



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS (AOC)

REGARDING:

PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION TO ALL CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LAKE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

LAKE COUNTY DEPENDENCY REPRESENTATION
RFP#: CFCC-031814-LCDR-CF

PROPOSALS DUE:

APRIL 28, 2014
BY NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M. (PDT)

CONTRACT START DATE:

JUNE 1, 2014
(ESTIMATE ONLY)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to solicit and award a multi-year contract to one or more qualified service providers for high quality, cost-effective representation for parties in juvenile dependency proceedings for the Superior Court of California, County of Lake (Court). The representation is for all children and parents in juvenile dependency proceedings in Lake County, including all parent or child cases in which there is a conflict of interest. This RFP is the means for prospective service providers to submit their qualifications and request selection as a service provider.

Additional information about and documents pertaining to this solicitation, including electronic copies of the solicitation documents, can be found on the California Courts Website located at www.courts.ca.gov/rfps.htm (Court's Website).

Proposals will be considered from all juvenile dependency provider types, including but not limited to:

- Solo practitioners and partnerships;
- Government agencies;
- Non-profit organizations;
- Private firms;
- Panel organizational configurations; and
- Any combination of the above.

There are approximately 305 consisting of both children and parents receiving court-appointed dependency representation in Lake County. Proposers may submit a proposal to represent parent clients, children clients, or both.¹ Proposers must specify the estimated number of clients desired. Please see *Attachment 4, Section 8, Caseload* for information about the juvenile dependency caseload in Lake County.

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Judicial Council of California – AOC. The Judicial Council of California (Judicial Council), chaired by the Chief Justice of California, is the chief policy making agency of the California judicial system. The California Constitution directs the council to improve the administration of justice by surveying judicial business, recommending improvements to the courts, and making recommendations annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The council also adopts rules for court administration, practice, and procedure, and performs other functions prescribed by law. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the staff agency for the council and assists both the council and its chair in performing their duties.

¹ Definitions of key terms used below, including “representation”, “parents”, “parent”, “children”, “child”, and “conflict” can be found in section 1.4 of this RFP.

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1.2 The Center for Families, Children & the Courts.

1.2.1 The Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) is dedicated to improving the quality of justice and services to meet the diverse needs of children, youth, families, and self-represented litigants in the California courts.

1.2.2 CFCC has implemented the Dependency Representation Administration Funding and Training (DRAFT) program to further the Judicial Council’s goal of improving the quality of court-appointed counsel in juvenile dependency proceedings and maximizing the resources available for those services.

1.3 Court-Appointed Counsel Funding.

1.3.1 Contracts issued pursuant to this RFP will be funded by the court-appointed counsel (CAC) program budget.

1.4 Definitions. The following definitions apply to this RFP and its attachments.

1.4.1 “Child” or “Children” refers to all children and youth, including non-minor dependents in juvenile dependency proceedings. Youth who leave the dependency system and return via the re-entry process as non-minor dependents are also included within this definition.

1.4.2 “Parent” or “parents” refers to all parents, guardians and de facto parents in juvenile dependency proceedings, for whom the court appoints counsel. Parents, guardians and de facto parents in non-minor dependent cases are also included, if they continue to receive reunification services.

1.4.3 “Representation” is defined as an attorney or law office being appointed by the court to represent a parent or child client in a dependency matter, and that attorney or law office subsequently representing that client in all aspect of the dependency case, as described in *Attachment 4, Scope of Services*.

1.4.4 “Parent conflict” and “child conflict” refer to situations where an individual attorney or law office has a conflict of interest that prevents that attorney or office from representing a particular parent or child client. Additional information about how representation can be accomplished in conflict situations is found in *Attachment 4, Scope of Services, sections 4*.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The services are expected to be performed by the selected service providers from **June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2017**. The AOC Scope of Services and Service Levels are provided as *Attachment 2, Exhibit B*. The Scope of Services for the Lake County Juvenile Dependency Court is provided as *Attachment 4*.

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The AOC has developed the following list of key events related to this RFP. All dates are subject to change at the discretion of the AOC.

