ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING
RFP # 2026-012VF: SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR JUVENILES PROGRAM

	QUESTION	ANSWER
1.	Is this program taking the place of what is commonly known as "DSS-RTA?"	No.
2.	Should we provide references for each proposed program?	No. Please provide references for your agency's youth or diversion services overall. Separate references for each Service Domain are not necessary.
3.	Should we complete an entire Appendix A, including cover page, for each proposed services domain applying for?	No. The first part of Appendix A is basic agency information, which does not have to be repeated. It is the next part, called "Program Information," which requires separate submissions for each domain. Only one signed "Schedule A" is required. On the first part ("Agency Information,") the information pertaining to amount of funding request, units of services, and cost per unit, are for the ALL the domains combined.
4.	Should we complete an entire Appendix B budget for each proposed service domain applying for?	No. Separate budgets are only required when applying for both RTA and non-RTA services, since they come from separate funding streams, and require separate contracts.
5.	If we have several proposals (for separate services domains being applied for), do we submit them separately? If not, how do we submit a proposal that includes several programs?	Submit your Appendix A, including separate Service Domain descriptions, as one PDF. Please ensure that it is clear which Service Domain is being described in each individual proposal.
6.	In the example of Appendix A in the RFP, the section under Cultural Competency has an incomplete question. It states, "describe whether the program results in systemic." What is the rest of the sentence?	In the fillable Appendix A, the questions read," Describe whether the program results in systemic change." Apologies for that typo.
7.	Within the total funding amount, will there be specific amounts of funding allocated for each service domain, or each target population? Or will it be determined based on the proposals received?	Erie County's probation intake-to-detention ratio is above 0.3. Therefore, we are mandated by OCFS to award a minimum of $64,436 on programs in the Alternatives to Detention Service Domain. Other than this guideline, we do not have specific budgets for each service domain. We anticipate awarding the majority of funding in the ATD and ATP Service domains.

8.	Our agency has 2 programs for juvenile justice involved youth (Stepping Stones and Enhanced Stepping Stones). They were the result of several RFPs in the past. Does this RFP encompass all of these? That is, will there be other RFPs for the Juvenile Justice population or will this cover them all? That includes past RFPs for RTA as well as for youth in or at risk of involvement in the system.	Erie County funding available to support Juvenile Justice services at this time are the Youth Bureau YDP program and STSJP/STSJP-RTA. Preventative RTA services are managed by a different unit. That said, we encourage all types of youth programs to involve justice-involved youth when possible and thus, justice-involved youth may be served by all of our funding programs. However, STSJP is the only funding program specific to serving justice-involved youth.
9.	[Referring to same 2 programs as above- Stepping Stones and Enhanced Stepping Stones] – both of these programs are Alternative to Detention programs, but one is RTA and one is non-RTA. Can we propose 2 programs for the same services domain since they have 2 separate funding streams and serve 2 separate populations, or can we only propose one program per service domain?	In this case, you would propose one service in Appendix A but provide 2 separate budgets. In your Appendix A, you would simply articulate each program separately in the program summary, as they have different names and different approaches. Thus, we would be comparing ATD programs against each other, but you are clearly proposing how you would approach ATD for non-RTA differently than ATD for RTA youth. You may add separate pages to Appendix A if needed. For other sections of the Appendix A, if the information is the same, you can provide one answer and simply articulate program differences in the program summary section.
10.	Can we propose a single program to cover multiple service domains? If so, would we need a separate complete narrative, or would it suffice to indicate what the focus of services would be for each service domain? Our Stepping Stones program currently serves 3 service areas: Early Intervention, Alternatives to Detention, and Alternatives to Placement. It serves both RTA and non-RTA.	Yes, however, you should articulate specifically how you will achieve the outcomes specific to each service domain. For example, the primary goals of an ATD are to ensure that the youth return to court and remain crime free. The primary goal of an ATP is to ensure that an adjudicated youth avoids placement. If service approaches to achieve each of these outcomes differ, you should provide different summaries for each Service Domain. If you are proposing the exact same service for each Service Domain, simply indicate that in your application.
11.	Can we propose more than one program for the same service domain?	Yes. Keep in mind that services are organized by Service Domain and associated outcomes, and reporting is done by individual youth.
12.	The RFP indicates that a 48-hour response to referrals is required. Is that 48 business hours?	Yes.
13.	Are we able to accept referrals from the community or other community providers, or	All services will be referred by Erie County.

	do all referrals have to come from the County?	
14.	If we elect to serve both RTA and non-RTA youth and create a projected budget on this, what happens if we don't receive the corresponding number of referrals? For example, what if we budget 30% of our program to be funded under STSJP-RTA, but only 15% of our referrals for service come from this age group?	If the funded service is proven to be effective, it is unlikely that the proposed number of service slots will not be filled.
15.	Will payment for services be cost reimbursement, hourly, or per diem?	Currently, payment for services is reimbursed based on contracted budget and submission of quarterly expenditure reports with detailed, supporting documentation.
16.	Is there a limit on overhead or administrative costs?	Yes, the limit is 15% of contracted dollars; with a preference to aim for 12% or below.
17.	Will a federally negotiated or the current di minimis rate for overhead be allowed?	The current rate is 15% for federal di minimis. This grant is State and Local dollars. The preference is to aim for 12% or below on all contracts, thereby allocating more dollars to direct care services.
18.	What if we have trouble uploading our proposal, or cannot find the correct forms?	Please reach out to Judith.Kolmetz@erie.gov for assistance, ideally before the day the RFP is due. You can also mail a paper copy of your proposal, as long as it arrives prior to the deadline (to Judith Kolmetz, 95 Franklin Street Room 804, Buffalo, NY 14202). Uploading to ONBASE is the preferred method of submission, however.