

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

RFP # 2023-005VF: Kinship and Specialized Populations

Questions submitted via email and at the Informational Meeting on March 8, 2023

1. **Can the budget pages be provided in an excel format?**

An Excel version of Appendix B is available on the ECDSS website: [ECDSS RFP Appendix B](#)

2. **Are there flex dollars connected to the RFP? If so, is it part of the total or in addition to the total budget and how much?**

Flex funds are part of the total of the contract. The amount is up to the proposer.

3. **Found on page 6: Confirming that an agency can apply for only one of the 2 services offered, Preventive Kinship Services or Specialized Populations.**

Proposers may apply for one or both deliverables, Preventive Kinship Services and/or Specialized Populations.

4. **Found on page 8: Under Type of Service, please confirm which category Kinship falls under, its title is not specifically listed?**

Type of Service	Total Face to Face Contacts Required	In- Home Contacts
Preventive Services Foster Care & CPS	3 contacts per month with family (1 for foster care, 2 for preventive CPS)	1 per month

5. **Should we submit ONE response that contains both a Kinship and a Specialized Populations proposal? Or should we submit TWO completely separate responses?**

It should be submitted as one proposal with one or two deliverables.

6. **Alternatively, can we submit a response with one proposal that covers both Kinship and Specialized Populations, with one consistent rate for both populations?**

One proposal should be submitted.

7. **We currently have a traditional preventive contract through Erie County. Many of our clients are referred to us are identified as traditional cases but are actually kinship cases. If awarded this RFP, would we be able to send some of our kinship cases to this program, and have new, traditional referrals sent to our traditional preventive program? Most of our new cases coming in are kinship families, so if these families are transferred to the new kinship contract, we would want to ensure there were enough traditional referrals to take their spot.**

Traditional referrals can be transferred to Kinship if available. High Fidelity Wrap referrals can also switch to Kinship services as long as the case manager is in agreement. The services need to be appropriate for the family and meet the family's needs. In addition, there has to be openings for kinship preventive services, not a wait list. Additional referrals cannot be guaranteed.

8. What is the expected number of families to be served under this contract?

We anticipate approximately 550 children to be served.

9. The RFP notes that more than one provider may be selected for 2024, does the County have an estimate of how many awardees will be selected?

The review committee will consider the proposals received and determine the number of agencies to best meet the department's needs. The number of agencies is not pre-determined.

10. Are unit costs higher for this RFP than traditional preventive services?

The costs would be determined by the proposer in the proposal.

11. Is the Appendix A available in a fillable format?

A fillable version of Appendix A is available on the ECDSS website: [ECDSS RFP Appendix A](#).

12. What is the timeline expectation for the first direct contact?

Direct contact is to be made within 2 days.

13. Can clinical services be done via referral or must be direct?

The proposal should indicate how services will be addressed.

14. Is any evidence-based model acceptable, or only those listed in the RFP?

Any evidence-based model is acceptable.

15. Is this a new service?

No, there are currently three providers.