

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Florence Crittenton Programs of SC

RFP SUMMARY: The <i>Promoting Permanency for Pregnant and Parenting Youth</i> program will provide adult caregivers with the education, skills, and resources to support parenting youth in foster care with the goal of increasing placement stabilization and permanency. The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to invite proposals to support the development of this multi-module training program on behalf of FCPSC.	
RFP ISSUE DATE	June 1, 2024
PROPOSAL DUE DATE	June 23, 2024
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCESS	All proposals must be received using the submission website at: https://form.jotform.com/241505946472157
RFP WEBSITE	Updates and information regarding this proposal can be found at https://www.florencecrittentonsc.org
RFP OFFICIAL CONTACT	Cheryl O'Donnell, Executive Director, trainingrfp@florencecrittentonsc.org , 843-722-7526 ext. 102

1. The Opportunity

1.1 Background

The *Promoting Permanency for Pregnant and Parenting Youth* program's goal is to minimize the number of placement changes youth experience while in foster care by providing caregivers with the education, skills, and resources needed to support parenting youth in foster care.

According to Chapin Hall Center, young women in foster care are more than twice as likely to get pregnant than their non-system-involved peers. Approximately 30 percent of young women in care have been pregnant more than once, and one-third of young women in care give birth before the age of 16. Beyond these numbers, there is little known about pregnant and parenting young women in foster care in the United States. Even less is known about young fathers in the system. This lack of understanding about the population often leads to youth feeling unsupported and misunderstood, while caregivers feel ill-equipped to support youth during this pivotal period in their lives, partially contributing to maladaptive behaviors that lead to placement changes.

Research indicates that youth that have multiple or unstable placements experience more difficulty forming healthy and meaningful attachments, delayed time to permanency, poorer educational outcomes, and increased behavioral and mental health issues (Casey Family Programs, 2023). Conversely, stable placements demonstrably have the positive impact of providing youth with consistency, predictability, and stability that promotes healthy and prosocial attachments with caring adults, which help them thrive. Moreover, youth who experience more stable placements and less frequent moves have been shown to have improved timeliness to permanency.

Since 1897, Florence Crittenton Programs of SC (FCPSC) has provided hope, safety, and opportunity to pregnant and parenting young women. Our maternity group home located in Charleston, SC has been home to more than 10,000 women and children who have suffered abandonment, abuse, and poverty. As the state's only licensed maternity group home serving minors, FCPSC regularly receives referrals for young women whose foster care placements have been disrupted during her pregnancy. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by this demographic, FCPSC has received a grant from the SC Department of Social Services to develop a specialized training program for foster parents/staff, kinship caregivers, parents, and group home providers that can be delivered in-person or online in a self-paced learning environment.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to invite businesses who specialize in training and curriculum development to submit proposals to support the development of a multi-module training program on behalf of FCPSC. Our goal for this training program is to increase permanency for pregnant and parenting teens in foster care by increasing awareness about their hopes, challenges, and needs.

1.2 Anticipated Contract Terms

FCPSC anticipates issuing a single contract not to exceed \$185,250. The initial term of the contract is anticipated to begin July 8, 2024, and end on June 1, 2025.

2. Scope of Work

The *Promoting Permanency for Pregnant and Parenting Youth* program will provide caregivers with the education, skills, and resources to support parenting youth in foster care with the goal of increasing placement stabilization and permanency. Florence Crittenton is seeking a Contractor to lead two major workstreams: stakeholder engagement and curriculum development for in-person and online training. The project is expected to last up to 11 months to include the following components.

Workstream 1: Stakeholder Engagement

To ensure the curriculum reflects the reality of pregnant and parenting youth in foster care and their caregivers, the Contractor will be required to engage these stakeholders at the onset of curriculum development.

Key deliverables:

- Design focus group and survey questions for two distinct audiences to identify specific concerns and areas of interest for training content development:
 - Youth: young adults up to age 21 who are or were pregnant and parenting while in foster care in South Carolina
 - Adult Caregivers: foster parents, kinship caregivers, biological and adoptive parents, foster care and group home agency staff, and DSS caseworkers who have served pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
- Administer surveys and host up to 4 regional in-person focus groups
- Craft a report and recommendations on proposed content to be addressed in the curriculum.

