

Department for Children, Youth and Families
Justification for Contract Renewal Authorization with Together for Youth
for the Provision of Non-Secure Detention Services

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests legislative authorization for Albany County to enter into a contractual renewal agreement with Together for Youth for the Provision of Non-Secure Detention Services. The requested contract term will be January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 not to exceed the amount of \$ 1,152,323.00.

RFP #2023-116– Non Secure Detention Services was issued on September 28, 2023 with responses due October 13, 2023. The Department received only one proposal from Together for Youth (formally Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth).

Albany County sought proposals for a Non-Secure Detention for adolescent males or females JDs ages 12-17 years old that are remanded to the facility by Albany County Family Court. Albany County expected the proposers operate a male Non-Secure Detention program and a female Non-Secure Detention program. There was an expected minimum guaranteed bed capacity requested for a total of 5 youth in any gender combination on any given day. These beds must be certified by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and the programs must comply with the rules and regulations of Title 9 and Title 18 NYCRR and the regulations of NYS OCFS. The County reserved the right to purchase additional beds on an as needed basis at the same rate as the guaranteed bed rate.

Together for Youth (formally Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth) has been the provider for Albany County Non-Secure detention services for many years and has done so with unquestionable quality of care. Together for Youth has successfully worked to engage the youth and family, and work in conjunction with Albany County DCYF, Probation, Family Court and Law Enforcement. Together for Youth has placed a great deal of emphasis on maintaining residents' ties with family, school, and preventive services in which the residents are engaged in order to reduce detention stays and facilitate successful re-entry to the community.

In addition, Together for Youth will work cooperatively with Albany County DCYF to be the designated entity after hours for the completion and decision making of the NYS mandated Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI), which was fully implemented October 28, 2013.

Together for Youth's proposal met the performance standards requested in the RFP.

Service Area Outcomes

- 100% of the youth served will return to Family Court for any and all adjourned court dates while engaged in Non-Secure Detention.
- 90% of youth served will not commit any offenses that require Juvenile Justice involvement while engaged in Non-Secure Detention