



Request for Proposals

Treatment and Intervention for Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

RFP Posting: Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Deadline for Questions: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Submission Deadline: 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Estimated Award Decision/Notification: May 2017

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
One Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Contents

Definitions

The RFP at a Glance

Section 1: Why We Are Issuing this RFP

Section 2: What We Are Looking For

Section 3: Proposal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Section 4: How to Submit a Proposal

Section 5: How We Will Evaluate Your Proposal

Section 6: Contract Requirements for Successful Proposers

Definitions

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following capitalized words are defined as follows for purposes of this RFP:

1. Agreement: A contract negotiated between Allegheny County and the Successful Proposer to provide the Contract Services
2. Allegheny County: A home rule county and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): Crimes of a sexual nature committed against juvenile victims for financial or other economic reasons
4. Contract Services: The specific services which the Successful Proposer agrees to provide to the County in response to this RFP as more particularly described in the Scope of Services in the Agreement
5. DHS: [Allegheny County] Department of Human Services
6. Evidence-Informed: A concept or strategy designed and implemented using the best available research and practice knowledge
7. KIDS: Key Information and Demographic System (KIDS), the electronic case record for clients of the Allegheny County child welfare office
8. Proposal: A completed Response Form, with specified attachments, submitted in response to this RFP
9. Proposer: The individual, non-profit organization, or for-profit organization or business submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP
10. Response Form: The Word document in which Proposers respond to requested information about this RFP
11. RFP: Request for Proposals
12. Successful Proposer: The Proposer(s) selected by the County to provide the Contract Services
13. Trauma-Informed: An approach to care that recognizes the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the victim, as well as on the professionals who help them, and that creates opportunities for victims to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment
14. Victim-Centered: An approach that prioritizes the safety, privacy and well-being of the victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a nonjudgmental manner
15. YSP: Youth Support Partner, peer-to-peer mentor and advocate for youth receiving child welfare services. All YSPs have lived human services experience.

The RFP at a Glance

Purpose

Allegheny County, on behalf of its Department of Human Services' (DHS) child welfare office, is seeking Proposals from qualified Proposers to provide inpatient and outpatient treatment and intervention for youth identified by child welfare staff as victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Proposers may submit a Proposal to provide an inpatient program and/or outpatient services that meet the psychological, physical, legal and other needs of CSEC-involved youth. The inpatient program must be comprehensive and include CSEC treatment as well as residential services. The outpatient services may be evidence-informed therapy, drop-in services or other proposed programs. Proposers may identify partners with whom they will collaborate to meet all of the complex short- and long-term needs of CSEC-involved youth.

Award Details

DHS expects to enter into an Agreement with one or more Successful Proposer(s) to provide the Contract Services, with an option to renew at the County's discretion. The annual budget for the inpatient program will not exceed \$500,000 and the annual budget for outpatient services will not exceed \$200,000.

Who can apply

Individuals, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations or businesses may apply. DHS encourages two or more agencies to apply together under one Proposal to provide the full scope of services requested in this RFP. If two or more agencies partner together in submitting a Proposal, only one of the partnering agencies will enter into the Agreement.

What we don't want

We are not looking for CSEC screening of youth receiving child welfare services.

We are not looking for CSEC training for DHS staff.

For the inpatient program, we are not looking for a residential facility without a full package of comprehensive CSEC treatment services.

What's important to us

Proposed services should be evidence-informed, victim-centered and trauma-informed. The proposed services should be designed and implemented using the best available research and an approach that recognizes the impact of trauma on the victim and prioritizes the well-being of the victim.

Timeline

Deadline for Proposers to submit questions is Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

Proposals must be submitted by 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Proposers will be notified of their selection status by May 2017.

Who we are

On behalf of Allegheny County, DHS is the issuing office for this RFP.

DHS is the largest department of Allegheny County government and provides publicly-funded services to more than 200,000 people annually, in areas including child welfare, behavioral health, aging, intellectual disability, homelessness and community services.

