

The Department for Children, Youth and Families
Justification for Contract Authorization with Community Maternity Services for the
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 Community Maternity Services for the provision of Clinical Prevention Services with Community and Recreational Supports. The requested contract term is for January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 for the amount of \$428,561. The contract has an option for two (2) additional one (1) year renewals. The total prevention contract amount for Community Maternity Services is \$682,841.

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.

Clinical Prevention Services with Community and Recreational Supports include: assessment, diagnostic testing, clinical 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.

Community Maternity Service's Clinical Prevention Services Program with Community and Recreational Supports offers a full array of services designed to prevent children and youth from entering foster care, and to provide services for youth discharged from foster care and their families. Community Maternity Services is proposing a tiered model for services with an

increased level of services for families presenting with factors indicating a higher risk of foster care placement. The target populations for CMS are pregnant and parenting teens and families affected by parental mental health or developmental disabilities. The proposed program will serve families from any geographic location in the county. Services will be provided by clinical LMSW staff and FT Sr. Case Planner. Families will be assessed using a Trauma Assessment. All services at Community Maternity Services employ strengths based, child centered, family systems techniques within a staff-to- parent/caregiver partnership model that seeks to empower parents/caregivers, protect children, connect families to on-going natural and community supports and strengthen family bonds and functioning via crisis intervention and resolution. This program has 30 available slots.