



Amendment # 1
QUESTIONS FOR CHILD WELFARE CONSULTING SERVICES (RFP)

RFP No. 2025ICWCS001
RFX Number: **3120003150**
Issue Date: April 23, 2025

Proposals must be received by May 22, 2025 at 12:00 PM, Central Time

No.	Question/ Request for Clarification
1.	<p>Can you please confirm whether the BYRD Anti-Lobbying document should be included under Tab 1?</p> <p><i>No, the BYRD Anti-Lobbying document should not be included under Tab 1. This document will be signed with the awarded contracts.</i></p>
2.	<p>For Task 6: Consultation, Coaching, and Training, who is the intended audience, what departments are involved, and what is the desired format and depth of coaching (e.g., one-on-one or group sessions)?</p> <p><i>Training and coaching will primarily take place in a group setting, with a strong emphasis on both the program and finance areas. The level of depth will vary based on the subject matter, ensuring comprehensive, in-depth training when necessary, going beyond surface-level overviews to provide deeper insights and practical application.</i></p>
3.	<p>We would appreciate clarification on the submission requirements. Should Tabs 1 through 5 be submitted in a single binder, with Tab 6 submitted separately? Additionally, should the Public Copy be included within the same binder?</p> <p><i>Tabs 1 through 6 should be submitted in a single binder.</i></p>
4.	<p>Is this support currently being provided through a contract or by internal staff? If by contract, could you share the contract value?</p> <p><i>By contract, the contract amount is \$473,213.00.</i></p>

5.	<p>We understand the type of work included in the scope, but it is difficult to determine the exact level of effort for this specific role. Is it possible to get an estimate? If not, would you consider an hourly rate as the unit of measure?</p> <p><i>MDCPS will consider an hourly rate.</i></p>
6.	<p>Can you please clarify if references will be contacted by phone or email and if there is a form that will need to be completed and returned within the time period.</p> <p><i>MDCPS will call and/or email references on 5/23/2025 and 5/27/2025. References will complete Attachment F.</i></p>
7.	<p>RFP Section 3.3 says: “Electronic files... shall be capable of being copied to other media including a readable version of Microsoft Word.” Please confirm that the ability to use the copy/paste feature to copy text from the PDF into a Microsoft Word file, qualifies as compliant with this requirement.</p> <p><i>Yes.</i></p>
8.	<p>RFP Section 3.3 says “Modifications or additions to any portion of the procurement document may be cause for rejection of the proposal. MDCPS reserves the right to decide, on a case-by-case basis, whether to reject a proposal with modifications or additions as non-responsive.”</p> <p>Please define “procurement document” in this requirement. Does this refer to the RFP and/or requirements within it?</p> <p><i>The Procurement Document refers to the scope of work, evaluation criteria, and submission requirements provided in the Request for Proposals.</i></p> <p>Please confirm that offeror exceptions noted in attachment D do not constitute “modifications or additions” as described in RFP section 3.3.</p> <p><i>Attachment D does not constitute “modifications or additions.”</i></p>
9.	<p>3.3.2 states: “MDCPS staff must be able to reach at least two (2) references for an Offeror within two (2) business days of proposal opening.”</p> <p>3.2 states: “Opening Date: May 22, 2025”</p> <p>To ensure references know when to expect an outreach by MDCPS, please confirm 5/23/2025 & 5/27/2025 as the dates MDCPS will be contacting references.</p> <p><i>Correct, MDCPS will call and/or email references on 5/23/2025 and 5/27/2025.</i></p>

