

**ADDENDUM NO. 1  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**Solicitation Number:** DCF RFP 2122 029

**Solicitation Title:** First Responder Regional Supports

**Response(s) Due Date:** 1/17/2022

**Addendum Number:** 1

**Addendum Date:** 12/20/2021

FAILURE TO FILE A PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 120.57(3), FLORIDA STATUTES, OR FAILURE TO POST THE BOND OR OTHER SECURITY REQUIRED BY LAW WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED FOR FILING A BOND SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER CHAPTER 120, FLORIDA STATUTES.

**DCF RFP 2122 029 – First Responder Regional Supports** is hereby amended as follows (all changes are highlighted in yellow).

**Change No.1:**

**1.1 Introduction to the Procurement**

The Department of Children and Families (Department), Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) is seeking public entities or non-profit organizations in each of the Department’s six regions to provide regional prevention and early intervention services to first responders and their families. The goal of this project is to enhance access to information and referral supports, linkages to community services and follow up supports to mitigate the impact of traumatic stress among first responders, as defined in s. 112.1815, F.S., and their families.

**Change No.2:**

**2.3 Timeline**

| Activity  | Date                              | Time Eastern                     | Address         | Section Reference |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Sealed Proposal must be received by the Department: | <del>1/17/2022</del><br>1/18/2022 | <del>2:00 PM</del><br>12:00 Noon | See Section 1.3 | 2.7               |

| Activity  | Date      | Time Eastern       | Address  | Section Reference |
|---|-----------|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| *Proposal opening:  | 1/18/2022 | 3:00 PM<br>2:00 PM | <p>Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.<br/> <a href="https://www.gotomeet.me/SolicitationAdministration">https://www.gotomeet.me/SolicitationAdministration</a></p> <p>You can also dial in using your phone.<br/>           United States (Toll Free): <a href="tel:18668994679">1 866 899 4679</a><br/>           United States: <a href="tel:+15713173116">+1 (571) 317-3116</a></p> <p>Access Code: 687-621-357</p> | 2.7.3             |
| *All meetings noted with an asterisk (*) are public meetings. |           |                    |  |                   |

**Change No.3:**

**4.2.1 Title Page**

The first page of the proposal shall be a Title Page that contains the following information:

4.2.1.1 Title of solicitation.

4.2.1.2 Solicitation number.

4.2.1.3 Department Region (Northwest, Northeast, Central, SunCoast, Southeast, or Southern).

4.2.1.4 Vendor's name and federal tax identification number.

4.2.1.5 Name, title, telephone number, email address and mailing address of person who can respond to inquiries regarding the proposal.

**Change No.4:**

**5.1 Selection Criteria**

The following Selection Criteria shall apply for this solicitation:

| Criteria  |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vendor's company structure, subcontractors, and experience and capability to deliver its proposed solution including the vendor performance providing services similar to the one specified in this solicitation.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The skills and experience of the vendor's leadership team, staff, and resources the vendor will use in implementing its solution.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vendor's articulation of its solution and the ability of the solution to meet the requirements of this solicitation and provide additional value.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vendor's financial management approach, proposed budget, and related financial information.</li> </ul>   |

The Department may consider any information that reflects upon a vendor's capability to fully perform the contract requirements and demonstrates the level of integrity and reliability required to assure performance of the contract. **It is the intent of the Department that a vendor serves an entire region. In the event that no responsive respondent can serve an entire region, the Department reserves the right to consider responses that only serve portions of a region.**