More information about DHS is available at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/human-services/index.aspx>

The issuance of this RFP and the receipt of any Proposals does not obligate the County to enter into an Agreement. The County reserves the right at all times to reject any and all Proposals.

Section 1: Why We Are Issuing this RFP

National Context

Because exploiters typically target youth with histories of abuse and trauma, those living in poverty, those experiencing housing instability, and those who have poor educational outcomes, youth involved in the child welfare system are at particular risk of being victims of CSEC. Runaways are at even greater risk. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported that, nationally, one in five runaways were likely victims of sex trafficking in 2015, an increase from the previous year.

There are multiple pathways for victims to fall prey to sexual exploitation. According to an eight-city study conducted by the Urban Institute,¹ women and children enter the commercial sex industry due to economic need, family and peer encouragement, a need for social acceptance, and previous childhood trauma. Human trafficking, and particularly sexual exploitation of minors, has devastating consequences, including physical and psychological trauma, disease, worsened mental health and addiction, unwanted pregnancies, and social isolation.

Identifying victims of human trafficking of any age is a challenging task.² According to U.S. Department of State, less than one percent of victims are identified.³ Although most victims of sexual exploitation tend to be women and girls (according to Pittsburgh's FBI Field Office, about 80 percent are female), recent studies show that boys may be victimized more often than is reported and that the child welfare system is poorly equipped to work with male victims. LGBTQ youth also are particularly vulnerable. Research has shown that one in four LGBTQ youth will be forced out of their home. This underserved population lacks resources and is less likely to have a strong support network.

Allegheny County Context

On a state level, Pennsylvania is attempting to introduce new tools to screen and assess youth involved with the child welfare system for CSEC involvement, both to improve identification of youth who are victims and to comply with recent changes to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) which focus on sex trafficking of minors. Using these tools will be mandatory for all child welfare workers in Pennsylvania, including DHS.

DHS has taken several steps to combat CSEC in Allegheny County. Child welfare staff have convened a working group to address CSEC issues relevant to child welfare-involved youth. Child welfare staff also participate in the larger Western Pennsylvania Human Trafficking Coalition.

Additional steps that DHS has taken to improve its response to CSEC include:

- Revising existing policies in an attempt to allow for a prompter system response when potential victims of CSEC are identified.
- Working closely with the FBI and other criminal justice partners to identify victims.

¹ Urban Institute Report, 2014: http://www.urban.org/research/publication/estimating-size-and-structure-underground-commercial-sex-economy-eight-major-us-cities/view/full_report

² The US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/mpg/litreviews/CSECSexTrafficking.pdf>

³ California Human Trafficking Coalition: <http://www.caseact.org/learn/humantrafficking/>

- Rolling out in-depth, specialized CSEC training for child welfare staff.
- Hiring a Youth Support Partner (YSP) who is a CSEC survivor to provide peer support for CSEC-involved youth.
- Hiring a liaison to support child welfare caseworkers and supervisors in working with private investigators to conduct CSEC screenings and follow-up on incidents.
- Rolling out a pilot project for child welfare staff to screen youth for CSEC.
- Contracting with a local organization to more thoroughly assess youth whose screening indicated that they may be CSEC victims.

DHS has invested in these supports to assist child welfare staff in better identifying and assessing youth who are CSEC victims. The next step is development of treatment services for those youth who have been identified as victims. Through this RFP, DHS is seeking a Successful Proposer(s) to provide specialized, targeted services to CSEC victims.

Section 2: What We Are Looking For

DHS is soliciting Proposals from individuals, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations for inpatient and outpatient treatment and intervention services for youth identified by child welfare staff as potential victims of CSEC. DHS recognizes that there may be a variety of effective approaches to treatment and intervention for CSEC victims. Therefore, DHS is not seeking a specific model, but is interested in receiving Proposals from diverse Proposers to find the best strategy for the youth served.

2.1 Target Population

DHS anticipates that youth who need treatment will range from ages 13 through 21. Some youth in this population do not identify as being victims of CSEC. They may not view themselves as victims or they may blame themselves for their situation. This can present challenges for engaging and sustaining youth in effective treatment for their complex needs.

