



New Jersey Department of Children and Families: Children's System of Care

12/9/19 Forecasting Meeting Questions & Answers

- 1. Question:** In reference to the OOH Intensity of Service (IOS) PowerPoint slide, will all these IOSs remain in our continuum?

Response: Children's System of Care (CSOC) is not eliminating any IOS. Rather, the purpose of this forecasting event was to focus on the IOSs currently needed. It was noted that other needs may emerge after the forecasting event.
- 2. Question:** Will future RFP's include funding for construction costs?

Response: DCF does not currently have an appropriation to support capital construction costs.
- 3. Question:** Will providers have to apply to an RFP if they currently provide that service?

Response: The agency will only need to apply if the deliverables change for that service. Providers will be notified if they need to re-apply.
- 4. Question:** Due to the shift in population needs, has DCF considered adjusting the existing contract requirements so that they are nimble?

Response: Review of the current needs and service contract requirements is an ongoing process. DCF must ensure that this process fair and equitable for all.
- 5. Question:** Are there any specific timeframes for the RFP issuances?

Response: The purpose of this forecasting event was to provide agencies with notice that RFPs may be released soon, possibly within the next year or two. DCF is not able to provide any additional specific details as doing so would compromise the procurement process. If your agency is not registered to receive e-mail notifications of RFP announcements, you may enroll through the DCF website <https://lp.constantcontact.com/su/7SbnfjG/NJDCF>
- 6. Question:** If our agency has an active contract but for a different age range than what was identified as "in need" at the forecasting meeting, must our agency apply for the RFP?

Response: This would be given consideration in the writing of the RFP. Agencies do not need to re-apply unless deliverables are changed. Providers will be notified if they need to re-apply.

7. Question: IIC (Intensive In-Community) is an important component of successful transition planning. It has been ten years since rates have been adjusted. Will IIC rates be considered as part of rate setting?

Response: This question is outside the scope of the OOH forecasting event and related RFPs.

8. Question: How do youth receive education when in an OOH treatment setting?

Response: The youth's educational component will depend on the type of OOH setting the youth is placed in, as well as the type of school setting required. Youth can attend school on the OOH campus or in the community. Upon OOH admission, youth are enrolled in the local school district. The youth's school placement will be determined by the school system and is based on the youth's needs and Individual Educational Plan (IEP), if classified.

9. Question: Do staff require special trainings and credentialing as part of the RFP requirements, or do they solely follow the Office of Licensing requirements?

Response: Each RFP will clearly outline the training requirements. In addition, CSOC holds a contract with Rutgers- UBHC which offers a wealth of free trainings for system partners. Each licensed program is responsible for ensuring that it adheres to all required staff training and development activities as identified in the applicable licensing regulations.

10. Question: Will DCF provide data on OOH utilization trends so that agencies can make an informed decision about applying to an RFP?

Response: Yes, this information will be provided.

11. Question: Is there an estimate time of when these RFPs will start coming out?

Response: No. There is no set timeline, since our planning process is ongoing. The RFP will be posted on the DCF Public Website.

12. Question: Is there a max bed capacity in each home?

Response: Each RFP will list the maximum capacity for each program.

13. Question: From experience with these homes in NYC the rates that are being offered here in NJ can just barely cover costs. Is there more planning and discussion that will go into the RFPs to possibly have less required staff or more dollars put down for the rate per day?

Response: From this point forward the development of the RFP, staffing requirements and rates are part of the process that cannot be further discussed. However, your comments shall be taken into consideration.

14. Question: Is the state currently accepting new providers for in-home ABA services?

Response: ABA is not part of this forecasting process.

15. Question: Can DCF do geo mapping of the forecasted need for each of the potential programs that have been identified aligned with where services are currently offered – i.e. will there be a geographic priority for any of the identified service areas?

Response: The geographic preferences for program locations will be listed in each RFP, based on current identified needs.

16. Question: Is there any way to forecast the anticipated duration of need/demand for the services identified as future potential needs?

Response: CSOC cannot guarantee future needs nor 100 % utilization.

