



# Iowa Judicial Branch

1111 East Court Avenue | Des Moines, IA 50319

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### RFP COVER SHEET

#### Administrative Information:

<b>Title of RFP: Youth Centered Planning Meetings</b>		<b>RFP Number:</b>	<b>JUV-26-TS-01-001</b>
<b>Agency:</b>	Iowa Judicial Branch (IJB or Agency)		
<b>Number of yrs. of the initial terms of the contract:</b>	1 year (partial first fiscal year)	<b>Number of possible annual renewals:</b>	5 additional 1-year terms exercisable by IJB in its sole discretion
<b>Anticipated Initial Contract Term beginning:</b>	July 1, 2025 *An earlier Start Date may be negotiated; however, the ability to start earlier will have no impact on scoring.	<b>Ending:</b>	June 30, 2026
<b>Issuing Officer:</b> Mandy Thurm 319-830-1992 mandy.thurm@iowacourts.gov 818 Lafayette Street Waterloo, Iowa 50703-4724			
<b>PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE—Event or Action:</b>			<b>Date/Time(Central time):</b>
Agency Posts Notice of RFP on TSB website			<b>April 1, 2025</b>
Agency Issues RFP			<b>April 3, 2025</b>
Letters of Intent to Bid			<b>Due Date: April 11, 2025 Time: 10:00 a.m.</b>
RFP written questions, requests for clarification, and suggested changes from Respondents due:			<b>Date: April 11, 2025 Time: 10:00 a.m.</b>
IJB's written response to RFP questions, requests for clarifications and suggested changes due: (will be available on bidding website)			<b>Date: April 23, 2025</b>
Proposals Due Date: Proposals Due Time:			<b>Date: May 13, 2025 Time: 10:00 a.m</b>

Anticipated Date to issue Notice of Intent to Award:		Date: June 5, 2025
Anticipated Date to execute contract: *An earlier Start Date may be negotiated; however, the ability to start earlier will have no impact on scoring.		Date: June 27, 2025
Relevant Websites:	Web-address:	
Internet website where Addenda to this RFP will be posted:	<a href="https://www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/rfp/">https://www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/rfp/</a> <a href="https://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/">https://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/</a>	
Internet website where General Terms for Juvenile Court Services (JCS) Services Contracts are located:	<a href="https://www.iowacourts.gov/static/media/cms/General_Terms_for_JCS_Services_Cont_1257FB3D72AAA.pdf">https://www.iowacourts.gov/static/media/cms/General_Terms_for_JCS_Services_Cont_1257FB3D72AAA.pdf</a>	
Electronic Copies of Proposals Required to be Submitted to Issuing Officer.		
Firm Proposal Terms  <i>Per Section 3.2.11, of the RFP the minimum Number of Days following the deadline for submitting proposals that the Respondent guarantees all proposal terms, including price, will remain firm:</i>		120 Days

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals from Responsible Respondents to provide the goods and/or services identified on the RFP cover sheet and further described in Section 4 of this RFP to IJB, as identified on the RFP cover sheet. IJB intends to award a Contract(s) beginning and ending on the dates listed on the RFP cover sheet, and IJB, in its sole discretion, may extend the Contract(s) for up to the number of annual extensions identified on the RFP cover sheet.

## 1.2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this RFP and the resulting contract, the following terms are defined.

**“Agency”** means the agency identified on the RFP cover sheet that is issuing the RFP.

**“Bid Proposal” or “Proposal”** means Respondent’s proposal submitted in response to the RFP.

**“Contract”** means the contract(s) entered into with Respondent(s) as described in section 6.

**“Contractor”** means the awarded business/person to provide the contractual services agreed upon.

**“General Terms” and “General Terms and Conditions”** shall mean the General Terms for Juvenile Court Services service contracts as linked on the RFP cover page.

**“IJB”** shall mean Iowa Judicial Branch.

**“Invoice”** means a Contractor’s claim for payment. At IJB’s discretion, claims must be submitted on an original invoice from the Contractor and on a claim form accepted by the IJB, such as a General Accounting Expenditure (GAX) form.

**“Juvenile Court Officer” or “JCO”** means a person appointed as a juvenile court officer under section 602.7202 of the Iowa Code and also includes a chief juvenile court officer appointed under section 602.1217 of the Iowa Code.

**“Juvenile Court Services” or “JCS”**, for the purposes of this RFP, means a unit of the Iowa Judicial Branch in which juveniles adjudicated by an Iowa Juvenile Court as delinquent and youth at risk of entering the court system receive services as directed by the Chief Juvenile Court Officer or designee.

**“Respondent”** means the company, organization or other business entity submitting a proposal in response to this RFP.

**“Responsible Respondent”** means a Respondent that has the capability, as determined in the sole discretion of IJB, in all material respects to perform the scope of work and specifications of the Contract. In determining whether a Respondent is a Responsible Respondent, IJB may consider various factors including, but not limited to, the Respondent’s competence and qualifications to provide the goods or services requested, the Respondent’s integrity and reliability, the past performance of the Respondent and the best interest of IJB and the State.

**“Responsive Proposal”** means a Proposal that complies, in the sole discretion of IJB, with the material provisions of this RFP.

**“RFP”** means this Request for Proposals and any attachments, exhibits, schedules or addenda hereto.

**“State”** means the State of Iowa, IJB, and all state agencies, boards, and commissions, and any political subdivisions making purchases from the Contract as permitted by this RFP.

**“Vendor”** means anyone who provides goods or services to another entity.

#### 1.2.1 Additional Definitions specific to this RFP:

**“Concurrent Planning”** means establishing one or more alternative Permanency plan goals for a Youth. When a Youth is in out-of-home placement, it means working toward reunification with the youth’s parents or guardians.

**“Permanency”** means a Youth has a safe, stable custodial environment in which to grow up, a life-long relationship with a nurturing caregiver, and can explore and retain significant connections to family members to the greatest extent possible.

**“Reentry Staff”** provides transition services for youth from residential/inpatient treatment to the community, instructional assistance, and interaction and communication with clients, staff, and other agencies.

**“Reentry Youth”** refers to youth (or child as defined in the Iowa Rules of Juvenile Court Services Directed Programs) released from residential/inpatient treatment to community supervision. Many juveniles return to their communities with serious risk and need areas unaddressed, complicating their chances for successful Reentry. Juvenile aftercare and/or Reentry programs have emerged to address these youths' unique needs and the risk they pose to community safety.

**“TIPs Book”** refers to The Transition Information Packet (TIP) as a resource for youth preparing to enter adulthood. The TIP contains information on Education, Employment, Money Management, Housing, Health and Transportation. Youth referred to Reentry (and Transitioning Youth services) will receive a copy of the TIP.

**“Transition Planning Specialist”** work as career counselors identifying the youth's abilities, education and training. These types of specialists account for people's interests, working on interview, job searching and resume writing skills to help achieve a desired career.

**“Youth Centered Planning Meeting” or “YCPM”** provides a positive and action-oriented response by caring adults and professionals to address the needs and desires of the youth. The Youth Centered Process promotes self-determination by engaging Youth in planning for their future. The YCPM planning process will help the worker complete case plans through a youth-adult partnership approach. With the assistance of the Youth’s support system, the Youth identifies his/her goals for the future and the supports and resources needed to be successful in eight domains: education, employment, housing, health, supportive relationships, civic engagement/responsibility, self-sufficiency, and interpersonal skills/behaviors. Building teams to support youth and young adults who are at risk of homelessness, unemployment, and poor health has been identified as an effective means to address the factors that threaten a successful transition.

### 1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE RFP PROCESS

The RFP process is for IJB's benefit and is intended to provide IJB with competitive information to assist in the selection process. It is not intended to be comprehensive. Each Respondent is responsible for determining all factors necessary for submission of a comprehensive Proposal.

*Respondent should review Attachment 3, Form 22 Request for Confidentiality, for more information if its Proposal contains confidential information. Any Proposal marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" on every page may be disqualified.*

Respondents will be required to submit their Proposals electronically via email to the Issuing Officer.

### 1.4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Early intervention and follow-up programs/graduated sanctions services are services to be provided to children adjudicated delinquent and to children who have been referred to juvenile court services for a delinquency violation or who have exhibited behaviors that put them at risk of a juvenile delinquency referral. The services are directed to enhance personal adjustment to help the children transition into productive adulthood and to prevent or reduce criminal charges, out-of-home placement, and recidivism.

Youth referred to JCS may end up in placement outside of their home. To reduce their instances of recidivism, it is the goal of the Reentry and Transitioning Youth service to build youth skills related to maintaining self-reliance (financial, documentation, housing, medical, employment, education, mental health, etc.), understanding and accessing local resources and planning for the future. Another key to a youth's successful reentry into the community and transition to adulthood is the identification of positive adults who are mentors or otherwise committed to providing assistance and support when needed by the youth.

