



Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

RFX #: 3150004120

Service Overview:

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) is currently seeking to enter into a sole-source contract for Intercept® services as described below. **Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the procedures outlined below before Monday, April 11, 2022, at 3:00 pm CST.**

Purpose:

The purpose of these contracts will allow MDCPS to refer families when services are deemed necessary to keep the family unit safely intact or to allow for safe reunification. Providers shall be able to:

- Establish, develop, expand, and operate well-supported, supported, promising, and general practices;
- Operate community-based family support and reunification services which include but are not limited to, preservation, home visiting, parenting, reunification, parent advocacy and engagement, and post-adoption support;
- Prevent child maltreatment among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services;
- Assure children's safety and development within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been maltreated, when the family's problems can be addressed effectively;
- Address the issues of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and stable manner in accordance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; and,
- Support adoptive families by providing services as necessary so that they can make a lifetime commitment to their children.

Expected Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Outcomes of Contracted Services:

- Protection of children from abuse and neglect;
- Maintaining children in their homes whenever possible and appropriate;
- Ensuring children have permanency and stability in their living situation;
- Preserving the continuity of family relationships and connections for children;
- Enhancing the capacity of the family to provide for their children's needs;
- Promoting practices that reduce the impact of social stress on the mental health of vulnerable children and families; and,
- Ensuring children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health

- needs.

Service Population:

Services will target any child or youth under the age of eighteen (18) at imminent risk of entering foster care, pregnant and parenting youth and youth at risk of human trafficking and exploitation, as well as the child's family.

Scope of Services:

Intercept® provides intensive in-home services to children and youth at risk of entry or re-entry into out-of-home placements or who are currently in out-of-home placements (e.g., foster care, residential facilities, or group homes). The program is designed to reduce foster care utilization by providing prevention services to children and their families of origin.

For children already in foster care, Intercept® aims to reduce time spent in foster care by providing reunification services to children and their families of origin. Family Intervention Specialists use an integrated, trauma-informed approach to offer individualized services intended to meet the needs of children and their families of origin. Specialists address needs identified in children's schools, peer groups, neighborhoods, and communities.

Family Intervention Specialists meet with children and their families of origin an average of 3 times per week. Specialists are also on-call to provide crisis support 24/7. Prevention services typically, last 4 to 6 months. Reunification services typically last 6 to 9 months. Specialists also support the family in school or legal meetings and are on-call to provide crisis support 24/7.

Intercept® uses an online resource called GuideTree® to facilitate treatment. GuideTree® includes a comprehensive resource library, access to Licensed Program Experts, and supports for developing and reviewing treatment plans.

Intercept® is rated as a well-supported practice because at least two studies with nonoverlapping samples carried out in usual care or practice settings achieved a rating of moderate or high on design and execution and demonstrated favorable effects in a target outcome domain. At least one of the studies demonstrated a sustained favorable effect of at least 12 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome.

Dosage:

Intercept® Family Intervention Specialists meet the child and family an average of three times weekly in the home and community for four to nine months. Intercept® services to prevent children from entering out-of-home placements average four to six months; Intercept® services to reunite children with family after a period of foster care or out-of-home placement average six to nine months.

Evidence-based models included in Intercept®:

Intercept® is an integrated approach to in-home parenting and individual skill development that offers a variety of evidence-based and research-informed practices to meet the individualized needs of a youth and family. Specifically, Intercept® employs the following evidence-based practices, as clinically indicated:

- Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA);
- Community Advocacy Project (CAP);
- Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS);
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT);
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); and,
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)

Trauma-Informed Care:

Intercept® includes multiple components to assess and address the impact of trauma, both acute and chronic, throughout the program. This begins with a risk trauma assessment that considers both youth and family trauma exposure history. The assessment is completed at admission and then updated monthly and after serious incidents throughout treatment. Assessments include a trauma-sensitive component, which focuses on current and past trauma episodes but also considers both protective and restorative factors.

Multiple trauma-informed intervention strategies are utilized throughout treatment to address traumatic stress and related mental health issues, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Staff training materials include how trauma can impact brain development and related strategies to address these issues. Staff development tools focus on secondary traumatic stress symptoms and interventions for people that may be affected through their work with youth and families.

Location/Delivery Setting:

Intercept® Family Intervention Specialists meet with families for sessions in the home and community settings. They work in all the areas that surround the child: family, school, neighborhood, peer group and community.

Education, Certifications and Training:

Intercept® is delivered by master's and bachelor's (with relevant experience) level Family Intervention Specialists working under the supervision and guidance of licensed mental health clinicians who are experts in the Intercept® model. A vital component of Intercept® is the level of training and supervision for Family Intervention Specialists. All Intercept® staff complete a highly structured training process, including new hire organizational orientation upon hire, followed by rigorous on-the-job training (OJT). Intercept® Family Intervention Specialists, Supervisors, and other staff complete an initial four-day Clinical Foundations training. This training is provided by Licensed Program Experts. Family Intervention Specialists who deliver Intercept® also participate in ongoing trainings. These include quarterly clinical trainings provided by the Licensed Program Expert, which are tailored to specific need areas of the team.

Weekly consultation is also provided by Intercept® Licensed Program Experts with all Family Intervention Specialists and Supervisors to ensure quality work and fidelity to the model. Other training activities include, but are not limited to, individual development meetings conducted by each Family Intervention Specialist's supervisor, field visits with leadership staff, and access to online clinical trainings and resources. A program model fidelity review is conducted annually by the Clinical Services department to ensure clinical service delivery is consistent with the

Intercept® model.

Explanation of why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required services.

Intercept is the only Intercept®, developed by Youth Villages, is an integrated, intensive in-home parenting skills program used to safely prevent children from entering out-of-home care or to reunify them with family as quickly as possible if a period of out-of-home care is necessary (this includes, but is not limited to, foster care, residential treatment, or group home settings).

Intercept is appropriate for children ranging in age from birth to 18, with services lasting four to nine months (typically, four to six months for prevention or six to nine months for reunification).

Estimated Cost:

The estimated annual amount to be expended for Intercept Services is \$8,000,000.00. This amount is within the expected price range for these services.

Objection to Sole Source Procedure:

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the services listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Deanisha Hopson, Esq,

Director of Procurement & Contracts

deanisha.hopson@mdcps.ms.gov & CC: contract.invoices@mdcps.ms.gov

Subject Line must read “Sole Source Objection”

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the service is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MDCPS determines that the service in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MDCPS will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the service to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MDCPS determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required service, then MDCPS will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MDCPS will have the burden of proving that the service is only provided by one (1) source.

MDCPS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OR RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the interested Parties that responses reach MDCPS on time. Interested Parties may contact Deanisha Hopson to verify the receipt of their responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

Dates of Publication

- **February 14, 2022**
- **February 21, 2022**
- **March 28, 2022**
- **April 4, 2022**