EVENT	DATE
RFP issued	March 28, 2014
Deadline for questions to Solicitations@jud.ca.gov	April 10, 2014 (by no later than 3:00 pm (PDT))
Questions and answers posted (<i>estimate only</i>)	April 15, 2014
Latest date and time proposal may be submitted	April 28, 2014 (by no later than 3:00 pm (PDT))
Anticipated interview dates (<i>estimate only</i>)	May 5-May 9, 2014
Notice of Intent to Award (<i>estimate only</i>)	May 20, 2014
Contract start date (<i>estimate only</i>)	June 1, 2014
Contract end date (<i>estimate only</i>)	May 31, 2017

4.0 RFP ATTACHMENTS

The following attachments are included as part of this RFP:

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES	DESCRIPTION
Attachment 1: Administrative Rules Governing RFPs (Non-IT Services)	These rules govern this solicitation.
Attachment 2: AOC Standard Terms and Conditions	If selected, the individual or entity submitting the proposal (the “Proposer”) must sign an AOC Standard Agreement/ Contract which includes these terms and conditions (the “Terms and Conditions”).
Attachment 3: Proposer’s Acceptance of Terms and Conditions	Proposer must complete, sign and submit this form with proposal to indicate acceptance of the AOC’s <i>Contract Terms and Conditions</i> , or identify exceptions.
Attachment 4: Scope of Services for Lake County	The Scope of Services details the services to be provided to the Superior Court of California, Lake County.
Appendix A: JCATS Screen Shot	This Appendix provides a snapshot of the case management program that Proposers will be required to use for caseload reporting to the AOC, as required by Section 7.1.2.g of the RFP.
Appendix B: Budget Template	Proposers must use this Excel workbook, which is posted on the RFP website, to provide the cost proposal (in both hard copy and soft copy formats), as required by Section 6.2.3 of this RFP.
Attachment 5: Payee	This completed form provides information the AOC requires in order to

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ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES	DESCRIPTION
Data Record Form	process payment of invoices.
Attachment 6: Darfur Contracting Act Certification	Proposer must complete, sign and submit the Darfur Contracting Act Certification with proposal.
Attachment 7: General Certifications Form	Proposer must complete, sign and submit the General Certifications Form with proposal.
Attachment 8: Statement of Financial Capability of Supporting Operations for Seventy-five days Prior to First Payment Form	Proposer must complete and submit this form with the proposal, indicating that the Proposer is financially capable of supporting the operation for seventy-five (75) days prior to the first payment, as required by <i>Section 7.1.6g</i> of the RFP.
Attachment 9: Proposed Caseload and Business Designation	Proposer must complete and submit this form with Proposal, indicating the intended caseload and business model.
Attachment 10: Proposal Submission Reminder Checklist	This is an optional form that Proposers may use as a tool to ensure that they have addressed the key components required by the RFP. Note that this document is not intended to replace the primary RFP document, and does not contain all of the information requested.
Attachment 11: Webinar Slides	Overview of Dependency Counsel Solicitations

5.0 PRE-PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

The AOC has prepared a pre-recorded webinar to familiarize proposers with dependency counsel solicitations that are administered by the AOC for courts participating in the DRAFT program. Proposers are encouraged to view the webinar information, which will be posted on the Courts Website for this *Lake County Dependency Representation* RFP, or it may be accessed via the following link:

<http://wpc.1a57.edgecastcdn.net/001A57/cfcc/OverviewofDependencyCounselSolicitations-20131008-1722-1.mp4>.

6.0 SUBMISSIONS OF PROPOSALS

- 6.1 Proposals should provide straightforward, concise information that satisfies the requirements of *Section 7.0, Proposal Contents*. Expensive bindings, color displays, and the like are not necessary or desired. Emphasis should be placed on conformity to the RFP’s instructions and requirements, and completeness and clarity of content.
- 6.2 The Proposer must submit its proposal *in two parts*, the technical proposal and the cost proposal.