Reentry and transition services will begin at the start of a youth's placement so the youth and his/her family have an opportunity to build a relationship with the provider of services that should continue after the youth's discharge from placement.

As part of the Reentry services, YCPMs are incorporated into the referred youths' transition-to-adulthood processes. JCS has held YCPMs for youth over the years. In preparation for continuing and conducting YCPMs, training, coaching and mentoring process will be organized and implemented by JCS and the YCPM provider.

Building teams at the time of crisis to support families when there is a risk of serious harm to the Youth or, during periods of transition, has been identified to address the factors that threaten the Youth's safety, establish permanency for the Youth, and promote well-being. Not all youth transitioning to adulthood will be ready for a youth-driven YCPM, but the Contractor will be required to provide coordination of YCPM services.

Building upon this philosophy and practice strategy, YCPMs are a youth-centered practice model offered to youth 14 years of age and older to assist with planning for their transition to adulthood.

The YCPM process will be initiated by a referral from JCS. From that, the following meetings and tasks will be required by Reentry Staff:

- a. Contact placement facility, youth, and parent(s)/guardians of referral to explain process and set up prep meeting.
- b. Complete JCS Reentry Family Needs Assessment.
- c. Complete Prep Meeting with the Youth. This includes the development of the “All About Me” presentation and a draft ACT plan.
- d. Arrange for Placement Meeting.
- e. Complete YCPM Placement Meeting within 30 days of referral.
- f. Send updated “All About Me” and ACT plan to team members within one (1) week of meeting.
- g. Complete JCS Transition Plan and send to JCO within one (1) week of meeting.
- h. Complete Discharge Prep Meeting and YCPM within 30 days of a youth’s discharge from placement.
- i. Provide team members with updated “All About Me” and ACT plan.
- j. Update JCS Transition Plan and provide to JCO within one (1) week of Placement Meeting.
- k. Hold YCPM within 30-45 days of youth’s discharge from placement.

The Contract will allow for an educational training to be provided to potential candidates that will be conducting YCPMs for which class participants will be in attendance. A coaching and mentoring component will be included as part of the training package. The grace period to complete training, coaching, and certification will be negotiated.

The competency of a Facilitator will be determined by demonstrated knowledge and skills related to Transitioning Youth resources and eligibility. All Facilitators will need to be trained and follow necessary requirements for outcome and performance measures for conducting YCPMs.

## 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### 2.1 ISSUING OFFICER

The Issuing Officer identified in the RFP cover sheet is the sole point of contact regarding the RFP from the date of issuance until a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract is issued.

### 2.2 RESTRICTION ON COMMUNICATION

From the issue date of this RFP until a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract is issued, Respondents may contact only the Issuing Officer. The Issuing Officer will respond only to written questions regarding the procurement process. Questions related to the interpretation of this RFP must be submitted as provided in Section 2. Oral questions related to the interpretation of this RFP will not be accepted. Respondents may be disqualified if they contact any State employee other than the Issuing Officer about the RFP except that Respondents may contact the State Targeted Small Business Office on issues related to the preference for Targeted Small Businesses.

### 2.3 DOWNLOADING THE RFP FROM THE INTERNET

The RFP document and any addenda to the RFP will be posted at <https://www.iowacourts.gov/for-the-public/rfp/> and <https://bidopportunities.iowa.gov/>.

The Respondent is advised to check the website periodically for Addenda to this RFP, particularly if the Respondent downloaded the RFP from the Internet as the Respondent may not automatically receive addenda. It is the Respondent's sole responsibility to check daily for addenda to posted documents.

### 2.4 PROCUREMENT TIMETABLE

The dates provided in the procurement timetable on the RFP cover sheet are provided for informational and planning purposes. IJB reserves the right to change the dates. If IJB changes any of the deadlines for Respondent submissions, IJB will issue an addendum to the RFP.

### 2.5 QUESTIONS, REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION, AND SUGGESTED CHANGES

Respondents are invited to submit written questions and requests for clarifications regarding the RFP. The questions or requests for clarifications must be in writing and received by the Issuing Officer before the date and time listed on the RFP cover sheet. Oral questions will not be permitted. If the questions or requests for clarifications pertain to a specific section of the RFP, Respondent shall reference the page and section number(s). IJB will post written responses to questions, requests for clarifications, or suggestions received from Respondents on or before the date listed on the RFP cover sheet to the website(s) referenced on the RFP cover sheet. IJB's written responses will become an addendum to the RFP.

IJB assumes no responsibility for oral representations made by its officers or employees unless such representations are confirmed in writing and incorporated into the RFP through an addendum.

## 2.6 AMENDMENT TO THE RFP

IJB reserves the right to amend the RFP at any time using an addendum. The Respondent shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda in its Proposal. If IJB issues an addendum after the due date for receipt of Proposals, IJB may, in its sole discretion, allow Respondents to amend their Proposals in response to the addendum.

## 2.7 AMENDMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL

The Respondent may amend or withdraw and resubmit its Proposal at any time before the Proposals are due. The amendment must be in writing. Electronic mail is acceptable. Respondents must notify the Issuing Officer in writing prior to the due date for Proposals if they wish to completely withdraw their Proposals. Electronic mail is acceptable for notice of withdrawal.

## 2.8 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Each Respondent is responsible for submitting its Proposal at the Issuing Officer's email address identified on the RFP cover sheet before the "Proposals Due" date and time listed on the RFP cover sheet, unless such date and time is extended by IJB, at its sole discretion, through the issuance of an addendum to this RFP. **This is a mandatory requirement and will not be waived by the Agency. Any Proposal received after this deadline will be rejected and IJB will notify the Respondent.** It is the Respondent's responsibility to ensure that the Proposal is received by the Issuing Officer prior to the deadline. Late proposals, regardless of cause, will not be opened or considered for evaluation, and will be disqualified from further consideration. It is the Respondent's sole responsibility to ensure delivery at the stated location and time.

Respondents must furnish all information necessary to enable IJB to evaluate the Proposal. Oral information provided by the Respondent shall not be considered part of the Respondent's Proposal unless it is reduced to writing.

## 2.9 PROPOSAL OPENING

IJB will open Proposals after the deadline for submission of Proposals has passed. The Proposals will remain confidential until the Evaluation Committee has reviewed all of the Proposals submitted in response to this RFP and IJB has issued a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract. See Iowa Code Section 72.3. However, the names of Respondents who submitted timely Proposals will be publicly available after the Proposal opening. The announcement of Respondents who timely submitted Proposals does not mean that an individual Proposal has been deemed technically compliant or accepted for evaluation.

## 2.10 COSTS OF PREPARING THE PROPOSAL

The costs of preparation and delivery of the Proposal are solely the responsibility of the Respondent.



## 2.11 NO COMMITMENT TO CONTRACT

IJB reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals received in response to this RFP at any time prior to the execution of the Contract. Issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by IJB to award a contract.

## 2.12 REJECTION OF PROPOSALS

IJB may reject outright and not evaluate a Proposal for reasons including without limitation:

- A. The Respondent fails to email the cost proposal in a separate attachment.
- B. The Respondent acknowledges that a mandatory specification of the RFP cannot be met.
- C. The Respondent's Proposal changes a material specification of the RFP or the Proposal is not compliant with the mandatory specifications of the RFP.
- D. The Respondent's Proposal limits the rights of IJB.
- E. The Respondent fails to include information necessary to substantiate that it will be able to meet a specification of the RFP as provided in Section 3 of this RFP.
- F. The Respondent fails to timely respond to IJB's request for information, documents, or references.
- G. The Respondent fails to include Proposal Security, if required.
- H. The Respondent fails to include any signature, certification, authorization, stipulation, disclosure or guarantee as provided in Section 3 of this RFP.
- I. The Respondent presents the information requested by this RFP in a format inconsistent with the instructions of the RFP or otherwise fails to comply with the specifications of this RFP.
- J. The Respondent initiates unauthorized contact regarding the RFP with state employees.
- K. The Respondent provides misleading or inaccurate responses.
- L. The Respondent's Proposal is materially unbalanced.
- M. There is insufficient evidence (including evidence submitted by the Respondent and evidence obtained by IJB from other sources) to satisfy IJB that the Respondent is a Responsive Respondent.
- N. The Respondent alters the language in Attachment 1: Certification Letter or Attachment 2: Authorization to Release Information letter.

## 2.13 NONMATERIAL VARIANCES

IJB reserves the right to waive or permit cure of nonmaterial variances in the Proposal if, in the judgment of IJB, it is in the State's best interest to do so. Nonmaterial variances include but are not limited to: minor failures to comply that do not affect overall responsiveness, that are merely a matter of form or format, that do not change the relative standing or otherwise prejudice other Respondents, that do not change the meaning or scope of the RFP, or that do not reflect a material change in the specifications of the RFP. In the event IJB waives or permits cure of nonmaterial variances, such waiver or cure will not modify the RFP specifications or excuse the Respondent from full compliance with RFP specifications or other Contract specifications if the Respondent is awarded the Contract. The determination of materiality is in the sole discretion of IJB.

