

Department for Children, Youth and Families justification for a Contractual Agreement with Together for Youth for the provision of Clinical Prevention Services, Targeting Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Programming

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests legislative authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with Together for Youth for the provision of Functional Family Therapy (FFT). The requested contract term is for January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026 for the amount of \$438,401.00.

The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Probation, issued a Request for Proposals for Prevention Services—RFP-2025-144R FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY on October 2, 2025 with responses due October 20, 2025. 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.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an intensive family-focused, home and community-based program for youth and their families. The program is a structured, time-limited, evidence based, clinical intervention. TFY provides FFT, LLC, which is rated “Well-Supported” by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse and is a component of the New York State Family First Prevention Act Prevention Plan. The Case Management component of this proposed program is distinct from FFT and, therefore, to maintain fidelity to the model, requires Family Specialists (Case Managers) to provide non-FFT services.

The FFT, LLC model and Case Management services, incorporates best practices client-centered, family-focused program design; cultural competency; focus on safety, concurrent planning and permanency planning; strategies to work with individuals experiencing issues related to child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and/or substance abuse; positive youth development; linkages to natural community supports; working knowledge of theory and practice in child welfare, juvenile justice, children’s mental health, youth services; compliance with all rules and regulations; incorporating evidence-based or promising practices.

The program will support twelve (12) families at a time.