

## **RAISE THE AGE-ENHANCED CASE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (RTA-ECMCSS)**

In April, 2017, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18-years-old in an effort to provide young people in New York with the intervention and evidence-based treatment they need. The new measures was phased in over time, raising the age of criminal responsibility from age 16 to 17-years-old beginning on October 1, 2018, and subsequently raising the age to 18-years-old on October 1, 2019.

Albany County is seeking proposals that target the needs of youth 14 years of age and older who have been arrested and are involved with Probation Diversion Services; have had their JD case transitioned from Probation Intake/Diversion to Family Court; and/or has a Juvenile Offender or Adolescent Offender case pending/disposed of in Youth Part Court. It is anticipated that these youth are likely to have higher intensity needs. It is anticipated that many of these youth will have needs related to their mental health, substance use, as well as a history of abuse/neglect/trauma. Many youth may present with aggressive/violent behaviors and some may have had prior contact with the juvenile justice system. Programs and services that incorporate targeting the criminogenic risks and needs of the youth (Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) framework) will be essential to effectively serving this population. PROPOSERS must outline how their programming will incorporate a RNR framework.

Statistics show that incarceration of 16- and 17-year-olds falls disproportionately on youth of color. Black and Hispanic youth make up 33 percent of 16- and 17-year-old youth statewide, but 72 percent of all arrests. PROPOSERS should be mindful of these demographics and how proposed service and program would be effective in targeting said youth.

The goal for the youth and family is to be successful and not progress further into the juvenile justice system. Focus is on engagement of the youth and family. Identification of and collaboration with key stakeholders and natural supports such as schools, probation, extended family, service agencies, family advocate, community resources and how such would be facilitated should be outlined. Proposed programs should demonstrate how services will promote social and emotional growth and skills building for youth. Additionally, proposed programs should have a component that addresses linkages to educational/vocational programming, as well as prosocial activities and peer supports for youth.

### **Service Area Outcome:**

- 90% of all cases referred will be engaged within 24 hours
- 90% of children will not come into Albany County custody while receiving prevention services
- 85% of children will have no additional arrests while receiving prevention services

PROPOSERS must also propose what objectives/service outcomes they will achieve in order to meet the outlined goals of this Service Area. During contract development, such agreed upon objectives/service outcomes and the required reporting mechanism will be finalized with the DEPARTMENT.

PROPOSERS must identify specifically whether an evidence-based or promising practice program is being incorporated into this Raise the Age prevention service.

RTA-ECMCSS **must** include the following:

- Be provided in family's home or other places convenient to them and at times convenient to the family
- Services provided based on level of intensity needed, as decided jointly by the Department and Proposer. Services must be provided a minimum of twice per week to as frequently as daily if warranted
- The use of mentors, community coaches, and/or credible messengers as well as a description of how such individuals will be recruited and screened
- A 24/7 on-call schedule to access crisis intervention for families
- Utilize interventions that are evidence-based, evidence-informed, best practice, or promising practice. Agencies must describe in detail what these programs are and how they will maintain model fidelity for this specific target population. If no such programs are being proposed, please indicate such.
- Monitoring and use of data

At least thirty (30) days prior to discharge from this service, the PROPOSER will need to ensure a strength-based family decision meeting (i.e. Family Team Conference, Circle of Support) is held to ensure community and natural supports are engaged with the family. This meeting is to specifically identify and secure a discharge plan that will link the youth and family to any necessary services or community supports to reduce recidivism.

Albany County is requesting proposals to provide Raise the Age-Enhanced Case Management and Community Support Services (RTA-ECMCSS) geared towards working with youth and their families interfacing with the juvenile justice system under Raise the Age Legislation. This program will be designed to provide enhanced case management services to this population, while incorporating the use of parent advocates, and community coaches/credible messengers/mentors. These individuals will be members of the community in which they serve with real life experiences that will be helpful in assisting youth and families navigate the juvenile justice system, all of which will be under the direct supervision and guidance of a case manager.

Using the YASI as a guide, focus will be on those areas contributing to the youth's criminogenic risk factors and interventions will be consistent with the RNR framework. It is anticipated that this program will take a holistic wrap-around approach to address the problems/challenges facing the youth/family. It is expected that the contracted agency will provide a full range of services including but not limited to mentoring, transportation, skill building, parental support/education, housing assistance, and vocational/educational

advocacy. Working closely with Probation, the goal of this program ultimately is to respond to each youth's individual needs, while maintaining them safely in the community, thereby reducing the need for Family Court Intervention for Intake/Diversion cases and for those youth already involved in Family Court, reducing the use of detention and out of home placement.

The cost of this program is estimated to be \$200,000 and will serve up to 50 families a year (approximately 12 youth per quarter) both as a Diversion program and as an Alternative to Detention. It is anticipated that each youth will remain in the program on average 90-120 days. Billing is to be submitted by the PROPOSERS on a quarterly basis with quarterly reimbursement amounting to \$50,000. As stated, Albany County is looking to use this service both as a front end Diversion program and as an Alternative to Detention.

PROPOSERS must be available to participate in scheduled strength-based service planning meetings to ensure collaborative service and discharge planning. PROPOSERS must also outline how they will maintain frequent contact with the DEPARTMENT and any other service agency in order to successfully address barriers to support/advocacy and any service needs.

All RTA-ECMCSS should focus on empowering children and families to develop or enhance supports and linkages within their neighborhoods, local communities and natural support network so that once RTA-ECMCSS have ended, the family will still have access to services/supports in their community.

PROPOSERS are required to have an interpreter available for families whose first language is not English; this also includes Deaf or hard of hearing families. There will be no additional reimbursement for providing this service.

**Total allocation for this programming not to exceed \$200,000. Any proposals that are above the maximum allocation will not be considered.**