10.	<p>Will the Letters of Intent be made public by MDCPS before the submission due date?</p> <p><i>No, letters of intent will not be made public by MDCPS before the submission.</i></p>
11.	<p>Will each amendment include an acknowledgement form? Or are offerors expected to complete Attachment H for as many amendments that are issued?</p> <p><i>Offerors are expected to complete Attachment H for as many amendments that are issued.</i></p>
12.	<p>The pricing structure chart in attachment L indicates a price is needed for "Installing a QRTP into the service delivery network". Although we are familiar with the legislative authorized support program for youth in state custody, QRTP is not identified in section 2.2: Scope of Work. We are requesting therefore an explanation of what is involved and included by the word "install" in order for us to provide a reasonable and fair price for this service.</p> <p><i>This service has been removed from Attachment L.</i></p>
13.	<p>The pricing structure in Attachment L indicates a price is requested for "Performance-based Contracting Model Reintroduction". Although we are quite familiar with performance-based contracting, it is not mentioned in the Scope of Services in Section 2.2 and thus we are requesting clarification as to what "model reintroduction" encompasses.</p> <p><i>This service has been removed from Attachment L.</i></p>
14.	<p>What is your estimated budget limit or budget range for this project?</p> <p><i>MDCPS has not set a formal budget for this project. Previous projects of similar nature have varied in cost depending on the scope, requirements, and available resources.</i></p>
15.	<p>Under 3.3.2 Minimum Qualifications and Information, what documentation is required of the bidder to demonstrate Attachment F? Attachment F is for the reference interviews.</p> <p><i>The references provided in Attachment E will provide information for Attachment F.</i></p>
16.	<p>Will MDCPS have a staff liaison who will provide the necessary data and information to the consultant upon request (ex. budget, claims, various plans/artifacts, databases, etc.)?</p> <p><i>Yes, the staff liaison is Bridgette Bell.</i></p>
17.	<p>What is the anticipated timeline for the work on each plan/report listed?</p> <p><i>Timeline for some items depends on the federal timeline.</i></p>

18.	How many grants does MDCPS anticipate submitting during the contract term? If unknown, how many grants were submitted in the year prior to the contract term? <i>MDCPS has not applied for any grants.</i>
19.	It is our understanding MDCPS seeks support in development of a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program and conducting ongoing status reporting and making program improvements. A. What external resources does MDCPS have available for the implementation and daily operations of the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program? <i>MDCPS does not have external resources available for the implementation and daily operations of the Program, only internal.</i>
20.	What is the expected scope of legislative reviews? Are these reviews intended to assess the impact of proposed legislation or to develop new legislative proposals? <i>The intended scope of the legislative reviews is to help keep child wellbeing and permanency policies effective and aligned with evolving needs. Areas of focus include improved oversight, ensuring accountability, and responding to systemic failures. MDCPS wants to assess the impact of proposed legislation.</i>
21.	Approximately how many legislative reviews does the MDCPS anticipate? If unknown, how many were performed in prior legislative session? <i>MDCPS anticipates approximately 10 legislative reviews.</i>
22.	Was MDCPS found to be in substantial compliance during their Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review in September 2024? If MDCPS was not in substantial compliance, what is the status of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP)? What areas were identified as needing improvement during the Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review? <i>MDCPS is in the process of working on the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The findings from the Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review in September 2024 will be shared with the awarding vendor.</i>
23.	There are two services listed in Attachment L: Cost Form for Child Welfare Consulting Services that are not specifically described in Section 2.2 Scope of Services: - Installation of Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) into a Service Delivery Network - Performance-Based Contracting Model Reintroduction Is MDCPS requesting these two tasks be completed as part of the Scope of Services for the base contract year? <i>The two services listed have been removed from Attachment L.</i>
24.	Attachment L: Cost Form for Child Welfare Consulting Services lists the following services: Installation of a Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program