## 2.14 REFERENCE CHECKS

IJB reserves the right to contact any reference to assist in the evaluation of the Proposal, to verify information contained in the Proposal and to discuss the Respondent's qualifications and the qualifications of any subcontractor identified in the Proposal.

## 2.15 INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES

IJB reserves the right to obtain and consider information from other sources concerning a Respondent, such as the Respondent's capability and performance under other contracts, the qualifications of any subcontractor identified in the Proposal, the Respondent's financial stability, past or pending litigation, and other publicly available information.

## 2.16 VERIFICATION OF PROPOSAL CONTENTS

The content of a Proposal submitted by a Respondent is subject to verification. If IJB determines in its sole discretion that the content is in any way misleading or inaccurate, IJB may reject the Proposal.

## 2.17 PROPOSAL CLARIFICATION PROCESS

IJB reserves the right to contact a Respondent after the submission of Proposals for the purpose of clarifying a Proposal. This contact may include written questions, interviews, site visits, a review of past performance if the Respondent has provided goods and/or services to the State or any other political subdivision wherever located, or requests for corrective pages in the Respondent's Proposal. IJB will not consider information received from or through Respondent if the information materially alters the content of the Proposal or the type of goods and/or services the Respondent is offering to IJB. An individual authorized to legally bind the Respondent shall sign responses to any request for clarification. Responses shall be submitted to IJB within the time specified in IJB's request. Failure to comply with requests for additional information may result in rejection of the Proposal.

## 2.18 DISPOSITION OF PROPOSALS

All Proposals become the property of the State and shall not be returned to the Respondent. Once IJB issues a Notice of Intent to Award the Contract, the contents of all Proposals will be in the public domain and be available for inspection by interested parties, except for information for which Respondent properly requests confidential treatment or according to exceptions provided in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other applicable law.

## 2.19 PUBLIC RECORDS AND REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

IJB's release of public records is governed by Iowa Code chapter 22. Respondents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Chapter 22 before submitting a Proposal. IJB will produce public records upon request as required to comply with Chapter 22 and will treat all information submitted by a Respondent as non-confidential records unless Respondent requests specific parts

of the Proposal be treated as confidential at the time of the submission as set forth herein **AND the information is confidential under Iowa or other applicable law.**

#### 2.19.1 Form 22 Request for Confidentiality

*Form 22 must be completed and included with respondent's proposal. Completion and submittal of form 22 is required whether the proposal does or does not contain information for which confidential treatment will be requested. Failure to submit a completed form 22 will result in the proposal being considered non-responsive and not evaluated.*

#### 2.19.2 Confidential Treatment Is Not Requested

A Respondent not requesting confidential treatment of information contained in its Proposal shall complete Section I of Form 22 and submit Form 22 with the Proposal.

#### 2.19.3 Confidential Treatment of Information is Requested

A Respondent requesting confidential treatment of specific information shall perform *all* the following:

- A. Complete Section II of Form 22,
- B. Include the word "CONFIDENTIAL" in file name of its Proposal containing confidential information,
- C. Mark each page upon which the Respondent believes confidential information appears and clearly identify each item for which confidential treatment is requested; *marking a page in the page margin is not sufficient identification*, and
- D. Submit a "Public Copy" from which the confidential information has been excised.

Form 22 will not be considered fully complete unless, for each confidentiality request, the Respondent:

- A. Enumerates the specific grounds in Iowa Code chapter 22 or other applicable law that supports treatment of the material as confidential,
- B. Justifies why the material should be maintained in confidence,
- C. Explains why disclosure of the material would not be in the best interest of the public, and
- D. Sets forth the name, address, telephone, and email for the person authorized by Respondent to respond to inquiries by IJB concerning the confidential status of such material.

The confidential material in the Public Copy must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the material removed and to retain as much of the Proposal as possible.

Failure to request information be treated as confidential as specified herein shall relieve IJB and State personnel from any responsibility for maintaining the information in confidence. Respondents may not request confidential treatment with respect to pricing information and transmittal letters. A Respondent's request for confidentiality that does not comply with this section or a Respondent's request for confidentiality on information or material that cannot be held in confidence as set forth herein are grounds for rejecting Respondent's Proposal as non-responsive. Requests to maintain an entire Proposal as confidential will be rejected as non-responsive.

If IJB receives a request for information that Respondent has marked as confidential and if a judicial or administrative proceeding is initiated to compel the release of such material, Respondent shall, at its sole expense, appear in such action and defend its request for confidentiality. If Respondent fails to do so, IJB may release the information or material with or without providing advance notice to Respondent and with or without affording Respondent the opportunity to obtain an order restraining its release from a court possessing competent jurisdiction. Additionally, if Respondent fails to comply with the request process set forth herein, if Respondent's request for confidentiality is unreasonable, or if Respondent rescinds its request for confidential treatment, IJB may release such information or material with or without providing advance notice to Respondent and with or without affording Respondent the opportunity to obtain an order restraining its release from a court possessing competent jurisdiction.

## 2.20 COPYRIGHT PERMISSION

By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent agrees that IJB may distribute the Proposal for purposes of facilitating the evaluation of the Proposal or to respond to requests for public records. By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent consents to such distribution and warrants that such distribution will not violate the rights of any third party. IJB shall have the right to use ideas or adaptations of ideas that are presented in Proposals.

## 2.21 RELEASE OF CLAIMS

By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent agrees that: (a) IJB and the State shall not be liable to any extent for any information, facts or data (or the completeness or accuracy thereof) provided in the RFP or for any information, facts or data that may be omitted from the RFP, regardless of whether such inaccurate, incomplete or omitted information or data would be considered material or relevant to a Respondent for purposes of making an informed decision to either submitting a proposal or entering into a contract if awarded to a successful Respondent; and (b) it will not bring any claim or cause of action against IJB or the State based on any misunderstanding concerning the information provided in the RFP or concerning IJB's or the State's failure, negligent or otherwise, to provide the Respondent with complete, pertinent, or accurate information in this RFP or for any failure to provide information that any Respondent might consider relevant for purposes of making a decision to submit a proposal or to enter into any contract resulting from this RFP.

## 2.22 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

The submission of a Proposal shall be deemed a representation and warranty by the Respondent that it:

- A. is a sophisticated party possessing sufficient knowledge and expertise concerning the subject matter of this RFP;
- B. is able to fully and independently evaluate the advisability of submitting a proposal and in assuming and performing all duties, liabilities, and obligations described in or contemplated by this RFP;
- C. has conducted its own independent gathering, review, and investigation of all information, facts, and data necessary for purposes of making an informed decision whether to submit

a proposal and to assume and perform all duties, liabilities, and obligations described herein, without relying on any specific facts, information or representations of any kind made or provided by or on behalf of IJB, including any information presented in this RFP; and

- D. has investigated all aspects of the RFP, and it is aware of the applicable facts of the RFP process and its procedures and requirements, and it has read and understands the RFP.

No request for modification of the provisions of the Proposal shall be considered after its submission on the grounds the Respondent was not fully informed as to any fact or condition. Statistical information that may be contained in the RFP or any addendum is for informational purposes only. IJB disclaims any responsibility for any information or facts that may subsequently be determined to be incomplete or inaccurate. IJB does not represent or warrant the accuracy or completeness of any such information, and IJB shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or the results of errors or omissions, which may be discovered, at any time, to exist in RFP, including any appendices, attachments or amendments thereto.

Proposals that are timely submitted and are not rejected will be reviewed in accordance with Section 5 of the RFP. IJB will not necessarily award a contract resulting from this RFP to the Respondent offering the lowest cost. Instead, IJB will award the Contract(s) to the Responsible Respondent(s) whose Responsive Proposal IJB believes will provide the best value to IJB and the State.

## 2.23 AWARD NOTICE AND ACCEPTANCE PERIOD

Notice of Intent to Award the Contract(s) will be sent to all Respondents submitting a timely Proposal and may be posted at the website shown on the RFP cover sheet. Negotiation and execution of the Contract(s) shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Intent to Award or such other time as designated by or acceptable to IJB. If the successful Respondent fails to negotiate and deliver an executed Contract by that date, IJB, in its sole discretion, may cancel the award and award the Contract to the remaining Respondent IJB believes will provide the best value to the State.

## 2.24 NO CONTRACT RIGHTS UNTIL EXECUTION

No Respondent shall acquire any legal or equitable rights regarding the Contract unless and until the Contract has been fully executed by the successful Respondent and IJB.