**Response to Written Inquires:**

| Vendor Question # | Vendor                        | DCF RFP<br>2122 029<br>Section | Vendor Question  | DCF Response  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 of 30           | <b>Chrysalis Health</b>       | Section 1.1<br>Page 4          | <p>I reviewed the referenced RFP for DCF First Responders and we are very interested in submitting a response. I am certain that we would be able to provide the State of Florida a qualified and competitive bid. Unfortunately it appears that the solicitation is limited to Not for Profits. We are a for profit entity. Would you be kind enough to contact me to discuss the possibility of amending the RFP so as to allow for a for profit entity to submit. Respectfully, I see no reason to limit this solicitation to not for profits. I believe that the State would benefit from receiving more competitive bids if all entities were included.</p> | <p>Federal law, 42 USC § 300x – 5 restricts the State from expending funds to any entity other than a public or nonprofit private entity. A "public entity" is as defined by s. 279.02 (11), F.S. as " ... any entity, department, or agency which is empowered under the laws of one or more states, territories, or possessions of the United States, including the District of Columbia and the State of Florida, to issue obligations, any interest with respect to which obligations may, under any provision of law, be provided an exemption from the income tax referred to in the code. The term "public entity" thus may include, without limitation, the State of Florida, an entity deriving powers from and acting pursuant to the State Constitution or a general or special legislative act, a political subdivision, a municipal corporation, a state university or college, a school or other special district, a joint agreement entity, a public authority, a public trust, a nonprofit corporation, and other organizations."</p> |
| 2 of 30           | <b>Miami-Dade Fire Rescue</b> | Section 1.1<br>Page 4          | <p>I am a Lieutenant and Licensed Mental Health Counselor with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, down here in South Florida. I am currently working in my department as a facilitator of peer support and other mental health resources/services for our firefighters. I wanted to inquire as to the availability of funding under this RFP, for individual fire departments. We fall under the purview of Miami-Dade County, so i am wondering if our department could be considered for a funding opportunity.</p>   | <p>Per Section 1.1, this solicitation is requesting proposals "... in each of the Department's six regions to provide regional prevention and early intervention services ... " At a minimum, proposals must include the regional needs assessment in Section 4.2.6.1 and provide the regional required service components in Section 4.2.6.2. Proposals addressing the needs of individual first responder agencies only will not be accepted.</p>   |

| Vendor Question # | Vendor                               | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section | Vendor Question  | DCF Response  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| 3 of 30           | Pasco Sheriff's Office               | Section 1.1 Page 4       | Upon reviewing the above referenced RFP, it appears that only non-profit organizations are eligible for this funding. Would that be accurate?<br>Are you able to advise if there will be any addition forthcoming funding opportunities out of this funding that law enforcement agencies would be eligible? Specifically for the enhancement of their own existing peer support programs. | See response to Question 1 and Change No. 1 of DCF RFP 2122 029, Addendum No. 1.  |
| 4 of 30           | City of Ft. Pierce Police Department | Section 1.1 Page 4       | Is it permissible for a single entity to apply to provide first responder services across all six regions of the state, please advise, thank you.  | Per Section 1.1, the Department intends to evaluate and issue awards for each of the 6 Department regions identified in Appendix XIII.<br><br>A vendor may propose to provide services in multiple regions; however, the vendor must submit a separate proposal for each region. Each proposal must contain the information required in Sections 4.2 and Sections 4.3 |
| 5 of 30           | City of Ft. Pierce Police Department | Section 1.1 Page 4       | May a single entity apply for funding to supply behavioral health services and strategic planning, as listed on the RFP as optional Service Components in addition to the required Service components?   | Yes, per Section 3.2, each proposal must address the required service components in Section 3.2.1 and may address the optional service components in Section 3.2.2.   |
| 6 of 30           | City of Ft. Pierce Police Department | Section 1.1 Page 4       | As a follow-up to the question of a single entity applying for all six regions, would a separate application be required for each region or could a single application be submitted and refer to each region within the single response?   | Yes. See response to Question 4.  |
| 7 of 30           | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU               | Section 1.1 Page 4       | Does a state public university qualify to apply for the grant as the lead organization?  | Please see Change No. 1 of DCF RFP 2122 029, Addendum No. 1.  |
| 8 of 30           | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU               | Section 1.2 Page 4       | Must all funds be expended during the listed Term of the Agreement, by June 30, 2022?  | Yes. Funds must be earned by June 30, 2022, unless otherwise specified by the Department.   |
| 9 of 30           | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU               | Section 1.2 Page 4       | May funds be encumbered for approved expenses for a period of time after June 30, 2022? For example, may peer navigation, behavioral health services, and strategic planning be invoiced prior to June 30, 2022 and completed after that date?   | No. Funds must be earned by June 30, 2022, unless otherwise specified by the Department. All services must be provided within the anticipated contract service period.  |