	<p>(Kin GAP), IV-E Services, and Payment Delivery System. A Payment Delivery System is not referenced in Section 2: Scope of Services. What is MDCPS specifically requesting in regard to a Payment Delivery System?</p> <p><i>This service has been removed from Attachment L.</i></p>
25.	<p>Does MDCPS currently contract with any QRTPs? Is MDCPS requesting the awarded vendor assist with setting up and implementing a process and policies for licensing QRTPs, and/or is MDCPS requesting assistance with the process for claiming QRTP placements for eligible children to Title IV-E?</p> <p><i>This service has been removed.</i></p>
26.	<p>If MDCPS does not have a Title IV-E Foster Care PIP, what activities is MDCPS requesting for the “Title IV-E Foster Care PIP” service listed in Attachment L: Cost Form for Child Welfare Consulting Services?</p> <p><i>The activities have not been defined yet. Activities will be based on feedback from the Children’s Bureau.</i></p>
27.	<p>Would it be acceptable to include as a Unit Price on Attachment L a monthly rate for each of the stated deliverables? If not, what would be an acceptable Unit quantity/method?</p> <p><i>Yes, a monthly rate for each of the stated deliverables is acceptable.</i></p>
28.	<p>When is MDCPS’s Onsite Phase of the 2025 NYTD Audit Review scheduled?</p> <p><i>It was postponed due to the federal agency changes.</i></p>
29.	<p>What examples or specific fiscal, budgetary, and procurement processes is MDCPS requesting assistance with?</p> <p><i>Federal Reporting, Federal Drawdown, Streamlining procurement</i></p> <p><i>Public Debt Management, Appropriations Process, Budget Recon, Mandatory vs Discretionary Spending, Performance Evaluation, Compliance Audits</i></p>
30.	<p>What processes is MDCPS requesting assistance in implementing continuous quality improvement methods to monitor measurable targeted goals?</p> <p><i>MDCPS would like assistance with:</i> <i>Defining clear data standards such as establishing guidelines for completeness, accuracy, completeness;</i> <i>Implementing data validation processes – automated checks to detect errors, inconsistencies, and missing values before data is stored and/or analyzed and other areas such as Proper Data Governance, Auditing and Cleaning Data Regularly, Identifying high quality data sources, Enhancing data Integration, Training teams on Data Best Practices, and Leveraging Data Quality Tools</i></p>
31.	<p>At what frequency is MDCPS requesting consultation, coaching, and training in public policy, federal child welfare laws, financial regulations, and intergovernmental challenges? <i>On an as needed basis</i></p>

32.	Does MDCPS anticipate all the tasks listed in Section 2.2: Scope of Services will be completed simultaneously, or will there be a specified preferred priority for the requested services? <i>MDCPS will have a specified preferred priority for the requested services.</i>
33.	What tasks is MDCPS requesting the vendor assist with in regarding to the installation and implementation of protocols to increase capacity and improve MDCPS's claims for federal funding? Is the reference to increasing capacity related to foster family home or residential facility capacity, staff capacity, or something else? <i>MDCPS would like assistance with Foster Home, Residential, and staff capacity.</i>
34.	Is MDCPS requesting vendor assistance with any tasks related to Title IV-E Prevention Services? If so, which area in the Scope of Services would this assistance be under? MDCPS currently has a vendor for FFPSA work.
35.	If MDCPS has a Title IV-E Foster Care PIP, what activities are in the PIP that MDCPS is requesting the awarded vendor to assist with? Is the PIP available for vendors responding to the RFP to view? <i>The IV-E PIP is currently still under development and is not available at this time.</i>
36.	Section 2.2 Scope of Services states an onsite, quarterly (if necessary) training and support is requested. Should we assume all other tasks listed within the Scope of Services will be conducted remotely? <i>Some onsite may be required but for sure quarterly.</i>
37.	Section 3.35 states the resumes for staff should highlight "expertise in child safety and risk, foster care placements, intervention techniques, reunifications, social service delivery methods, child welfare practice, and implementation support." Given that the Scope of Services in Section 2.2 is not directly related to expertise in the areas listed in Section 3.35, do the resumes for proposed staff need to highlight the experience stated in Section 3.35? <i>Yes</i>
38.	May we include Financial reports within an Appendix? <i>Yes</i>
39.	Both Tab 2. And Tab 5. request firm experience details. Does MDCPS require all experience details be repeated in each section, or should we include a general explanation in Tab 2. and a more detailed one in Tab. 5? <i>Yes, please include a general explanation in Tab 2 and provide a more detailed one in Tab 5.</i>
40.	Assuming our rates are all inclusive, what are examples of items that should be broken out in the detailed itemized budget?
41.	Is it correct that the Cost Proposal, Attachment L. should be included within the proposal binder?

