SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Department of Child, Family and Adult Services
Child Protective Services

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND SCHOOL READINESS

LETTER OF INTEREST (LOI) No. CPS/063

LOI due no later than 5:00 PM (PDT)

June 17, 2022

- LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
- Postmarks will not be accepted as meeting the deadline requirement
- Faxed submissions will not be accepted
- Delivery to any other email address will not be accepted

Proposals will only be accepted from organizations that:

- Meet minimum requirements as stated in this document

Submit completed proposals by email to:

Tom Hannon at hannonth@saccounty.gov
With subject line: DCFAS LOI No. CPS/063 LOI

Release Date: June 7, 2022

A. PURPOSE

The County of Sacramento Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) is seeking interested applicants to provide Academic Supports and School Readiness services targeted specifically for youth currently in the foster care system. The intent of this Letter of Interest is to seek providers who can support this effort within the top five school districts in which foster youth are enrolled. The districts are as follows: Elk Grove Unified, Sacramento City Unified, Twin Rivers Unified, San Juan Unified, and Natomas Unified. Academic services and supports will be focused on youth enrolled in elementary, intermediate and middle school (first through eighth grade), as well as a focus on kindergarteners and pre-school age children. The contracted provider(s) will help bridge the academic gap for foster children and attempt to improve academic achievement in areas identified below grade level through a services and support system. Providers will also engage and support parents/caretakers and other identified educational advocates (Educational Rights Holders, CASA, Foster Youth Liaisons, etc.) in these efforts.

B. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting school closures have further exacerbated the unique challenges that youth in foster care faced long before the pandemic and now put them at even greater risk of falling behind in school. Students in foster care have been disproportionately impacted by school closures/distance learning. There are challenges with technology, caregiver capacity, a disruption to educational supports that schools provide to foster children as well as social isolation. Although all students have been impacted by the pandemic, foster children have experienced the additional trauma of abuse and neglect and separation from their families. All of this compounds the trauma that foster youth have already experienced and can make it difficult for foster youth to focus on school and learn.

The Board of Supervisors approved the initial project recommendations for Phase One Funding Allocations for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The funds come from the total of the first allocation $150 million, which the County received in May 2021. Project proposals had to fit in one of the three Board–approved strategic investments for priority issue areas: Housing and Homelessness, Health, or Economic Response. Academic Support and School Readiness were identified under the Health priority category to address the negative impact of academic disruption and remote learning due to the pandemic on foster children, families and caretakers. The total project has been funded with a total of $1.2M split over three fiscal years to be spent by June 30, 2025.

An initial analysis of the current academic services and supports for foster children in Sacramento County showed the greatest need exists for children in first grade through eighth grade. Furthermore, 85% of all Sacramento County foster children enrolled in first through eighth grade attend school in just 5 of the 13 school districts in Sacramento County: Elk Grove Unified (97 or 26.6%), Sacramento City Unified (95 or 26.1%), Twin Rivers Unified (73 or 20.1%), San Juan Unified (57 or 15.7%) and

Natomas Unified (42 or 11.5%). Further analysis found that when drilling down by enrolled grade:

Elk Grove Unified School District has 13 students in Pre-K/K; 13 students in grade 1; 15 students in grade 2; 6 students in grade 3; 8 students in grade 4; 11 students in grade 5; 15 students in grade 6; 6 students in grade 7; and 11 students in grade 8.

Sacramento Unified School District has 13 students in Pre-K/K; 17 students in grade 1; 16 students in grade 2; 9 students in grade 3; 9 students in grade 4; 12 students in grade 5; 13 students in grade 6; 4 students in grade 7; and 8 students in grade 8.

Twin Rivers Unified School District 6 students in Pre-K/K; 13 students in grade 1; 10 students in grade 2; 6 students in grade 3; 5 students in grade 4; 15 students in grade 5; 5 students in grade 6; 11 students in grade 7; and 5 students in grade 8.

San Juan Unified School District 12 students in Pre-K/K; 7 students in grade 1; 5 students in grade 2; 2 students in grade 3; 9 students in grade 4; 7 students in grade 5; 6 students in grade 6; 6 students in grade 7; and 10 students in grade 8.

Natomas Unified School District 5 students in Pre-K/K; 0 students in grade 1; 5 students in grade 2; 4 students in grade 3; 10 students in grade 4; 7 students in grade 5; 4 students in grade 6; 7 students in grade 7; and 2 students in grade 8.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work is intentionally geared to both school readiness and improving academic success of youth in foster care. All provider(s) efforts/activities and strategies will be required to provide data and outcomes on an ongoing basis with reporting timelines identified by the County. Providers will work with a number of collateral resources in order to meet the goals of the strategies identified such as school nursing, foster youth liaisons, academic counselors and other supportive referral based services. Applicants may apply to service youth in multiple grades in a district and/or focus on a specific cluster of schools in a district i.e. all elementary schools in a close proximity.