## 2.25 CHOICE OF LAW AND FORUM

This RFP and the Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Iowa. Changes in applicable laws and rules may affect the award process or the Contract. Respondents are responsible for ascertaining pertinent legal requirements and restrictions. Any and all litigation or actions commenced by any party in connection with this RFP or any contract shall only be brought in the appropriate Iowa forum.

## 2.26 RESTRICTIONS ON GIFTS AND ACTIVITIES

Iowa Code Chapter 68B restricts gifts which may be given or received by State employees and requires certain individuals to disclose information concerning their activities with State government. Respondents are responsible for determining the applicability of this Chapter 68B to their activities and to comply with its requirements. In addition, pursuant to Iowa Code section 722.1, it is a felony offense to bribe or attempt to bribe a public official.

## 2.27 NO MINIMUM GUARANTEED

IJB does not guarantee any minimum level of purchases under the Contract.

## 2.28 APPEALS

If appealed, the state court administrator shall consider the evaluation committee's recommendation when making the final decision, but the state court administrator is not bound by the recommendation. The state court administrator may either accept or reject the recommended Respondent, or accept the Proposal of another Respondent, or elect not to select any Respondent. Appeals of the Notice of Intent to Award need to be received in the office of the state court administrator within 5 calendar days following the posting of the Notice of Intent to Award a contract.

### 3 FORM AND CONTENT OF PROPOSALS

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#### 3.1 INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions prescribe the format and content of the Proposal. They are designed to facilitate a uniform review process. Failure to adhere to the Proposal format may result in the rejection of the Proposal.

##### 3.1.1 Specifications

The Proposal shall be submitted as an electronic file, in either Microsoft Word, or text searchable pdf format. The Proposal shall be divided into two separate electronic files: (1) the Technical Proposal and (2) the Cost Proposal. ***The Technical Proposal and the Cost Proposal shall be labeled in the file name as such and submitted as separate files.***

**All cost information MUST be contained ONLY in the Cost Proposal and NOT included in the Technical Proposal.**

The electronic submissions should be sent to the email address below:

**Mandy Thurm, Issuing Officer**

**Issuing Officer Email Address: [mandy.thurm@iowacourts.gov](mailto:mandy.thurm@iowacourts.gov)**

The in addition to submitting separate files for the Technical Proposal, as well as the Cost Proposal, the following information should also be included within the text of the email:

**RFP Number: JUV-26-TS-01-001**

**RFP Title: Youth Centered Planning Meetings**

IJB shall not be responsible for misdirected emails or premature opening of Proposals if a Proposal is not properly labeled.

##### 3.1.2 Confidential Information

If the Respondent designates any information in its Proposal as confidential pursuant to Section 2, the Respondent must also submit one (1) electronic copy of the Proposal from which confidential information has been excised as provided in Section 2 and which file is labeled "Public Copy".

##### 3.1.3 Promotional or Display Materials

Proposals shall not contain promotional or display materials.

##### 3.1.4 Attachments

Attachments shall be referenced in the Proposal.

##### 3.1.5 If a Respondent Proposes Multiple Solutions

If a Respondent proposes more than one solution to the RFP specifications, each shall be labeled and submitted separately and each will be evaluated separately.

## 3.2 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The following documents and responses are required and shall be included in the Technical Proposal in the order given below:

### 3.2.1 Transmittal Letter

An individual authorized to legally bind the Respondent shall sign the transmittal letter. The letter shall include the Respondent's mailing address, email address, fax number, and telephone number. Any request for confidential treatment of information shall be included in the transmittal letter in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.

### 3.2.2 Table of Contents

The Respondent shall include a table of contents of its Proposal and submit with its Proposal. ~~the checklist of submittals per Attachment #5.~~

### 3.2.3 Executive Summary

The Respondent shall prepare an executive summary and overview of the goods and/or services it is offering, including all of the following information:

- A. Statements that demonstrate that the Respondent has read, understands and agrees with the terms and conditions of the RFP including the contract provisions in Section 6.
- B. An overview of the Respondent's plans for complying with the specifications of this RFP.
- C. Any other summary information the Respondent deems to be pertinent.
- D. Mandatory Specifications and Scored Technical Specifications

Respondent shall answer whether it will comply with each specification in Section 4 of the RFP. Where the context requires more than a yes or no answer or the specific specification so indicates, Respondent shall explain how it will comply with the specification. Merely repeating the Section 4 specifications may be considered non-responsive and result in the rejection of the Proposal. Proposals must identify any deviations from the specifications of the RFP or specifications the Respondent cannot satisfy. If the Respondent deviates from or cannot satisfy the specifications of this section, IJB may reject the Proposal.

### 3.2.4 Vendor Background Information

Respondent shall provide the following general background information:

- A. Name, address, telephone number, fax number and email address of the Respondent including all d/b/a's or assumed names or other operating names of the Respondent and any local addresses and phone numbers.
- B. Form of business entity, i.e., corporation, partnership, proprietorship, limited liability company.
- C. State of incorporation, state of formation, or state of organization.
- D. The location(s) including address and telephone numbers of the offices and other facilities that relate to the Respondent's performance under the terms of this RFP.
- E. Number of employees.
- F. Type of business.
- G. Federal Tax ID.



- H. Name, address and telephone number of the Respondent's representative to contact regarding all contractual and technical matters concerning the Proposal.
- I. Name, address and telephone number of the Respondent's representative to contact regarding scheduling and other arrangements.
- J. Name, contact information and qualifications of any subcontractors who will be involved with this project the Respondent proposes to use and the nature of the goods and/or services the subcontractor would provide.
- K. Respondent's accounting firm.
- L. The successful Respondent will be required to register to do business in Iowa before payments can be made.

For vendor registration documents, go to: <https://das.iowa.gov/procurement/vendors/how-do-business>

### 3.2.5 Experience

The Respondent must provide the following information regarding its experience:

- A. Number of years in business.
- B. Number of years of experience with providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the RFP.
- C. The level of technical experience in providing the types of goods and/or services sought by the RFP.
- D. A list of all goods and/or services similar to those sought by this RFP that the Respondent has provided to other businesses or governmental entities.
- E. Letters of reference from three (3) previous customers or clients knowledgeable of the Respondent's performance in providing goods and/or services similar to the goods and/or services described in this RFP and a contact person and telephone number for each reference.
- F. Personnel.

The Respondent must provide resumes for all key personnel who will be involved in providing the goods and/or services contemplated by this RFP. The following information must be included in the resumes:

- A. Full name
- B. Education
- C. Years of experience and employment history particularly as it relates to the specifications of the RFP

### 3.2.6 Termination, Litigation, Debarment

The Respondent must provide the following information for the past five (5) years:

- A. If the Respondent had a contract for goods and/or services terminated for any reason, provide full details regarding the termination.
- B. Describe any damages or penalties assessed against or dispute resolution settlements entered by Respondent under any existing or past contracts for goods and/or services.

Provide full details regarding the circumstances, including the dollar amount of damages, penalties and settlement payments.

- C. Describe any order, judgment or decree of any Federal or State authority barring, suspending or otherwise limiting the right of the Respondent to engage in any business, practice or activity.
- D. A list and summary of all litigation or threatened litigation, administrative or regulatory proceedings, or similar matters to which the Respondent or its officers have been a party.
- E. Any irregularities discovered in any of the accounts maintained by the Respondent on behalf of others. Describe the circumstances and disposition of the irregularities.

Failure to disclose these matters may result in rejection of the Proposal or termination of any subsequent Contract. The above disclosures are a continuing requirement of the Respondent. Respondent shall provide written notification to IJB of any such matter commencing or occurring after submission of a Proposal, and with respect to the successful Respondent, following execution of the Contract.

### 3.2.7 Criminal History and Background Investigation

The Respondent hereby explicitly authorizes IJB to conduct criminal history and/or other background investigation(s) of the Respondent, its officers, directors, shareholders, partners, and managerial and supervisory personnel who will be involved in the performance of the Contract.

### 3.2.8 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

By submitting a Proposal, Respondent acknowledges its acceptance of the terms and conditions of the RFP and the contract terms set forth in Section 6 as well as the General Terms for JCS Services Contracts linked on the RFP cover page, without change except as otherwise expressly stated in its Proposal. If the Respondent takes exception to a provision, it must:

- A. identify it by page and section number;
- B. state the reason for the exception;
- C. set forth in its Proposal the specific RFP or General Terms language it proposes to include in place of the provision; and
- D. ***comply with all requirements set forth in Section 6 of this RFP.***

If Respondent's exceptions or responses materially alter the RFP, or if the Respondent submits its own terms and conditions or otherwise fails to follow the process described herein, IJB may reject the Proposal, in its sole discretion.