17. Question: What is the average length of service provision for each area of potential future need identified?

Response: Data suggests that reduced lengths of stay in OOH treatment for youth with behavioral health needs is associated with improved outcomes (Blau, G.M., Caldwell, B. and Lieberman, R. E. (2014). Residential Interventions for Children, Adolescents, and Families, A Best Practice Guide (pp. 200-201). New York and London: Routledge. however, length of stay for I/DD populations may vary by intensity of service. While these timeframes are targets, the actual length of stay is based on individualized needs of each youth.

18. Question: Regarding staffing, the clinical criteria gives some guidance but are there specific expectations for the positions for each area in terms of full time or part time status and/or number of hours of availability?

Response: Each RFP will provide specific expectations regarding staffing.

19. Question: Can you verify that each of the specialty areas (i.e. fire setting, assaultive behavior, problematic sexual behavior, cruelty to animals, and complex trauma) are intended to be separate independent services and not combined in some way?

Response: Specialty providers are expected to demonstrate their ability to treat all specialty populations through the lens that these behaviors are a response to trauma. Individual considerations, based on the current milieu, will be made at the time of referral with SRTU consultation.

20. Question: For each of the potential future need areas, is the continued move toward smaller, community-based programs still prioritized – will capacity be capped for each location for each service area?

Response: While CSOC has focused on smaller community-based settings, each RFP will identify number of beds and type of setting.

21. Question: Will any of the current RTC programs be required to reapply for the services they are currently providing? Specifically, if an agency has contracted RTC beds, do they have to reapply?

Response: No, unless deliverables have changed. Providers will be notified if they need to re-apply.

22. Question: If an agency has an underutilized service, i.e. group home level of care, can they write for the potential future need RFPs to replace what they currently have?

Response: Yes. Award is not guaranteed as each proposal submitted will be scored based on an individual basis.

23. Question: If a bidder has a license for a higher intensity than the RFP calls for, may they apply with the higher license?

Response: OOL would monitor program implementation and modify the license type as appropriate. The program will not be licensed above the contracted capacity of the award.

24. Question: Are these beds are expected to be co-ed or is there a gender need for each service identified as a potential future need?

Response: Each RFP will identify the target population, based on current needs.

25. Question: The hand-outs indicate non-I/DD programs are under the regulations of the requirements for Children's Group Homes, is this accurate or should it have read "RTC"?

Response: Each RFP will outline the specific licensing requirements that will apply for the program.

26. Question: For RTC beds, do you have a forecast regarding # of beds, size of program and location of programs?

Response: CSOC has currently identified the aging-out population as a priority, with statewide services, preferably centrally located.

27. Question: No eject policy - The concept is holistic support to do whatever it takes to support the child in staying in their current home. All the agencies agree with that philosophy and strive to be the best placement for the youth. Sometimes despite all of this, the youth needs to be moved due to the conflict level in the home, unknown traumatic events that come to light and cause the child to regress and need higher levels of care. Unfortunately, family conflict or family loss can be attributed to incidents. Request for higher levels of care are sometimes frowned upon and take a very long time. In reviewing the RFP's, can language be added indicating that the reviews would happen in a shorter time frame?

Response: Per the No Eject / No Reject Protocol, SRTU (Specialized Residential Treatment Unit) has three (3) business days to respond to eject/reject requests. Determinations will be delayed if required documentation is not provided with the request.

28. Question: Do the Staff/child ratios apply to the number of children allowed in a residence? According to the Manual in some case you can have a total of 12 children. is this still the case if we follow the staff /children ratio as outlined in the RFP?

Response: Each RFP will outline the number of beds and required staff to child ratio for that intensity of service.

29. Question: Will the Division provide guidance for new group providers?

Response: No . Since this is the phase where the DCF is developing the Requests for Proposals, there can be no contact regarding the process. Once the RFP is issued questions can be asked in accordance with the RFP and technical assistance concerning forms can be provided.

30. Question: I see there is a forecasted Intensive Services for Youth with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities RFQ. Is this specific to residential or would this be a re-opening/lifting of the moratorium for IHH services.

Response: The RFP is specific to residential treatment services at the Intensive IDD IOS.