

The Department for Children, Youth and Families
Justification for a Contract Renewal Authorization with Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc. Provision of Clinical Prevention Services with Community and Recreational Supports

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests legislative authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc. for the provision of Clinical Prevention Services with Community and Recreational Supports. The requested contract term is for January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 for the amount of \$2,285,627. This is the second and final allowable renewal for this agreement. The total prevention contract amount for Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc. is \$2,285,627. The Department desires to exercise its first of two (2) options under the contract, to renew the agreement.

The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Probation, issued a Request for Proposals for Prevention Services—*RFP-2024-085-- PREVENTION SERVICES* on July 4, 2024 with responses due August 2, 2024. 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.

Clinical Prevention Services with Community and Recreational Supports include: assessment, diagnostic testing, case and specialized therapies provided by a person who has received a Master of Social Work degree, Master of Mental Health Counseling degree or is a licensed Psychologist. Assessment and clinical services include family and individual interviews, contact with collateral agencies, schools, extended family and natural supports and diligent communication with Albany County staff. The therapist meets with the family/family members a minimum of once per week, for a minimum of 1 hour, and are available to the family during any crisis situation. Clinical Services occur in a variety of locations, but the family need dictates this. Clinical services occur in the family residence at least twice per month. All professionals schedule appointments at the convenience of the family.

Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region will provide Clinical Prevention Services with Community and Recreational Supports to up to ninety-five (95) Albany County families with children, age birth through eighteen, who are at risk of out-of-home placement, or are returning from foster care as the result of child abuse/neglect issues. Trinity prevention clinical services program is offered from the evidenced-based framework of cognitive behavioral solution-oriented therapy and trauma focused cognitive behavior therapy. Trinity's programs operate with a complement of multi-cultural staff. Family and youth will participate in all phases of the program, and discrete resources will be devoted to the non-custodial parent. The program will emphasis rapid engagement, consistent and intensive service delivery, and will adhere to all the mandated program, communication, reporting and documentation requirements of ACDCYF. Through existing and new service agreements with other agencies, Trinity will offer internal and external seamless family clinical and community and recreational support wrap-around services that can effectively address families' real problems in concrete, real-time ways and provide a foundation for long term stabilization.

The evening program Youth Engagement Specialist and program counselors provide a variety of positive mentored program segments promoting career exploration and citizenship pathways. The Youth Engagement Specialist is fully integrated in the clinical team meetings. Evening/Saturday program participants between the ages of 13-18 are paid a weekly stipend for 12 weeks of active attendance. The Youth Engagement Specialist forms a leadership council to help guide shared decision-making regarding the evening program to achieve shared ownership and empowerment. Evening program segments include chess, karate, computer literacy and basketball to name a few.