

Department for Children, Youth and Families
Justification for Contract Authorization with Berkshire Farm
Center and Services 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 agreement with Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth for the Provision of Non-Secure Detention Services. The requested contract term will be January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 not to exceed the amount of \$961,000. This will be the second and final one year renewal option of this agreement.

RFP #2020-090– Non Secure Detention Services was issued on August 6 2020 with responses due August 21, 2020. The Department received only one proposal from Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth.

Albany County sought proposals for a Non-Secure Detention for adolescent males or females JDs ages 7-17 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 8 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.

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. Berkshire Farm Center has successfully worked to engage the youth and family, and work in conjunction with Albany County DCYF, Probation, Family Court and Law Enforcement. Berkshire Farm Center 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, Berkshire Farm Center 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.

Berkshire Farm Center'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