| Vendor Question # | Vendor   | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section | Vendor Question  | DCF Response   |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| 10 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 1.2 Page 4       | Can the agency provide any potential information on Renewals? Developing and delivering an extensive statewide infrastructure in a three-month time period without a renewal period may pose significant challenges with continuity of service provision to first responders and their families. | Per Section 1.2, any contracts issued under this solicitation are subject to potential renewal in compliance with s. 287.057(13), F.S. |
| 11 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 3.1.1 Page 7     | Can funding be utilized for expenses relating to the Department's ongoing mental health training and an annual mental health checkup, which includes one-on-one therapy session with our preferred license psychologist?   | See response to Question 2. Proposals addressing the needs of individual first responder agencies only will not be accepted.           |
| 12 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 3.1.2 Page 7     | FIUPD is comprised of Sworn Officers, Police Communication Operators, Police Service Technicians, and civilian employees. Per DCF, will funding encompass our entire staff through our wellness initiative?  | See response to Question 2. Proposals addressing the needs of individual first responder agencies only will not be accepted.           |
| 13 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 3.1.4 Page 7     | Can a Network Service Provider be an individual licensed provider? Or must it be an agency?  | Network Service Providers are defined in Section 3.1.4.  |
| 14 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 3.2 Page 7       | Are proposals for servicing multiple Managing Entities permitted on the same proposal, or must one proposal be submitted per Managing Entity region?   | See response to Question 4. Responses must address a Department region, not individual Managing Entity service areas.                  |
| 15 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 3.2 Page 7       | Are proposals for a statewide initiative (all 6 MEs under the same proposal) permitted?  | See response to Question 4.  |
| 16 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 3.2 Page 7       | Will preference be given to proposals proposing a statewide vs regional approach?  | No. Evaluations will be based on each proposal's responsiveness in regards to the region proposed for service.                         |
| 17 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 3.2 Page 7       | May an applicant submit both a statewide proposal and a regional based proposal (or proposals)?  | No. See response to Question 4.  |

| Vendor Question # | Vendor   | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section | Vendor Question   | DCF Response  |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| 18 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 3.2.1.3 Page 8   | FIUPD, through an MOU, provides support to neighboring Departments within the region; however, our primary responsibilities are to provide law enforcement services to our campuses. If awarded funding, will the FIUPD be mandated to facilitate or provide mental & behavioral health services to First Responders outside of its jurisdictional boundaries and throughout the Southern region?   | Yes. See response to Question 2.  |
| 19 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 3.2.2.1 Page 8   | Research indicates primary barriers to first responders taking up needed mental health services are perceived stigma associated with mental health programs and overly burdensome application processes and wait-times/timeframes to receive services. What is the specific eligibility determination and application process for determining eligibility for these services? In addition, will household financial data need to be collected from first responders to determine the sliding fee scale? We have significant concerns that requiring first responders to submit this extent of information (financial/diagnostic) to either enroll in or to determine eligibility and fee scales is further stigmatizing and cumbersome, and will result in very few first responders participating in the program, thereby eliminating the chances of meeting the goal of reducing suicidal thoughts and behaviors within the population and associated mental health sequelae. The evidence base strongly indicates the fewer the barriers such as these to services, the more acceptable the services are within the population. Ideally given the nature of the problem and the proposed solution, and goal to reach as many first responders as possible, a variance to these rules should be considered. Given the that the evidence indicates these mental health concerns are a direct result of occupational exposures acquired while serving our communities, first responders should not be required to pay a sliding fee scale for services. | <p>Individuals eligible for services to be provided as a result of this RFP are first responders, as defined by s. 112.1815(1), F.S., including 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators, as defined by s. 401.465, F.S., and their families. See Section 3.1.2.</p> <p>Please see Section 3.2.2.1. Pursuant to s. 394.674, F.S., the financial eligibility requirement and the sliding fee scale apply to those Individuals receiving the Behavioral Health Services optional component. Financial eligibility is also a requirement of the fund source supporting this solicitation.</p> <p>The Department does not conduct an independent application or eligibility determination process. Pursuant to Section 4.2.6.1.2, vendors must describe the "... mechanisms to be used to assess the individual for eligibility for Department-funded services."</p> <p>Financial eligibility determinations are not included in the Required Service Components in Section 3.2.1.</p> |

| Vendor Question # | Vendor   | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section | Vendor Question   | DCF Response   |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| 20 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 3.2.2.1 Page 8   | Can the police Department limit mental and behavioral health services exclusively to the FIUPD?   | No. See response to Question 2.  |
| 21 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 3.2.2.1 Page 8   | Will the FIUPD be required to establish a MOU with ALL Agencies within the Southern Region, that are recognized under F.S.S. as First responders? | See response to Question 4. Services must be available to first responders and families throughout the region. The Department is not requiring a specific legal mechanism for operationalizing availability (MOU, MOA, Inter-Agency Compact, etc.) |