	<i>Yes, Attachment L should be included in the proposal binder.</i>
42.	Are electronic signatures acceptable? <i>Yes, electronic signatures are acceptable.</i>
43.	Considering the brief amount of time between the posting of Q&A and the proposal due date, would the State consider extending the deadline, allowing vendors time to adjust proposals accordingly? <i>Unfortunately, MDCPS will not extend the deadline.</i>
44.	Is there already a vendor assisting MDCPS with the requested scope of services? <i>Yes, Public Knowledge is the current vendor assisting MDCPS.</i>
45.	Should we present our proposed Staffing plan in Tab 2 where we need to “demonstrate that the individuals who would work...” or in Tab 5 where we are to include “Resumes listing abilities, qualifications, and experience of all other individuals...”? <i>Yes, please include a general explanation in Tab 2 and provide a more detailed one in Tab 5.</i>
46.	Are wet signatures required on the proposal documents? <i>No, wet signatures are not required on the proposal documents.</i>
47.	Is there a proposed budget for this scope of work? <i>At this time, there is no proposed budget allocated for this scope of work.</i>
48.	Is there an incumbent vendor? <i>Yes</i>
49.	Are Title IV-E eligibility determinations able to be reviewed virtually or do they require on-site presence to review? <i>Title IV-E eligibility determinations will be on-site only when needed. This is typically 3 – 4 times a year.</i>
50.	Attachment L- Cost Form for Child Welfare Services (page 44) does not align with the Scope of Services in Section 2.2 (pages 8-9). Please clarify if you are looking for a vendor to complete tasks related to Section 2.2 only and if so, can we edit Attachment L to align? <i>Attachment L has been amended to directly correlate to the scope of services requested.</i>
51.	How many children are currently placed in Foster Care? <i>Although this number may fluctuate daily, as of 5/12/25, there are 4,135 children.</i>

52.	<p>What is your current Title IV-E foster care and adoption eligibility rates?</p> <p><i>Our current Title IV-E eligibility rates are 41% for foster care and 91% for adoption.</i></p>
53.	<p>Did you pass your most recent ACF Title IV-E federal review?</p> <p><i>No, we are working on a PIP.</i></p>
54.	<p>When was your Title IV-E Prevention plan submitted?</p> <p><i>The Title IV-E Prevention plan was submitted in June 2023. The last update was submitted in February 2025.</i></p>
55.	<p>How many children and families do you anticipate participating in Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) service once your plan is approved?</p> <p><i>MDCPS can provide a data pull for the selected vendor.</i></p>
56.	<p>The scope of services references providing “audit support”, does MDCPS have upcoming audits scheduled? If so, what audits are scheduled?</p> <p><i>Currently one audit for IV-E is underway. TANF and ARPA are subject to yearly reviews.</i></p>
57.	<p>Do you currently have a Kinship Guardianship program but it’s not being claimed to Title IV-E because you haven’t submitted a Title IV-E plan amendment?</p> <p><i>We are currently working on IV-E preprint update.</i></p>
58.	<p>Section 1.16 of the RFP, states Offerors taking exceptions to any part or section of the solicitation shall indicate such exceptions on Attachment D. However, Section 1.18 of the RFP states MDCPS reserves the right to reject any and all proposals where the Offeror takes exceptions to the terms and conditions of the RFP and/or fails to meet the terms and conditions and/ or in any way attempts to limit the rights of MDCPS and/or the State of Mississippi, including but not limited to, the required contractual terms and provisions set forth in this RFP. Provided that they do not conflict with existing terms in the contract, please confirm that offerors are permitted to submit net-new contract provisions.</p> <p><i>At this time, we are unable to permit offerors to submit net-new contract provisions.</i></p>
59.	<p>Section 1.19.4 of the RFP states the only price adjustment allow is for inflation that will not exceed the lesser of either 5% or the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers. Section 18 of RFP states Parties agree to renegotiate the agreement if federal and/or state laws or regulations change that will affect the Contract. Is the state willing to accept or negotiate</p>

	<p>language to allow for a change order or equitable adjustment of the contract price If the change in law/regulation impacts Contractor pricing?</p> <p><i>At this time, we are not willing to negotiate language to allow for a change order due to time constraints.</i></p>
60.	<p>Section 1.16 of the RFP, states Offerors taking exceptions to any part or section of the solicitation shall indicate such exceptions on Attachment D. Is the state willing / intend to negotiate mutually acceptable changes to the terms and conditions with the awarded Offeror based on exceptions submitted? Or is the State taking an "all or nothing" approach to reviewing each exception submitted by Offerors?</p> <p><i>At this time, we are not willing to negotiate changes to the terms and conditions with the awarded Offeror based on exceptions submitted due to time constraints.</i></p>