### 3.2.9 Certification Letter

The Respondent shall sign and submit with the Proposal, the document included as Attachment #1 (Certification Letter) in which the Respondent shall make the certifications included in Attachment #1.

### 3.2.10 Authorization to Release Information

The Respondent shall sign and submit with the Proposal the document included as Attachment #2 (Authorization to Release Information Letter) in which the Respondent authorizes the release of information to IJB.

### 3.2.11 Firm Proposal Terms

The Respondent shall guarantee in writing the goods and/or services offered in the Proposal are currently available and that all Proposal terms, including price, will remain firm Bid Terms 120 days following the deadline for submitting Proposals.

## 3.3 COST PROPOSAL

**The Respondent shall provide its cost proposal in a separate electronic file, in either Microsoft Word or text searchable pdf format, identified as such for the proposed goods and/or services. All cost information MUST be contained ONLY in the Cost Proposal and NOT included in the Technical Proposal.** The Respondent must also complete and include Attachment # 4 – Cost Proposal Form with its Cost Proposal.

### 3.3.1 Payment Methods

The State of Iowa, in its sole discretion, will determine the method of payment for goods and/or services as part of the Contract. The State of Iowa's Purchasing Card (Pcard) and ePayable solution (EAP) are preferred payment methods, but payments may be made by any of the following methods: Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)/Automated Clearing House (ACH), or State Warrant. Respondents shall provide payment acceptance information in this section 3.3.1 in their Cost Proposals. ***This information will not be scored as part of the Cost Proposal or evaluated as part of the Technical Proposal.***

#### 3.3.1.1 Credit card or ePayables

Pcards and EAP are commercial payment methods utilizing the VISA credit card network. The State of Iowa will not accept price changes or pay additional fees if Respondent uses the Pcard or EAP payment methods. Pcard-accepting Respondents must abide by the [State of Iowa's Terms of Pcard Acceptance](#).

#### 3.3.1.2 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) by Automated Clearing House (ACH)

Respondents shall provide a statement regarding their ability to accept payment by EFT by ACH. Payments are deposited into the financial institution of the claimant's choice three working days from the issue date of the direct deposit.

[https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/acct\\_sae/man\\_for\\_ref/forms/eft\\_authorization\\_form.pdf](https://das.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/acct_sae/man_for_ref/forms/eft_authorization_form.pdf)

#### 3.3.1.3 State Warrant

The State of Iowa's warrant drawn on the Treasurer of State is used to pay claims against the departments of the State of Iowa. The warrant is issued upon receipt of proper documentation from the issuing department.

### 3.3.2 Payment Terms

Per Iowa Code 8A.514 the State of Iowa is allowed sixty (60) days to pay an invoice submitted by a Vendor/Respondent.

### 3.3.3 Respondent Discounts

Respondents shall state in their Cost Proposals whether they offer any payment discounts, including but not limited to:

**3.3.3.1 *Prompt Payment Discount***

The State can agree to pay in less than sixty (60) days if an incentive for earlier payment is offered.

**3.3.3.2 *Cash Discount***

The State may consider cash discounts when scoring Cost Proposals.

## 4 SPECIFICATIONS

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### 4.1 OVERVIEW

The successful Respondent shall provide the goods and/or services to IJB and other agencies using the Contract in accordance with the specifications as provided in this Section. The Respondent shall address each specification in this Section and indicate whether it will comply with the specification. If the context requires more than a yes or no answer or the section specifically indicates, Respondent shall explain how it will comply with the specification. Proposals must address each specification. Merely repeating the specifications may be considered non-responsive and may disqualify the Respondent. Proposals must identify any deviations from the specifications of this RFP or specifications the Respondent cannot satisfy. If the Respondent deviates from or cannot satisfy the specification(s) of this section, IJB may reject the Proposal.

### 4.2 MANDATORY SPECIFICATIONS

All items listed in this section are Mandatory Specifications. Respondents must mark either “yes” or “no” to each specification in their Proposals. By indicating “yes” a Respondent agrees that it shall comply with that specification throughout the full term of the Contract, if the Respondent is successful. In addition, if specified by the specifications or if the context otherwise requires, Respondent shall provide references and/or supportive materials to verify the Respondent’s compliance with the specification. IJB shall have the right to determine whether the supportive information and materials submitted by the Respondent demonstrate the Respondent will be able to comply with the Mandatory Specifications. If IJB determines the responses and supportive materials do not demonstrate the Respondent will be able to comply with the Mandatory Specifications, IJB may reject the Proposal.

1. The Issuing Officer must receive the Bid Proposal, and any amendments thereof, prior to or on the due date and time.
2. The Respondent is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from receiving federal funding by any federal department or agency.

### 4.3 SCORED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

All items listed below are Scored Technical Specifications. All specifications will be evaluated and scored by the evaluation committee in accordance with Section 5.

Specifications – Describe how each item will be achieved	Weight	Score (0-4)	Total Possible Points
1. Attend training/workshops provided by JCS identified Facilitator for YCPM training/instruction	25		100
a. Contact class participants to coordinate a workshop time and gain insight in understanding their	10		40

personal business goals to better serve families they work with by providing YCPMs.			
b. Encourage participants to role play during workshop by cuing the group and add key points so their efforts develop a plan that will work for the family and team during role playing.	10		40
c. Identify referrals for leads to conduct YCPMs for certification purposes.	10		40
2. Training Requirements:			
a. Complete initial YCPM Facilitator Training.	10		40
b. Observe a Prep Meeting.	10		40
c. Observe a Placement Meeting.	10		40
d. Facilitate a Prep Meeting.	10		40
e. Facilitate a Placement Meeting.	10		40
f. Participate in quarterly facilitators meetings. Examples of topics include:	10		40
i. Available services, programming eligibility, and access to services.			
1. Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS)			
2. Iowa Workforce Development			
3. Iowa Aftercare Services Network			
4. Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP)			
ii. Supervised Apartment Living (SAL)			
iii. Special Education Basics			
iv. Family Engagement Strategies			
v. Financial Aid and College Preparation			
vi. School Transitions & Alternative Education Options (HSED #1 and #2)			
vii. Community Mapping			
g. Attend Yearly YCPM conferences as provided.	10		40
3. The following meetings and duties are required:			
a. Contact placement facility, youth, and parent(s) of referral to explain process and set up prep meeting.	20		80
b. Complete JCS Reentry Family Needs Assessment in the T & R web application.	20		80

c. Complete Preparatory (Prep) meeting with the Youth. This includes the development of the “All About Me” presentation, Domain and Benchmark assessment, and a draft ACT plan.	20		80
d. Arrange for placement meeting.	20		80
e. Complete YCPM Placement meeting within 30 days of referral.	20		80
f. Send updated All About Me and ACT plan to team members within one week.	20		80
g. Complete JCS Transition Plan and send to JCO within one week of meeting.	20		80
h. Complete Discharge Prep Meeting and YCPM within 30 days of discharge.	20		80
i. Provide team members with updated All About Me and ACT plan.	20		80
j. Update JCS Transition Plan and provide to JCO within one week of discharge YCPM meeting.	20		80
k. Hold Community YCPM within 30-45 days of discharge.	20		80
4. The following tasks are also a required part of the process:			
a. Work closely with team members and providers to ensure continuity of care. This includes collaborating with team members and community-based providers (IRVS, IWD, etc.) to identify and arrange for needed services.	10		40
b. Provide youth with resources that include information on Aftercare/PALS, Medicaid, TIPs binder, STD, and vaccine information, Suicide Hotline info, etc.	10		40
c. Review youth’s Rights in Out of Home Placement and have youth sign the form. This should be uploaded in the T & R web application.	10		40
d. Use the JCS Transition Domain and Benchmark assessment to identify youth’s transition needs.	10		40
e. Follow up with JCO and team members to ensure tasks are completed.	10		40
f. Travel as necessary to meet with the youth.	10		40
g. Provide food and drinks at YCPM Placement and Discharge meetings.	10		40
h. Facilitator will provide the survey links for transition team members to complete on the following meetings.	10		40
i. Youth Prep Meeting survey.			
ii. Youth Meeting survey.			
iii. Team Member Meeting survey.			

