

**The Department for Children, Youth and Families and  
The Albany County Department of Probation  
Justification for Contract Authorization with Cayuga Centers  
for the Provision of Juvenile Justice preventive service through Multi-Systemic Therapy  
(MST)**

The Department for Children, Youth and Families and the Department of Probation respectfully requests legislative authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with Cayuga Centers for the provision of Juvenile Justice Prevention Services. The requested contract term is for January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 for the amount of \$578,947. This is the first of two allowable renewals for this agreement. The total prevention contract amount for Cayuga Centers is \$578,947.

The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Probation, issued a Request for Proposals for Prevention Services—*RFP-2021-068-- PREVENTION SERVICES* on May 13, 2021 with responses due June 25, 2021. Prevention programming focuses on either preventing children from entering foster care, detention or shortening their stay if placed in either. Children enter care either as a result of abuse, neglect and/or Juvenile Justice involvement.

The Department recognizes the importance and necessity for the development of effective collaborations in order to meet the complex needs of families and children within the shrinking fiscal resources. As such, the RFP issued promoted innovative, creative approaches to meet the needs of children and families and allowed much flexibility for agencies to propose how to most effectively do so. It does require a formal collaborative, whereas the prevention service has a reciprocal relationship with either a Youth Bureau funded, and/or community agency for the children and their families to have diverse, holistic programming of formalized and recreational/community based services. It also requires that all children in the family that are five (5) years and older, must be engaged in at least one consistent recreational or community support activity. The parent/guardians must also be engaged with a community support activity. The idea is that these supports will remain in place for the family when the formal services have ended.

Many families and their children have been impacted by complex trauma, suffer from mental health issues, substance abuse issues and domestic violence. These children are either at significant risk of foster care placement or have been placed in foster care. It is necessary for Albany County to have creative and strategic programming that intervenes with the family immediately, assists the children and works with the foster care system inclusive of Family Court and Child Protective Services to expedite permanency and increase family functioning.

Cayuga Centers proposed the implementation of Multisystem Therapy (MST) for Juvenile Justice Prevention. MST is a well-supported, evidence based program, to help support the complex needs of families and youth at risk of further penetrating the juvenile justice system. MST is to prevent further progression or entry into juvenile justice system by improving family functioning; addressing emotional stability, concrete needs and interpersonal skills of parents and youth; increasing protective factors while decreasing risk factors by removing barriers to treatment and fostering successful engagement. MST is an intensive, family and community based intervention that will serve families with at-risk adolescents ages 11-18 who are chronic delinquents and/or substance abusing juvenile offenders at risk of out of home placement.

The program will serve 60 youth annually, 24 of which will be Raise the Age Youth (RTA) and reimbursed through the Department of Probation.