CSEC-involved youth have long- and short-term psychological, physical and legal needs. Some common examples include:⁴

- Psychological Needs
 - Depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Dissociative disorders and personality disorders resulting from trauma
 - Feelings of guilt, shame and worthlessness
 - Fear, anger, low self-esteem, boundary issues, suicidal ideation and issues with intimacy
 - Questions about sexual orientation/gender identity
 - Addressing these needs will require comprehensive, long-term, trauma-informed treatment
- Physical Needs
 - Injuries resulting from violence (e.g., broken bones, bruises, head trauma)

⁴ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority:
http://www.icjia.state.il.us/assets/pdf/researchreports/nsrhvst_101813.pdf

- Gastrointestinal problems, vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain, malnutrition, fertility issues, dental problems
- High risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV
- Pregnancy and complications from abortions
- Additional physical needs resulting from limited access to healthcare while being trafficked
- Legal Needs
 - Assistance in proving that they were trafficked and subsequent record expungement (e.g., prostitution offense)
 - Help getting visas for international victims
 - Help accessing public benefits

2.2 Service Types

The Successful Proposer(s) is expected to provide effective treatment and intervention to meet the needs of CSEC victims and that results in positive outcomes. Proposers may propose an inpatient program **and/or** outpatient services for CSEC victims. Proposers may identify partners with whom they will work to meet the complex short- and long-term needs of CSEC-involved youth. The Successful Proposer(s), whether providing an inpatient program, outpatient services, or both, should have experience working with victims of CSEC and human trafficking as well as experience working with a variety of systems, such as child welfare, juvenile/criminal justice legal advocates, and non-profits that work with vulnerable youth.

DHS currently has a pilot program designed to begin screening child welfare-involved youth for CSEC involvement. Youth whose screenings indicate that they may be CSEC victims will be referred to the current DHS provider for CSEC assessments. When assessments indicate that youth have been victims of CSEC, victims will be referred to the Successful Proposer(s) for the necessary intervention and treatment. DHS expects that a facility-based inpatient program will be appropriate for some CSEC victims, while outpatient services will meet the needs of others.

Inpatient Program

DHS is seeking a Successful Proposer to provide a comprehensive, facility-based, residential inpatient program that provides treatment and services for CSEC-involved youth. DHS anticipates that, at any given time, up to six youth may need inpatient treatment for approximately 90 days each.

Proposers may propose the evidence-informed, victim-centered, and trauma-informed model that they believe will best meet the needs of CSEC-involved youth in an effective inpatient program. Ideally, all treatment will be provided in-house. However, DHS anticipates that even a Proposer who provides most treatment in-house may need to work with outside partners to meet all the complex needs of referred youth.

Although DHS needs treatment for boys and transgender CSEC-involved youth, the proposed inpatient program may be for female youth only, if determined to be necessary by the Proposer. The residential facility may be located within or outside of Allegheny County. The inpatient program budget will not exceed \$500,000 annually. The staff-to-client ratio will be determined based on number of youth receiving treatment and their level of need. Staff would be required to have state licensure.

Outpatient Services

Other CSEC-involved youth needs may be met with outpatient services. Alternatively, youth may be referred to outpatient services after completing the inpatient program. DHS is seeking Successful Proposer(s) to provide evidence-informed therapy or other outpatient services to meet the psychological, physical, legal and other needs of youth. Outpatient services must have evidence suggesting their methods result in positive outcomes for CSEC-involved youth and may include individualized therapy, drop-in services or other programs. Proposers of outpatient services must be able to treat all CSEC populations, including male and LGBTQ youth.

DHS anticipates that between five and 20 youths may need outpatient treatment at any given time. Proposers must be prepared to serve all youth who will be referred for treatment. Better estimates will be available after the CSEC screening pilot is rolled out to the entirety of the child welfare system.