i. Complete the Juvenile Reentry Family Needs Assessment in the T & R web application.	20		80
j. Complete the JCS transition plan in the T & R web application.	20		80
k. Submit identified outcome data.	10		40
5. Accept all reentry and transitioning youth referrals:			
a. Reentry Staff shall contact the Reentry Youth within 10 business days of the referral from JCS.	20		80
6. Develop personalized transition plans:	50		200
a. Reentry Staff shall utilize youth's own stated goals and ideas for achieving stable self-sufficiency.			
b. Reentry Staff shall assist the youth to identify potential personal, interpersonal, or external barriers to individual goals and implement or refer to services to mitigate those barriers.			
c. Plans shall identify personal or external resources / strengths that can be utilized in meeting goals, taking into consideration cultural and gender competency, developmental and age-appropriate intervention (ages 14-21), incorporating goals that foster healthy youth development.			
d. Reentry Staff shall provide TIP materials to youth who reach the transition age of 16 and review the materials in the TIP with the youth.			
e. Reentry Staff shall become subject-matter experts on services and programming available for transition age youth and collaborate with other agencies and programs providing transition services to youth aging out of the delinquency system.			
f. Reentry Staff shall coordinate with JCS and the Transition Planning Specialist to monitor completion of the Casey Life Skills Assessment, or any assessment designated by JCS, that is used in transition planning.			
g. Reentry Staff will identify and work with school personnel within the first 15 business days after the referral.			
h. A minimum of one (1) meeting will be held throughout the Reentry process between the youth and their home school personnel to ensure the success of the student once the youth return home.			
i. Reentry Staff shall identify, in conjunction with JCS staff, Reentry Youth appropriate for transition-to-adulthood planning and with applicable YCPM for their needs.			
7. Coordinate with JCS:			



a. Assess transition needs including writing transition plans and completing referral forms assisting JCOs with transition meetings.	20		80
b. Update JCS on current and new opportunities for youth, related to maintaining stable self-sufficiency.	20		80
8. Provision of Youth Centered Planning Meetings:			
a. The Contractor will accept all YCPM referrals from JCS through the T & R web application. Any exceptions to accepting a referral must be approved in writing by the Chief Juvenile Court Officer of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial District or his/her designee.	10		40
b. Staff in the process of obtaining a YCPM certification will work closely with a YCPM Facilitator for observation and job shadowing. The Contract will allow for an educational training for potential candidates to conduct YCPMs. Participants will attend the necessary training. A grace period will be negotiated to get trained, coached, and certified.	10		40
c. The Contractor will conduct YCPMs in accordance with the established statewide standards developed in collaboration with JCS and external stakeholders. The most current versions of these standards must always be used.	10		40
d. The Contractor will perform the following activities upon receipt of the completed referral, included but not limited to:	25		100
i. Initiate YCPM planning with the youth within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the completed referral to start transition discussion and determine YCPM attendees.			
ii. Contact the JCO for additional background information on the youth and initiate scheduling within two (2) working days of the receipt of the completed referral to start transition discussion.			
iii. Schedule and facilitate the initial YCPM within 30 calendar days or less from the referral date.			
iv. Coordinate and conduct all preparatory work for the YCPM.			
v. Encourage and lead the youth in the YCPM at critical junctures throughout the life of the case, which will include:			
1. The development of the YCPM Plan for each youth.			
2. When the case progress indicates a need for Concurrent Planning as indicated by JCS or the youth.			

3. When benchmarks/goals are not achieved (determine a need to reassess services and supports, interventions, etc.).			
4. When placement changes, levels of care changes or permanency decisions are made.			
5. Before case closure to plan for sustainability.			
6. In all JCS referrals, priority will be given to a YCPM if the youth's age is 90 days or less prior to turning age 18, in addition to other meetings held.			
e. The Contractor will complete the YCPM Plan as set forth by JCS and submit to the referring JCO or designee within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the YCPM.	10		40
f. The Contractor will conduct all subsequent YCPMs as needed or requested by JCS and will provide all supplies, food, interpreters, co-facilitators, equipment, and any materials necessary to conduct a YCPM.	10		40
g. The Contractor will administer an approved satisfaction survey to all YCPM participants. The results of the surveys will go directly to the Transition and Reentry Program Manager who will share them with the Contractor.	10		40
h. The Contractor shall schedule the YCPM process, following the below YCPM steps:	10		40
i. Initial Preparatory Meeting with the Youth and Facilitator.			
ii. Pre YCPM or review of final "All About Me" presentation.			
iii. Post Meeting when requested by the Youth and/or the Facilitator.			
i. The Contractor shall ensure they have trained facilitators to meet the referral requests. The Contractor shall work with the Transition and Reentry Program Manager to provide coaching and mentoring.	20		80
j. The Contractor shall work with the Transition and Reentry Program Manager on providing technical assistance on the YCPM as requested by JCS.	10		40
9. The Contractor will coordinate reimbursement for Facilitator activities and all taxable payment information in accordance with regulations and timeframes specified by the Internal Revenue Service.	10		40
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS – Technical Specifications</b>			<b>2,880</b>

## 5 EVALUATION AND SELECTION

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the evaluation process that will be used to determine which Proposal(s) provides the greatest value to IJB. IJB will not necessarily award the Contract to the Respondent offering the lowest cost to IJB. Instead, IJB will award to the Respondent whose Responsive Proposal IJB believes will provide the best value to the State.

### 5.2 EVALUATION COMMITTEE

IJB will evaluate Proposals received in response to this RFP. IJB will use an evaluation committee to review and evaluate the Proposals. The evaluation committee will recommend an award based on the results of their evaluation to IJB or to such other person or entity who must approve the recommendation.

IJB's Evaluation Committee, or a subset of the Evaluation Committee, will initially review and evaluate each proposal received to determine the Respondent's ability to meet the RFP requirements.

IJB may request additional information or clarification of proposals and hereby reserves the right to select the particular response to this RFP that it believes will best serve its business and operational requirements, considering the evaluation criteria set forth below.

IJB reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this RFP if it is in the best interest of IJB.

### 5.3 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SCORING

All Technical Proposals will be evaluated to determine if they comply with the Mandatory Specifications.

#### 5.3.1 Technical Proposal Specifications Scoring Guide.

Points will be assigned to each specification as follows, unless otherwise designated:

4	Bidder has agreed to comply with the requirements and provided a clear and compelling description of how each requirement would be met, with relevant supporting materials. Bidder's proposed approach frequently goes above and beyond the minimum requirements and indicates superior ability to serve the needs of the Agency.
3	Bidder has agreed to comply with the requirements and provided a good and complete description of how the requirements would be met. Response clearly demonstrates a high degree of ability to serve the needs of the Agency.
2	Bidder has agreed to comply with the requirements and provided an adequate description of how the requirements would be met. Response indicates adequate ability to serve the needs of the Agency.
1	Bidder has agreed to comply with the requirements and provided some details on how the requirements would be met. Response does not clearly indicate if all the needs of the Agency will be met.

0	Bidder has not addressed any of the requirements or has provided a response that is limited in scope, vague, or incomplete. Response did not provide a description of how the Agency's needs would be met.
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#### 5.4 COST PROPOSAL SCORING

The Cost Proposal file(s) will remain unopened during the evaluation of the Technical Proposals and any Contractor presentations. After the Technical Proposals are evaluated and scored, the Cost Proposals will be opened and scored. Cost Proposal pricing will be scored based on a ratio of the lowest cost proposal versus the cost of each higher priced Contractor Proposal. Under this formula, the lowest Cost Proposal receives all of the points assigned to pricing. A Cost Proposal twice as expensive as the lowest Cost Proposal would earn half of the available points. Percentages and points will be rounded to the nearest whole value. The formula is:

**Weighted Cost Score = (price of lowest Cost Proposal/price of each higher priced Cost Proposal) X (points assigned to pricing)**

**Example:**

Contractor A quotes \$35,000; Contractor B quotes \$45,000 and Contractor C quotes \$65,000.

Contractor A:        \$35,000 = receives 100% of available points for cost.

\$35,000

Contractor B:        \$35,000 = receives 78% of available points for cost.

\$45,000

Contractor C:        \$35,000 = receives 54% of available points for cost.

\$65,000

**Total Points Assigned to Cost: 320**

#### 5.5 TOTAL SCORES

Each Contractor's Technical Proposal points will be added to its Cost Proposal points to obtain the total points awarded for the Contractor's Proposal.

## 5.6 TIED SCORE AND PREFERENCES

- 5.6.1 An award shall be determined by a drawing when responses are received that are equal in all respects and tied in price. Whenever it is practical to do so, the drawing will be held in the presence of the Respondents who are tied in price. Otherwise the drawing will be made in front of at least three non-interested parties. All drawings shall be documented.
- 5.6.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a tied score involves an Iowa-based Respondent or products produced within the State of Iowa and a Respondent based or products produced outside the State of Iowa, the Iowa Respondent will receive preference. If a tied score involves one or more Iowa Respondents and one or more Respondents outside the state of Iowa, a drawing will be held among the Iowa Respondents only.
- 5.6.3 In the event of a tied score between Iowa Respondents, the Agency shall contact the Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee for confirmation and verification as to whether the Respondents have complied with ESGR standards. Preference, in the case of a tied score, shall be given to Iowa Respondents complying with ESGR standards.
- 5.6.4 Second preference in tied scores will be given to Respondents based in the United States or products produced in the United States over Respondents based or products produced outside the United States.
- 5.6.5 Preferences required by applicable statute or rule shall also be applied, where appropriate.

