PPP Recommendations to DFPS Commissioner, Judge Specia

Please note - DFPS intends to incorporate the PPP's recommendations for improving future procurements for Single Source Continuum Contract(s) based on what is allowable under procurement, state and federal rules and regulations.

Catchment Recommendations

- Maintain requirement for a minimum of 500 new entries annually
- Procure entire region with multiple catchment areas (where possible with 500 new entries)
- Where regions cannot be split, ensure, through evaluation criteria, that the bidder’s proposal addresses how they will meet the needs of the children, youth, and families to be served by the SSCC in each community within the catchment area
- Keep catchments small to mitigate risk but large enough to be cost effective and maximize economies of scale
- Respect community driven model to maximize community engagement; require and evaluate bidders' community engagement plan with proposal
- Announce the specific region and catchment areas as early as possible; procure for specific catchment areas – do not offer multiple options
- Additional considerations
  - Explore with HHSC the feasibility of splitting counties
  - Explore DFPS’ ability to capture and report data differently (to assess feasibility of catchment areas smaller than counties)

Resource Recommendations

- Specificity in the next RFP
  - State in the RFP which functions and how many FTEs will be transferred to the SSCC and the dollar amounts associated with each FTE
  - State a deadline by which those resources will be transferred
- Financial participation of community/others
  - Require bidder to identify non-state resources e.g. funding and in-kind services that would be used to support the
- Transparency in the next RFP
  - Resource transfer should be transparent and detailed with concrete timelines
  - DFPS resource homes need to have a deadline for transfer
  - Clearly state that FAD resources are in the blended rate
  - Provide information on how the rate was calculated and what was included in the rate; provide more specificity regarding administrative costs that are included within the rate
  - Provide methodology for determining how many and what kind of resources are to be transferred, both initially and on an ongoing basis
- Timing of Transition from Legacy System
• Require the plan for transfer to be included in the bidder's proposal, including the plan for communicating with providers, foster parents, judiciary and the community and the plan for recruiting and/or managing relationships with existing providers
• Provide bidders the ranges of an approved timeline for moving all legacy children and youth, including those in non-DFPS and non-SSCC providers and those placed out of region, to the SSCC; Recommended timeline: 0-18 months
• Require and evaluate in the bidder’s proposal the bidder’s plan for transfer of legacy children
• Provide DFPS foster homes a deadline for transfer of their license to a CPA in the SSCC’s network
• Conduct readiness assessment prior to transfer
• Develop an exception process for addressing circumstances in which transfer may not be in the best interest of the child

**Licensing**

• Require the SSCC to separately license the offices working under the FCR contract
• Establish and convene an ongoing licensing workgroup to address SSCC licensing issues; include agencies both within and outside of the innovation zone
• Clarify the role of licensing with the SSCC, including how licensing will support FCR outcomes
• Provide bidders a licensing clearance before moving to the next round of the RFP evaluation process
• Require a licensing history (suggest 2 years) demonstrating a record of compliance and how quickly contractors corrected identified issues; Include licensing histories in all other states where bidders operate
• State clearly in the RFP any circumstances related to licensing that would eliminate a bidder from being considered. All other licensing history should be evaluated as part of evaluation of the proposal.

**Community Engagement**

• Require letters of commitment/intent to sub-contract for SSCC's intending to use subcontracts and identify explicit levels of participation from proposed network members with the bidder’s proposal; have evaluators follow-up with random contacts with those entities who have offered letters of commitment or support to determine their level of support
• Demonstrate/provide evidence of how bidder is a part of the community they wish to serve and/or require the bidder to demonstrate how they will engage stakeholders in each community within the catchment areas
• Describe how communities in the catchment area were involved in the development of bidder's proposal.
• Require the Community Engagement Plan to be submitted with the bidder’s proposal
• Consider in the evaluation process the experience of the bidder in community engagement

**Procurement and Contracting**

• Keep the PPP active during procurement process/allow for dialogue
• Allow DFPS to participate in community meetings and during community’s proposal development process
• Clarify certain language e.g. termination clause, court requirements
• Continue to provide evaluation points for accreditation
• Require bidders who intend to subcontract to demonstrate their planned use of sub-contractors and how subs will work with bidder to deliver continuum

**Evaluation and Best Value Factors**

• Give weight to the bidder’s experience in community engagement and to the degree to which communities within the catchment areas participated in development of the proposal
• Evaluate proposals on financial position and stability and state clearly how this is scored. For example, disclose the minimum working capital requirement and other financial measurements.
• Evaluate bidder’s QA plan
• Keep accreditation as "preferred"
• Evaluate plan for developing resources where they are needed/increasing foster homes; provide sufficient information in RFP for bidders to determine what resources are needed.