DHS expects that outpatient therapy services would be reimbursable by managed care organizations, such as Medicaid or private insurers. Proposers for outpatient services must be willing to work with managed care organizations to receive reimbursement. Proposers may request funds to cover additional costs, such as resources needed to license staff and apply for reimbursement costs. Budgets for these outpatient treatment additional costs should not exceed \$200,000 annually.

2.3 Data Collection and Reporting

For both the inpatient program and outpatient services, the Successful Proposer(s) will be required to use DHS's Key Information and Demographics System (KIDS), the child welfare office's electronic case record system. This will be used for both coordination of services and data collection and reporting.

In addition, the Successful Proposer(s) must have a plan to report outcomes to DHS. Examples of outcomes include whether youth were stabilized and whether they were successfully transitioned to a lower level of care.

Section 3: Proposal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Proposers must meet the following evaluation criteria and should address their qualifications by responding to the specifically-requested items or questions in the Response Form. Proposers should download and type their responses directly into the Response Form available on the Active Solicitations webpage at www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations. The maximum score a Proposal can receive is 100 points for the inpatient program and 100 points for outpatient services. The inpatient program and outpatient services will be evaluated and scored separately.

Organizational Experience (20 points)

- Experience in providing services to victims of CSEC and human trafficking, including a background working with a variety of systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile/criminal justice, legal advocates, non-profits that work with vulnerable youth) (5 points)
- Understanding of the complex short- and long-term needs of CSEC victims (5 points)
- History of fulfilling health and human services contracts (5 points)

- Financial health, as evidenced by audits and/or other supporting financial documentation (5 points)

Inpatient Program Design (80 points)

- A model for managing a comprehensive inpatient program that will provide evidence-informed services that address short- and/or long-term needs of CSEC victims (10 points)
- A plan to meet the psychological, physical and legal needs of youth participating in the inpatient program (10 points)
- Examples of a victim-centered, culturally competent approach to providing the inpatient program (5 points)
- A plan to assess and recommend next steps for youth during and upon completion of the inpatient program (5 points)
- A plan to engage and help youth participating in the inpatient program who do not recognize that they are victims of CSEC (5 points)
- A plan to serve up to six youth for a 90-day duration at any given time (5 points)
- A detailed list of in-house staff and partner organizations needed to meet the needs of youth in the inpatient program (5 points)
- A plan to staff the inpatient program, including the recruitment and retention of qualified staff (5 points)
- An identified location or a plan to identify a location for services that will be a safe place for youth in treatment (5 points)
- A description of the layout and amenities of the identified or potential facility (5 points)
- A plan for collecting outcome data and providing reports to DHS (5 points)
- A description of outcome data that will be provided to DHS (5 points)
- A budget that does not exceed \$500,000 and a budget narrative that reflects an accurate estimate of the costs associated with implementing services (5 points)
- A timeline that corresponds with the budget and that reflects a realistic plan to start and sustain services (5 points)

Outpatient Services Design (80 points)

- A model for providing evidence-informed services that address short- and long-term needs of CSEC victims (10 points)
- A plan to meet the complex needs of youth, identifying partner organizations if necessary (10 points)
- A plan for accommodating the various populations of CSEC victims, including male and LGBTQ youth (10 points)
- Examples of a victim-centered, culturally competent approach to providing outpatient services (5 points)
- A plan to assess and recommend next steps for youth during and upon completion of outpatient services (5 points)
- A plan to engage and help youth receiving outpatient services who do not recognize that they are victims of CSEC (5 points)
- A plan to staff outpatient services, including the recruitment and retention of qualified staff (5 points)
- Flexibility to serve the volume of youth referred to treatment as needed (5 points)

- Experience working with managed care organizations and willingness to do so to receive reimbursement (5 points)
- A plan for collecting outcome data and providing reports to DHS (5 points)
- A description of outcome data that will be provided to DHS (5 points)
- A budget that does not exceed \$200,000 and a budget narrative that reflects an accurate estimate of the costs associated with implementing services (5 points)
- A timeline that corresponds with the budget and that reflects a realistic plan to start and sustain services (5 points)

Section 4: How to Submit a Proposal

This RFP is a solicitation to individuals, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations or businesses (Proposers) to submit a Proposal to perform the services as described in *Section 2: What We Are Looking For*. Proposers must have the ability to meet the identified needs and quality standards within the programmatic and funding guidelines specified in this RFP.