## 6 CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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### 6.1 CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Any contract(s) resulting from this RFP between IJB and any Respondent(s) selected by IJB shall be a combination of the specifications, terms and conditions referenced in this RFP, including without limitation, the General Terms for Juvenile Court Services (the "General Terms") located on the website linked on the RFP Cover Page (with such modifications thereto as IJB determines to be necessary or desirable), the offer of the Respondent contained in the Respondent's proposal (excluding any exceptions taken by Respondent in accordance with this Section 6 that are not accepted by IJB specifically in writing and contained in an executed contract), written clarifications or changes made by IJB through an amendment to the RFP in accordance with the provisions of this RFP, and any other terms deemed necessary by IJB. The Contract terms and conditions in Section 6 and the General Terms will be incorporated into and become part of the Contract. IJB reserves the right to supplement and modify any of the foregoing terms and conditions prior to the execution of any contract.

IJB reserves the right to either award a contract without further negotiation with any successful Respondent(s) or to negotiate contract terms with any selected Respondent(s) if the best interests of IJB would be served. No exception or proposed amendment by a Respondent to the provisions or terms and conditions of this RFP, including the General Terms, shall be incorporated into any resulting Contract unless IJB has explicitly accepted the Respondent's exception or amendment in writing in the resulting Contract.

All costs associated with complying with such terms and conditions should be included in any pricing quoted by Respondent.

***By submitting a proposal, each Respondent acknowledges its complete acceptance of the terms, conditions, and specifications contained in this RFP, including the General Terms, without change except as otherwise expressly stated in its Proposal.***

***If a Respondent takes exception to any terms, conditions, specifications or other provisions of this RFP (including those set forth in the General Terms), it must state the reason for the exception and set forth in its proposal the specific contract language it proposes to substitute in place of the excepted provision(s).***

***If a Respondent takes exception to any term, condition, or provisions contained in the General Terms, the Respondent must produce a redlined draft of such terms, conditions, or provisions, and such redlined draft must clearly reflect all of Respondent's exceptions thereto and all alternative language or other changes that Respondent specifically proposes to make.***

***Exceptions and/or proposed changes that materially change the terms, conditions, specifications, or provisions of the RFP (including those in the General Terms) may be deemed non-responsive by IJB, as determined in its sole discretion, resulting in possible disqualification of the Respondent's proposal.***

***A Respondent's failure to state an exception to any term, condition, requirement or other provision of this RFP (including those contained in the General Terms) and propose alternative language in accordance with this Section 6.1 may be conclusively deemed by IJB to constitute Respondent's acceptance thereof.***

***Any term, condition, provision, or requirement to which a Respondent fails to take exception and propose changes and/or alternative language in accordance with this Section 6.1 will not be subject to negotiation.***

***A Respondent may not take exception to any of the provisions or terms contained in this RFP or the General Terms.***

***A Respondent may not state that it takes exception to any of the terms, conditions, requirements, or other provisions of the RFP (including those contained in the General Terms) to the extent any of the foregoing conflict with any terms or conditions contained in the Respondent's standard form contracts. If a Respondent submits its own terms and conditions or otherwise fails to follow the process described herein, IJB may reject the Respondent's Proposal, at its sole discretion.***

***IJB reserves the right to refuse to enter into a contract with the successful Respondent for any reason, even after delivery of notice of selection or intent to award or negotiate a contract. IJB further reserves the right to negotiate contract terms with the successful Respondent if the best interests of IJB or the State would be served.***

IJB will evaluate all Proposals without regard to any proposed modifications to any terms and conditions of the RFP or the General Terms. Once a Proposal has been identified as the one for which an Award recommendation has been made, but prior to notifying Respondents of the decision, IJB, in its sole discretion, may consider any modifications to the terms and conditions of the RFP or the General Terms proposed by a Respondent in that Proposal. IJB reserves the right to either award a Contract(s) without further negotiation with the successful Respondent or to negotiate Contract terms with the successful Respondent if the best interests of IJB or the State would be served. As such, if any proposed modifications are not determined to be in the best interests of IJB or the State, or appear to pose a substantial impediment to reaching agreement, IJB may, in its sole discretion:

1. Issue a Notice of Intent to Award in favor of the successful Respondent, but decline to agree to or further negotiate any modifications to terms and conditions proposed by Respondent in its Proposal;
2. Issue a Notice of Intent to Award in favor of the successful Respondent, and may identify in the Notice any modifications to terms and conditions proposed by Respondent in its Proposal with which IJB will or will not agree or further negotiate;
3. Enter open-ended negotiations with the successful Respondent; provided, that any such negotiations shall be limited to the modifications to terms and conditions proposed by Respondent in its Proposal;
4. Change IJB's recommendation for Award and issue a Notice of Intent to Award to a Respondent whose proposal does not pose as great of a challenge to IJB.

Any ambiguity, vagueness, inconsistency or conflict, either internal to such modification(s) or arising when read in conjunction with other portions of the Contract, shall be construed strictly in favor of the State. Only those proposed modifications identified in the Notice of Intent to Award

issued by IJB as terms and conditions with which IJB will agree, or ultimately agrees to after further negotiations, shall be part of the Contract. The State may ignore all modifications or exceptions proposed by a Respondent, accept one or more and ignore others, accept all or, through negotiations after an award, agree to compromise language concerning one or more proposed modifications to be incorporated into a final Contract between the parties. By executing and submitting its Proposal in response to this RFP, Respondent understands and agrees that the State may exercise its discretion not to consider any or all proposed modifications or exceptions Respondent may request and may accept Respondent's proposal under the terms and conditions contained in this RFP and the General Terms.

## 6.2 TERM LENGTH

The Contract shall have an initial term of a partial fiscal year, beginning on the later date of contract execution or the anticipated start date for the initial term specified on the RFP Cover Page. At the end of the Contract's initial term, IJB shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to renew the Contract on the same terms and conditions for up to a total of five (5) additional one-year terms. The resulting Contract may be terminated in accordance with its terms. IJB may not agree to penalties for termination in any of the above-described scenarios.

## 6.3 INSURANCE

### 6.3.1.1 Insurance Requirements.

Insurance requirements are set forth in Section 2.7 of the General Terms for JCS Services Contracts, which can be found on the website linked on the RFP Cover Page.

### 6.3.1.2 Insurance Policies.

Unless otherwise requested by the State of Iowa, Respondent shall cause to be issued insurance policies with the coverages set forth below:

Type of Insurance	Limit	Amount
General Liability (including contractual liability) written on an occurrence basis	General Aggregate	\$2 million
	Products – Comp/Op Aggregate	\$1 million
	Personal injury	\$1 million
	Each Occurrence	\$1 million
Automobile Liability (including any auto, hired autos, and non-owned autos)	Combined Single Limit	\$1 million
Excess Liability, umbrella form	Each Occurrence	\$1 million
	Aggregate	\$1 million
Workers Compensation and Employer Liability	As Required by Iowa law	As Required by Iowa law
Property Damage	Each Occurrence	\$1 million
	Aggregate	\$1 million
Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions	Each Occurrence	\$1 million
	Aggregate	\$1 million
Cyber Liability / Network Security	Each Occurrence	\$1 million
	Aggregate	\$1 million



## ATTACHMENT 1: CERTIFICATION LETTER – REQUIRED

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Alterations to this document are prohibited, see section 2.14.14.

Mandy Thurm, Issuing Officer  
Iowa Judicial Branch (IJB)  
mandy.thurm@iowacourts.gov

Re: JUV-26-TS-01-001 - PROPOSAL CERTIFICATIONS

Dear Issuing Officer:

I certify that the contents of the Proposal submitted on behalf of **[Name of Respondent]** \_\_\_\_\_ (Respondent) in response to Iowa Judicial Branch (IJB) for JUV-26-TS-01-001 RFP are true and accurate. I also certify that Respondent has not knowingly made any false statements in its Proposal.

### Certification of Independence

I certify that I am a representative of Respondent expressly authorized to make the following certifications in behalf of Respondent. By submitting a Proposal in response to the RFP, I certify in behalf of the Respondent the following:

1. The Proposal has been developed independently, without consultation, communication or agreement with any employee or consultant to the Agency or with any person serving as a member of the evaluation committee.
2. The Proposal has been developed independently, without consultation, communication or agreement with any other Respondent or parties for the purpose of restricting competition.
3. Unless otherwise required by law, the information found in the Proposal has not been and will not be knowingly disclosed, directly or indirectly prior to Agency's issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award the contract.
4. No attempt has been made or will be made by Respondent to induce any other Respondent to submit or not to submit a Proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.
5. No relationship exists or will exist during the contract period between Respondent and the Agency or any other State agency that interferes with fair competition or constitutes a conflict of interest.