Workstream 2: Curriculum Development

The Contractor will engage experts in adolescent development, social work, and trauma-informed care to develop a comprehensive and culturally sensitive training curriculum. Content should include:

- Issues identified during stakeholder engagement
- A comprehensive understanding of the physical, emotional, and educational aspects of supporting young parents.
- Effective communication strategies
- Practical parenting skills
- Trauma-informed care principles
- Rights and responsibilities of custodial and noncustodial parents in foster care
- An opportunity for young parents in foster care to share their experience and insight

Key Deliverables:

- In-Person Training Delivery
 - Trainer manual
 - Training slides
 - Participant materials
 - Experiential learning opportunities (example: hands-on activities or case studies)
- Online Training Delivery
 - Recorded or interactive online training modules for self-paced learning
- Outcomes measurement tools (example: pre- and post-tests, follow-up surveys)
- Resources

2.1 General Requirements

Background Checks: The Contractor must complete background checks performed by Florence Crittenton prior to utilizing all employees, contractors, subcontractors, volunteers, or others who may have access to clients or clients' data. Background checks will include national fingerprint background check performed by a third-party vendor, a SLED CATCH check, state and national sex offender registry check, and a Central Registry check. These checks must be performed prior to a designated person, employee, contractor, subcontractor, or person performing duties under this contract. No designated person shall perform work under this contract unless all required background checks are clear. A breach of this term is a material breach and may result in termination of the contract for cause, in addition to all other legal and equitable remedies available to the state.

3. Submission Instructions

3.1 Submission Website

Recognizing the brief time of the submission process and contract period, FCPSC has simplified the submission process. All proposals must be received using the submission website at:

<https://form.iotform.com/241505946472157>

Submissions must be received by 11:59 pm Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Submittals received after the date and time stated will not be accepted.

3.2 Proposal Content

The Submission Website contains five sections:

1. Contact Information
2. Proposal Narrative:
 - a. Describe your agency's plan and timeline to implement activities and related to this Request for Proposal. Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.
 - b. Describe your agency's training development process from ideation, production, revision, to final delivery.
 - c. Describe your agency's approach to addressing training barriers for people with disabilities or those who have specific cultural or language needs.
3. Budget and Budget Narrative (upload)
 - a. All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application.
 - b. The budget narrative should include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated.
4. Experience and Capabilities
 - a. Describe how your agency's experience and capabilities make you the ideal candidate for this work. Describe experience with similar projects and work with stakeholder groups.
 - b. Indicate key personnel who will be assigned to this project and describe their experience.
5. Optional Additional Information (upload)

For sections requiring uploaded materials, please label attachments clearly starting with your agency name, example:

FlorenceCrittenton_BudgetNarrative.pdf

4.0 Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by FCPSC using the following criteria of Weighted Factor.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	% ALLOCATION
<p><u>Project Proposal Approach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Actively engages youth and other stakeholders in program development ● Has a clear training development process and timeline from ideation, production, revision, to final delivery 	45
<p><u>Experience in similar assignments with other organizations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Has experience developing curricula for in-person and online trainings ● Previous assignments related to pregnant and parenting youth, preferably those in foster care or out-of-home placement 	30
<p><u>Credentials of the staff to be assigned to the project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have lived expertise in foster care or as a young parent ● Have experience working with SC DSS or other government agencies ● Have experience in instructional design, education, and training 	20
<p><u>Minority/Women Participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certified Small Business Enterprise ● Woman or Person-of-Color led nonprofit organization 	5

Selection Schedule

Event	Date(s)
RFP issue date	June 1, 2024
Proposals due	June 23, 2024
Interviews with shortlisted proposers	June 24, 2024
Anticipated contract award date	July 1, 2024
Anticipated contract execution date	July 8, 2024