4.1 Submission Process

- Please take time to review and understand the RFP in its entirety including:
 - The background (see *Section 1: Why We Are Issuing this RFP*)
 - The narrative (see *Section 2: What We Are Looking For*)
 - The requirements (see *Section 3: Proposal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria*)
 - The evaluation process (see *Section 5: How We Will Evaluate Your Proposal*)
- Please use the Response Form to develop your Proposal. Type your responses to each requested item directly into the Response Form. It is available at our Active Solicitations website with the RFP announcement at www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations.
- Proposers must submit a complete Proposal, which includes the following attachments that are available on our Active Solicitations website:
 - Response Form
 - MWDBE Participation Statement or MWDBE Waiver and Participation Statements
 - Allegheny County Vendor Creation Form
 - Audited financial reports for the last three years
 - W-9
- Please do not send any attachments other than those listed above and on the Response Form.
- If you do not have audited financial reports for the last three years, you may submit other financial statements that attest to the financial health of your organization. Tax returns are the preferred alternative. Please note that providing financial statements is a requirement of contracting through Allegheny County.
- Make sure to complete each section of the Response Form and to stay within any word counts that may be specified in the Response Form.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically to DHSProposals@alleghenycounty.us no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 to be considered for review.**
- Please make sure to get your Proposal in before the deadline! If your Proposal is late, it will not be considered.

- i. You will receive an email when your Proposal is received. If you do not receive this notification within 48 hours of submitting your Proposal, please contact DHSProposals@allegHENYcounty.us

4.2 How to Contact DHS about this RFP

- a. All inquiries and questions must be submitted via email to DHSProposals@allegHENYcounty.us
- b. All information about the RFP, including answers to questions, changes and clarifications will be posted at our Active Solicitations website at www.allegHENYcounty.us/dhs/solicitations
- c. Please be sure to check this website regularly for answers to questions, additional information or changes to the RFP or the RFP process.

4.3 Other Information

- a. The issuance of this RFP does not obligate the County to enter into an Agreement with any Proposers.
- b. Any Agreement originating from this RFP is subject to all of the Terms and Conditions specified in *Section 6: Contract Requirements for Successful Proposers*.
- c. Proposers are responsible for all costs related to the preparation and submission of a Proposal.
- d. Proposals become the property of the County and may become part of any subsequent Agreement between the Proposer and the County.
- e. The Successful Proposal will be posted online in the DHS Solicitations Archive after an Agreement has been fully executed by the County and the Successful Proposer(s).

Section 5: How We Will Evaluate Your Proposal

Proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee convened by DHS. The evaluation committee will assign scores based on the program description in *Section 2: What We Are Looking For* and on the evaluation criteria in *Section 3: Proposal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria* using the scale listed in *Section 5.1 b*.

5.1 Evaluation Model

The evaluation process will consist of the following steps:

- a. An Evaluation Committee will be formed by DHS and will consist of some or all of the following:
 - Content experts from within DHS, selected for their expertise and/or experience
 - Representatives of foundations, educational institutions, community and civic organizations, businesses and/or non-profit agencies
- b. All Evaluation Committee members will individually review and score each Proposal. Each Evaluation Committee member will award points for each response on a Proposer's Response Form according to their expertise and best judgment of how the Proposal submitted by that Proposer meets the evaluation criteria in *Section 3* using the following scale:

- 0 – Not addressed in Proposal
- 1 – Poor
- 2 – Below expectations
- 3 – Meets expectations
- 4 – Exceeds expectations
- 5 – Outstanding

