



**Request For Information
for
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin**

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

**Child Welfare Community Alignment & Intensive Permanency Services
(IPS)**

Responses must be received no later than
Wednesday, July 1, 2020

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Label subject line of email as follows:
Child Welfare Community Alignment & Intensive Permanency Services
2. Email to:
Chris Sander
Contract Unit Supervisor
csander@lacrossecounty.org

Issued by
La Crosse County Human Services

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The past decade has brought many advances in scientific knowledge and reform relating to child welfare practice. Particularly, much more is known about the impact of trauma on child development and parental behavior. Both the Federal and State government have used this knowledge to update laws, policies and strategic direction. For example, the Federal Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) includes reforms to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care (<https://familyfirstact.org/about-law>). Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has adopted the strategic goal of transforming Wisconsin's approach to child welfare services by keeping more families together (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first>).

La Crosse County Human Services is seeking to improve the effectiveness of its child welfare system by aligning both as an agency and a community with these advancements. While we have put much effort in orientating our team members on trauma informed care, we are anxious to get to the "next level" in putting this knowledge to use in impactful ways within our child welfare system. As the "system" includes many community partners (i.e., schools, law enforcement, courts), and the State and Federal reforms represent a significant change from past philosophy and practice, we want to be thoughtful and coordinated in moving forward. Therefore, we would like consultation and other assistance in aligning community partners with this change.

In addition to community alignment, a direct area we are seeking improvement in outcomes is in the timeliness in achieving permanency for children in out-of-home care. Simply put, we have too many children and youth who have been in out-of-home care for too long. In addressing this issue, we are interested in implementing Intensive Permanency Services.

2.0 SCOPE OF PROJECT:

The scope of the project includes both community alignment and implementation of intensive permanency services.

Community Alignment

The project seeks consultation to Human Services leadership and direct education to various community partners. The goal is to align philosophy and approaches to serving children, youth and their families within and at-risk of entering the child welfare system. This would include activities like:

- Presenting to child welfare system partners topics such as the child welfare change movement and impacts of out-of-home care.
- Providing leadership coaching for a select number of Human Services supervisors.

- Providing consultation for Human Services managers and supervisors on how to most successfully bring our community in alignment with recent child welfare reforms

Intensive Permanency Services

This project seeks consultation on implementing an Intensive Permanency Services (IPS) model at La Crosse County Human Services. Intensive Permanency Services work by having a trained worker guide the youth through a process to heal from what has happened to them. Another aspect that is important to us is bringing in community partners to collaborate with this model. Outcomes expected would be:

- Provide a foundational understanding of the IPS model for leaders and staff.
- Provide an understanding of how to support and sustain individual and organizational resilience.
- Assist in improving outcomes for youth by troubleshooting interventions, developing team expertise and developing resources that promote sustainability.
- Provide coaching to leaders to increase the capacity to troubleshoot the difficult cases and sustain the model.
- Assist with bringing community partners to collaborate with La Crosse County Human Services in implementing this model.

The budget for this entire project is around **\$400,000**.

This project could last up to three years long. ***Services should start by August 1, 2020 and can be delivered virtually, if appropriate.***

3.0 RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS:

3.1 Service Offering Narrative: Please provide a proposal for this project outlining the activities and timeframes. Please also provide information on cost.

3.2 Organizational Capacity: La Crosse County Human Services is seeking one organization to provide the services in this RFI. Please describe agency experience and capabilities of providing similar services to other organizations. Include a description of organizational philosophy and at least one reference letter from another organization that you have worked with in the past or are currently working with.

3.4 Other Information: Please include any unique or innovative ideas or service offerings that your organization could or may be interested in providing based on the project scope.

3.5 Deadline: Proposals must be received via email by **Wednesday, July 1, 2020.**

4.0 QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS: Any questions concerning this Request for Interest can be referred to Chris Sander, Contract Unit Supervisor, (608)785-5511, csander@lacrossecounty.org. Email is preferred.