Additionally, the approaches used are intended to enhance services at the Black Child Legacy Community Incubator Lead CIL) sites and the Birth and Beyond Family Resource Centers (FRC) by adding School Readiness Coordinators to support young children and families in communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The School Readiness Coordinators will assess developmental, cognitive and social/emotional needs, support parents and link them to longer term services and supports.

In working with the aforementioned identified population the scope of work may include but not be limited to the following activities:

- 100% of pre-K and K students will have a developmental school readiness assessment.
- 100% of students in grades 1-5 will have a student academic assessment review.
- 100% of reviews will be updated on a regular interval to reflect improvement in academic achievement.
- 100% of students will receive an Action Plan that supports achievement and is inclusive of parent/caregiver supports.

Direct services will include students receiving 8-20 engagement services per year and will include but limited to: Face to Face Contacts (in the home, in-person, in the community or Zoom) Tutoring, Homework Support, Service Referrals (Mental Health, housing, food resources, etc.) and the ability to meet the linguistic needs of students and families served.

D. ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY/MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Agencies that meet all of the following criteria are eligible to submit a Letter of Interest:

1. The successful applicant(s) shall be required to sign a Sacramento County contract, and must agree to all terms and conditions of the contract with Sacramento County.
2. Must be a responsive applicant whose response complies with all requirements of this Letter of Interest.
3. Have at least 3 years' experience providing academic supports to students enrolled in the identified grades.
4. Must have no record of unsatisfactory contract or service performance with Sacramento County, and be in compliance with any unresolved corrective action plan.
5. Single agency proposals only will be accepted.
6. MUST maintain and preserve confidential information and records of students enrolled in the program.

Sacramento County reserves the rights to:

1. Reject any or all responses, if a applicant does not meet the submission criteria.

2. Determine which responses shall be accepted as meeting the criteria as stated.

3. Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to qualified applicants of this Letter of Interest. Cancel and/or reissue this Letter of Interest or any part of it.

4. Require information in addition to the Letter of Interest for further evaluation, verification or clarification, if necessary.

5. Conduct an informational meeting if necessary and/or request a Letter of Intent regarding further interest in the selection process.

6. Contract with one or more agency for the services awarded through this process.

7. Determine the amount of resources allocated to applicant(s) and/or make awards for all or any portion thereof.

8. Provide no guarantees for the number of referrals.

9. Issue an addenda and/or supplement to this Notice if deemed necessary at any time.

Instructions:

Interested agencies must respond by completing and submitting the "Letter of Interest" at the end of this document. Submit the Letter of Interest in accordance with all instructions in this notice.

1. Only agencies that submit a complete Letter of Interest and meet the qualifications as stated in this document will be accepted, all others will be rejected.

2. The Letter of Interest must be signed by the individual(s) authorized to commit the agency contractually.

3. The Letter of Interest must include the agency's information – legal business name, individual(s) typed name, title, address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address.

4. Applicants must meet all of the requirements described in section D. Eligibity to Apply/Minimum Qualifications.

5. The following will not be accepted: Responses that are faxed, mailed, hand delivered, or sent to any other email address than the one specified below.

6. **The completed LETTER OF INTETERST must be received via email. Submit LETTER OF INTEREST to:**

   Tom Hannon
   Department of Child, Family and Adult Services
   Email address: hannonth@saccounty.gov

7. Responses to this Letter of Interest received after the deadline will be rejected.

LETTER OF INTEREST

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND SCHOOL READINESS
No. CPS/063

DEADLINE: June 17, 2022 5:00 p.m. (PDT)

Legal Business Name of Agency	
Address	
Name of Point of Contact	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Agencies that meet all of the following criteria are eligible to submit a proposal in response to this Letter of Interest:

1. The successful applicant(s) shall be required to sign a Sacramento County contract, and must agree to all terms and conditions of the contract with Sacramento County.

2. Must be a responsive proposer whose response complies with all requirements of this Letter of Interest.

3. Have at least 3 years' experience providing academic supports to students enrolled in the identified grades.

4. Must have no record of unsatisfactory contract or service performance with Sacramento County, and be in compliance with any unresolved corrective action plan.

5. Single agency proposals only will be accepted.

6. MUST maintain and preserve confidential information and records of students enrolled in the program.

Please choose Option A, B, or C and make a check mark in the box selecting which school district(s), or specific school(s), and grade(s) your agency can provide services. If choosing **Option C** please list specific schools and specific grades (use a separate sheet if necessary):

OPTION A:

☐ All School District (all schools, all grades)

OPTION B:

☐ Elk Grove School District (all schools, all grades)
☐ Sacramento City Unified (all schools, all grades)
☐ Twin Rivers Unified (all schools, all grades)
☐ San Juan Unified (all schools, all grades)
☐ Natomas Unified (all schools, all grades)

OPTION C:

☐ Elk Grove School District
schools: _____ grades: _____
☐ Sacramento City Unified
schools: _____ grades: _____
☐ Twin Rivers Unified
schools: _____ grades: _____
☐ San Juan Unified
schools: _____ grades: _____
☐ Natomas Unified
schools: _____ grades: _____

_____

Signature *Date*

_____

Printed Name and Title