extent reasonably practicable, will give Respondent the opportunity to identify information that Respondent believes to be confidential proprietary information, a trade secret, or otherwise exempt from access under Section 708 of the Act. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this RFI, nothing in this RFI shall supersede, modify, or diminish in any respect whatsoever any of the City’s rights, obligations, and defenses under the Act, nor will the City be held liable for any disclosure of records, including information that the City determines in its sole discretion is a public record and/or information required to be disclosed under the Act.

VIII. RFI Contact Information for Questions or Requests for Clarification

All questions (see RFI Question Template Exhibit) and requests for clarification concerning this RFI must be in writing and submitted via email at DHSRFP@phila.gov, no later than 5:00 pm, Local Philadelphia Time, on Date August 26, 2024.

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Department of Human Services
Rita.Cairy@phila.gov

Responses to questions and requests for additional information shall be at the sole discretion of the City. Any additional information and/or responses to questions will be posted only on the City’s website at <https://www.phila.gov/departments/office-of-the-chief-administrative-officer/contract-opportunities-with-special-application-processes/>. No additional information and/or responses to questions will be sent by email. Nothing in this RFI shall create an obligation on the City to respond to a Respondent submitting a response.

The City may, in its sole discretion, issue addenda to this RFI containing responses to questions, clarifications of the RFI, revisions to the RFI or any other matters that the City deems appropriate. Addenda, if any, will be posted on the City's website at <https://www.phila.gov/departments/office-of-the-chief-administrative-officer/contract-opportunities-with-special-application-processes/>. It is the Respondent's responsibility to monitor this site for Addenda and to comply with any new information.

Appendix A: RFI Response Template

1. General Information

1.1 Firm Name:
1.2 Street Address:
1.3 City, State, Zip:
1.4 Primary Business:
1.5 Point of Contact:

1.6 Title:
1.7 Phone:
1.8 Email:
1.9 Willing to make a presentation for City, if requested? Yes OR No
1.10 Parent Company (PC) Name:
1.11 PC Street Address:
1.12 PC City, State, ZIP:

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Please describe your solution and how your organization would address some or all of the points outlined in the RFI.
- 2.2 Please include proposed uses, capacity, and/or services proposed to be delivered.
- 2.3 Please provide a comprehensive list of assets your solution would use, repurpose, or want to access. Please provide additional information you would need about the assets in order to facilitate use (this can be one, some or all) and should include need for modification to existing structures.
- 2.4 Does your solution require additional in-kind City resources (e.g. staff time, technology, access to other city-owned assets, engineers, inspectors, etc.)?
- 2.5 Please provide a list of what you view as the City's optimal responsibilities versus what your organization would provide?
- 2.6 Explain how your proposed solutions might generate revenue? What types of revenue generation models would you propose? If you have had prior experience working with local governments to monetize their assets, provide examples describing the assets and the amount of annual revenue generated.
- 2.7 If your solution is for in-kind services for use of the assets, provide information about the low-cost or no-cost value it could provide to the city in exchange for assets
- 2.8 Explain how your proposed solution benefits the City and its residents?
- 2.9 Has your solution ever been implemented before? If yes, please list where your solution has been implemented and the results of each deployment.
- 2.10 Would you need to partner with any other organizations or firms to deliver your solution to Philadelphia? If so, do you need support identifying potential partner organizations?

- 2.11 Based on your understanding of the scope of this project, what challenges or areas of concern do you have?
- 2.12 What additional information should be included in this RFI?
- 2.13 What would the financial model of your proposal look like?
- 2.14 How would you describe your business/organization? (size, minority or women owned business, history)
- 2.15 Please propose a timeline for the completion of the project.