### Certification Regarding Debarment

6. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, neither Respondent nor any of its principals: (a) are presently or have been debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by a Federal Agency or State Agency; (b) have within a three year period preceding this Proposal been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud, a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of antitrust statutes; commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; (c) are presently indicted for or criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in (b) of this certification; and (d) have not within a three year period preceding this Proposal had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which the Agency has relied upon when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that Respondent knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available, the Agency may pursue available remedies including suspension, debarment, or termination of the contract.

**Certification Regarding Registration, Collection, and Remission of Sales and Use Tax**

7. Pursuant to *Iowa Code sections 423.2(10) and 423.5(8) (2011)* a retailer in Iowa or a retailer maintaining a business in Iowa that enters into a contract with a state agency must register, collect, and remit Iowa sales tax and Iowa use tax levied under *Iowa Code chapter 423* on all sales of tangible personal property and enumerated services. The Act also requires Respondents to certify their compliance with sales tax registration, collection, and remission requirements and provides potential consequences if the certification is false or fraudulent.

By submitting a Proposal in response to the (RFP), the Respondent certifies the following: (check the applicable box)

- ☐ Respondent is registered with the Iowa Department of Revenue, collects, and remits Iowa sales and use taxes as required by *Iowa Code Chapter 432*; or
- ☐ Respondent is not a "retailer" or a "retailer maintaining a place of business in this state" as those terms are defined in *Iowa Code subsections 423.1(42) and (43)*.

Respondent also acknowledges that the Agency may declare the Respondent's Proposal or resulting contract void if the above certification is false. The Respondent also understands that fraudulent certification may result in the Agency or its representative filing for damages for breach of contract in addition to other remedies available to Agency.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature, Name and Title]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Date]

## ATTACHMENT 2: AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION LETTER – REQUIRED

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Alterations to this document are prohibited, see section 2.14.14.

Mandy Thurm, Issuing Officer  
Iowa Judicial Branch (IJB)  
mandy.thurm@iowacourts.gov

Re: JUV-26-TS-01-001 - AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

Dear **Issuing Officer**:

**[Name of Respondent]** \_\_\_\_\_ **(Respondent)** hereby authorizes the Iowa Judicial Branch (IJB) or a member of the Evaluation Committee to obtain information regarding its performance on other contracts, agreements or other business arrangements, its business reputation, and any other matter pertinent to evaluation and the selection of a successful Respondent in response to JUV-26-TS-01-001 RFP.

The Respondent acknowledges that it may not agree with the information and opinions given by such person or entity in response to a reference request. The Respondent acknowledges that the information and opinions given by such person or entity may hurt its chances to receive contract awards from the State or may otherwise hurt its reputation or operations. The Respondent is willing to take that risk.

The Respondent hereby releases, acquits and forever discharges the State of Iowa, the Agency, their officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands and causes of action of every nature and kind affecting the undersigned that it may have or ever claim to have relating to information, data, opinions, and references obtained by the Agency or the Evaluation Committee in the evaluation and selection of a successful Respondent in response to the RFP.

The Respondent authorizes representatives of the Agency or the Evaluation Committee to contact any and all of the persons, entities, and references which are, directly or indirectly, listed, submitted, or referenced in the Respondent's Proposal submitted in response to RFP.

The Respondent further authorizes any and all persons and entities to provide information, data, and opinions with regard to its performance under any contract, agreement, or other business arrangement, its ability to perform, business reputation, and any other matter pertinent to the evaluation of the Respondent's Proposal. The Respondent hereby releases, acquits and forever discharges any such person or entity and their officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands and causes of action of every nature and kind affecting the Respondent that it may have or ever claim to have relating to information, data, opinions, and references supplied to the Agency or the Evaluation Committee in the evaluation and selection of a successful Respondent in response to RFP.

A photocopy or facsimile of this signed Authorization is as valid as an original.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
**[Printed Name of Respondent Organization]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**[Signature and Title of Authorized Representative]**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ATTACHMENT 3: FORM 22 – REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY – REQUIRED

*The submission of this form 22 is required.*

*This Form 22 (Form) must be completed and included with your Proposal to the RFP. The Form is required whether the Proposal does or does not contain information for which confidential treatment will be requested.*

*Failure to submit a completed Form will result in the Proposal being considered non-responsive and eliminated from evaluation.*

### **Section I**

#### **Confidential Treatment Is Not Requested**

A request for confidential treatment of information contained in our Proposal is not submitted.

_____	_____	_____
Company	RFP Number	RFP Title
_____	_____	_____
Signature	Title	Date

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Section II**

#### **Confidential Treatment Is Requested**

If you are submitting a request for confidential treatment of any information submitted in your Proposal, complete the rest of this form.

*The below information is to be completed and signed only if Respondent is requesting confidential treatment of any information submitted in its Proposal.*

Per the paragraph labeled as Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment in section 2 of the Request for Proposal (RFP), Respondent requesting portions of its Proposal be maintained in confidence must complete this form and submit it with its Proposal. Respondent should read and familiarize themselves with chapter 22 of the Iowa Code regarding release of public records before completing this Form. Respondent shall refer to the paragraph labeled as Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment in section 2 of the RFP for instructions regarding how to request confidential treatment of portions of its Proposal.

#### **Notes**

- A. ***Completion of this Form is the sole means of requesting confidential treatment.***
- B. ***Respondent may not request pricing proposals be held in confidence.***

Completion of the Form and IJB's acceptance of Respondent's submission does not guarantee IJB will grant Respondent's request for confidentiality. IJB may reject Respondent's Proposal entirely in the event

Respondent requests confidentiality and does submit a fully completed Form or requests confidentiality for portions of its Proposal that are improper under the RFP.

To request confidentiality, Respondent must provide the following information:

☐ Respondent must conspicuously mark confidential material in its Proposal in accordance with the section titled Public Records and Requests for Confidential Treatment. *Check box when completed.*

Respondent must specifically identify and list the Proposal section(s) for which it seeks confidentiality and answer the following questions for each section listed:

- Explain the specific grounds in *Iowa Code Chapter 22* or other applicable law which support treatment of the material as confidential.
- Justify why the material should be kept in confidence.
- Explain why disclosure of the material would not be in the best interest of the public.
- Provide the name, address, telephone, and email for the Respondent's person authorized to respond to inquiries by IJB concerning the status of confidential materials.

Please provide the information in the table below. Respondent may add additional lines if necessary or add additional pages using the same format as the table below.

For each section with confidential material, provide the following information in the table below. Respondent may add additional lines if necessary or add additional pages using the same format as the table below

- A. Specific grounds in *Iowa Code Chapter 22* or other applicable law which supports treatment of the material as confidential
- B. Justification of why the material should be kept in confidence.
- C. Explanation of why disclosure of the material would not be in the best interest of the public.
- D. Name, address, telephone, and email for the person at Respondent's organization authorized to respond to inquiries by IJB concerning the status of confidential materials.

RFP Section	Specific Grounds	Justification	Explanation	Contact Information

☐ Respondent must submit a Public Copy of its Proposal from which the confidential information has been excised. The Public Copy is in addition to the copies required in the cover letter. The confidential

material must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the material removed and to retain as much of the Proposal as possible. *Check box when completed.*

This Form must be signed by the individual who signed the Respondent's Proposal. The Respondent shall place this Form completed and signed in its Proposal immediately following the transmittal letter. A copy of this document shall be placed in all Proposals submitted including the Public Copy.

*\*Failure to provide the information required on this Form may result in rejection of Respondent's submittal to request confidentiality or rejection of the Proposal as being non-responsive.*

*\*Please note that Section II of this Form is to be completed and signed only if you are submitting a request for confidential treatment of any information submitted in your Proposal.*

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Company

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RFP Number

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RFP Title

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Signature

---

Title

---

Date

## ATTACHMENT 4: COST PROPOSAL FORM – REQUIRED

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*This form must only be included in submitted Cost Proposals.*

*It cannot be included with the Technical Proposal.*

### Payment Terms

Per *Iowa Code § 8A.514* the State of Iowa is allowed sixty (60) days to pay an invoice submitted by a vendor.

### Cost Proposal

Respondent's Cost Proposal shall include an all-inclusive, itemized, total cost in U.S. Dollars (including all travel, expenses, etc. in prices) based on the Payment Terms outlined above. The **Unit Rate** shall be the cost per completed YCPM. When determining the YCPM rate for this Cost Proposal, **all other costs**, including direct client contact time, travel, training, professional meetings and development, administrative, case work, documentation hours, indirect time and any other cost must be considered since these would **not be eligible** as separate billable hours.

The following template is required. Please use additional pages to provide any additional narrative support for the costing information.

Provide a detailed breakdown in your Cost Proposal for all costs included below.

Deliverable Item Description	Firm US Dollars