| Vendor Question # | Vendor                        | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section | Vendor Question   | DCF Response  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 22 of 30          | <b>2nd Alarm Project/FAMU</b> | Section 3.3.4 Page 9     | <p>Can you provide clarification regarding the Match requirement?<br/>           What are the criteria for demonstrating viability of local resources?<br/>           What is the definition of local resource?<br/>           Can a university be considered a local resource and contribute to the match requirement?<br/>           For a proposal that covers a region, which entities in the region should be included in the definition of "local resources"?</p> | <p>To demonstrate viability of local resources for the proposal, Section 4.3.6 requires submission of Appendix XII - Match Summary signed by the vendor submitting the proposal and Appendix XI - Commitment of Match Donation signed by each match donor. Ch. 65E-14.005(5) through (8), F.A.C. collective address valuation and documentation standard for in-kind match.</p> <p>A local resource for match purposes would be any party identified in the proposal providing cash or in-kind support to the project detailed in the proposal. Match may be provided by any combination of one or more organizations within the geographic scope of a proposal. The Department does not determine what organizations may provide match. Vendors should consult the potential match donors to determine if each organization is legally able to commit cash or in-kind match supports.</p> <p>Match commitments must conform to allowable costs of the project and shall be calculated on the total amount of funding requested, less any amounts excluded pursuant to Ch. 65E-14.005, F.A.C. Match is calculated for the project in its entirety, not for each separate service component.</p> |
| 23 of 30          | <b>2nd Alarm Project/FAMU</b> | Section 4.2.1.1 Page 12  | For the title page, should the Title match the title of the RFP re: "FIRST RESPONDER REGIONAL SUPPORTS" or can it be the Vendor's unique title for their proposed project?  | The Title of the Solicitation is 'FIRST RESPONDER REGIONAL SUPPORTS'. Vendors may add a unique project title after the title of the solicitation.   |



| Vendor Question # | Vendor   | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section  | Vendor Question   | DCF Response   |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|---|--|
| 24 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 4.2.6 Page 13     | We are considered a medium sized police Department, that primarily serve and protect University campuses. Would the DCF feel that we have the capacity or infrastructure in providing or facilitating mental and/or behavioral health services outside of our jurisdictional boundaries and throughout the Southern Region? | The Department will be evaluating all proposals according to the methodology in Section 5.2, using the Programmatic Evaluation Manual published with the solicitation.   |
| 25 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 4.2.6.2.1 Page 13 | Can the analysis of information and referral resources within the Region be exclusive to FIUPD first responders and their families?   | See response to Question 2.  |
| 26 of 30          | Florida International University Police Department | Section 4.2.6.2 Page 15   | Will the DCF assist with identifying qualifying factors of a First Responder Peer trainer? Can the FIUPD use an established network? If so, will grant funding encompass costs associated with acquiring or employing these services?   | Per Section 3.2.1.2, "First responder peer" is defined in s. 111.09(1)(b), F.S. Allowable costs under this solicitation include training costs to meet the specifications of the solicitation.<br><br>Per Section 4.2.5.2, each proposal must describe the vendor's approach to training of qualified personnel.   |
| 27 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 4.2.6.2 Page 15   | Is applicant required to have formal agreements with the Managing Entity & other agencies listed in RFP prior to proposal submission?   | Formal agreements are not required at the time of proposal submission. This section of the proposal should include a description of how services will be coordinated with the various stakeholders. Major milestones required for implementation of the required service components should be provided in the Implementation Timetable. See Section 4.2.6.4. |
| 28 of 30          | 2nd Alarm Project/FAMU                             | Section 4.2.6.3 Page 16   | May a proposal include ONLY one or both of the optional service components? For example, may a proposal be for only the Behavioral Health Services and/or Strategic Planning?   | No, proposals must include the Required Services Components in Sections 3.2.1 and 4.2.6.2. Proposals may also include one or both of the Optional Service Components in Sections 3.2.2 and 4.2.6.3.  |

| Vendor Question # | Vendor                        | DCF RFP 2122 029 Section   | Vendor Question  | DCF Response   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 29 of 30          | <b>2nd Alarm Project/FAMU</b> | Section 4.2.6.4<br>Page 17 | Are dates after June 30, 2022 permitted in the implementation timeline?  | See response to Question 8. Proposals may not address any services provided with award funds after June 30, 2022. Proposals may address the vendor's approach to sustainability of services with other resources after the anticipated end date. See Sections 3.2.2.2.4 and 4.2.6.3.2.9. |
| 30 of 30          | <b>2nd Alarm Project/FAMU</b> | NA                         | Are letters of support permitted? If so, is there a limit on number of letters, or page number limit? What section should those letters of support be included in? | Letters of support may be included as supporting documentation. See Section 4.2.7.   |