- c. The Evaluation Committee members then will meet collectively to compile and discuss the individual scores and evaluation of each committee member.
- d. DHS, on behalf of the County shall have exclusive discretion to shortlist a reduced number of Proposals for more extensive review using the same criteria outlined above. In this case, DHS may request that shortlisted Proposers make modifications to their Proposal or budget or make a formal oral presentation. The Evaluation Committee will review the modifications and/or oral presentation and rescore the shortlisted Proposals using the original evaluation criteria.
- e. At any time during the review process, DHS may contact a Proposer to discuss any areas of the Proposal needing clarification or further explanation.
- f. The Evaluation Committee will submit their recommendation for award of an Agreement to the Director of DHS for his approval, who in turn will submit a request to the County Manager for approval for the County to enter into an Agreement with the Successful Proposer(s).
- g. The County is under no obligation to award or enter into an Agreement as a result of this RFP. The County reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals.**
- h. All Proposers will be notified of their status following the final determination of which Proposer(s) will be awarded Agreements.
- i. Proposers not awarded an Agreement who are interested in receiving feedback regarding their submission may request a phone call at DHSProposals@alleghenycounty.us.

5.2 Other Requirements

For a Proposal to be eligible for evaluation, it must be:

- Received by the due date/time
- Properly formatted and include responses to all requested information
- Complete with all required forms and attachments

Proposals which do not meet the above requirements will not be considered.

Section 6: Contract Requirements for Successful Proposers

In order to enter into an Agreement with the County, Proposers must be willing to comply with all contract requirements listed below and all standard terms and conditions contained in a County contract for provision of services to DHS and its offices. Additional details about contracting with Allegheny County are provided in the [DHS Contract Specifications Manual](#), available at www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations.

6.1 Minority, Women or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) Requirements

Allegheny County has MWDBE goals of 13% participation for Minority Business Enterprises and 2% participation for Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and expects that Successful Proposers will make a good faith effort in assisting the County in meeting these goals.

- a. All Proposals must include either of the following:
 1. If your organization is able to meet the MWDBE contract goals, a completed MWDBE Participation Statement and MWDBE Contact Information form is required. You must also attach the MWDBE certifications of the firms you intend to use with the Participation Statement.
 2. If your organization will request a waiver from participating in the MWDBE contract goals, a completed MWDBE Participation Statement, MWDBE Contact Information form and MWDBE Waiver Request are required.
- b. Proposers may be registered and certified with the Allegheny County Department of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. If so, please indicate registration on the MWDBE Participation Statement. Registered Proposers are still required to submit the applicable MWDBE forms.
- c. MWDBE forms and resources can be found at www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations:
 1. MWDBE Forms
 - o [MWDBE Participation Statement](#)
 - o [MWDBE Waiver Request](#)
 - o [MWDBE Contact Information form](#)
 2. MWDBE Resources
 - o [MWDBE Contract Specifications Manual](#)
 - o [MWDBE Response Checklist](#)
 - o [Guide for completing the MWDBE Participation Statement](#)
 - o [Sample Diversity Policy](#)
- d. For more information about MWDBEs, including a list of MWDBEs that have been certified by Allegheny County and the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program, can be found at the [Allegheny County MWDBE website](#).

6.2 HIPAA Compliance

DHS is a covered entity under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Therefore, a Successful Proposer must comply with all HIPAA requirements.

6.3 Cyber Security

- a. Successful Proposers must meet the minimum computer specifications which begin on page 14 of the [DHS Contract Specifications Manual](#), available at www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations.
- b. All electronic devices must have sufficient security software and settings to minimize the risk of an information breach.
- c. Successful Proposers must also have policies in place to ensure that electronic devices are physically secure when not in use (e.g., locked in a vehicle trunk, password protected).

6.4 Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Requirements

By submitting a Proposal, a Proposer agrees to not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, independent contractor, client or any other person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, familial status, age (40 or over), or use of a guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness or physical disability.

6.5 New Provider Requirements

If awarded an Agreement, Successful Proposers who do not have current Allegheny County contracts will be required to complete the [DHS New Provider Application](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Doing-Business/Prospective-Providers.aspx), available at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Resources/Doing-Business/Prospective-Providers.aspx>. While not required as part of your Proposal, Proposers may wish to review the requirements of this application.