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- 6.2.1 The Proposer must submit one (1) original and five (5) copies of the technical proposal. The original must be signed by an authorized representative of the Proposer. The Proposer must write the RFP title and number on the outside of the sealed envelope.
- 6.2.2 The Proposer must submit one (1) original and five (5) copies of the cost proposal. The original must be signed by an authorized representative of the Proposer. The original cost proposal (and the copies thereof) must be submitted to the AOC in a single sealed envelope, separate from the technical proposal. The Proposer must write the RFP title and number on the outside of the sealed envelope.
- 6.2.3 The Proposer must submit an electronic version of the entire proposal on CD-ROM. The files contained on the CD-ROM should be in PDF as well as *editable/unprotected* Word and Excel formats.

The cost proposal must be completed in *Excel* using the Budget Template provided as **Appendix B, Budget Template**. This template includes protected formulas and formatting, required for analysis of cost proposals. Cost proposals submitted in any other format, including an Excel spreadsheet created by a Proposer to look similar/identical to the provided Budget Template, will not be accepted.

- 6.3 Proposals must be delivered by the date and time listed on the coversheet of this RFP to:

Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts
Attn: Nadine McFadden, **RFP#: CFCC-031814-LCDR-CF**
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

- 6.3.1 Proposals must be received by the date and time listed on the coversheet of this RFP. Late proposals will not be accepted.
- 6.3.2 Only written proposals will be accepted. Proposals must be sent by registered or certified mail, courier service (e.g. FedEx), or delivered by hand. Proposals may not be transmitted by fax or email.

7.0 PROPOSAL CONTENTS

- 7.1 Technical Proposal. The following information must be included in the technical proposal. A proposal lacking any of the following information may be deemed non-responsive.
 - 7.1.1 Title Page

The *Title Page* will include the following information:

- a. Proposal title;
- b. Date submitted;

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- c. Proposer's name;
- d. Identification of Proposer as individual, partnership, corporation, public agency, or joint venture of one or more of the preceding;
- e. Identification of the business structure of the proposed representational model (e.g., public agency, private for-profit organizational representation, private non-profit organizational representation, solo practitioner, centrally administered panel, any combination of the preceding, etc.);
- f. If subcontractors are contemplated:
 - (i) Provide the names of those persons or firms that will be subcontracted;
 - (ii) Provide the portions and monetary percentages of the work to be performed by subcontractors;
 - (iii) Explain how and why those subcontractors were selected;
 - (iv) Provide resumes of each major subcontractor participant: and
 - (v) Provide description of how subcontracted work will be controlled, monitored, and evaluated.
- g. Proposer's contact information (physical and electronic addresses, telephone, and fax);
- h. Name and contact information (physical and electronic addresses, telephone, and fax) for the person or persons who will be authorized to make representations for the Proposer; and
- i. The proposed estimated number of clients to be represented, as contemplated in the technical and cost proposal, and the minimum and maximum number of clients that would be acceptable by the Proposer; and
- j. Signature of duly authorized representative.
 - (i) If the proposal is made by a sole proprietor, it must be signed by the sole proprietor.
 - (ii) If the proposal is made by a partnership, it must be signed by a member of the partnership and include the name and address of each member of the partnership.
 - (iii) If the proposal is made by a corporation, it must be signed by two officers of the corporation, consisting of one of each of the following: (1) chairman of the board, president, or vice president, and (2) the secretary, assistant secretary, chief financial officer, or assistant financial officer.
 - (iv) If the proposal is made by a corporation and is signed by a person other than an officer, or by only one officer, there must be attached to the proposal satisfactory evidence that the person signing is authorized by the corporation to execute contracts and

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bind the corporation on its behalf (e.g., certified copy of a corporation resolution or copy of appropriate corporate bylaws).

- (v) If the proposal is made by a joint venture, it must be signed on behalf of each participating company by officers or other individuals who have the full and proper authorization to legally bind the joint venture. If a joint venture is selected for an award, the AOC will enter into a contract with only the primary entity.
- (vi) If the proposal is made by a public agency, it must be signed by an individual authorized to make representations on behalf of the agency.

7.1.2 Description of Services to be Provided:

a. Services

Provide a general description of the services to be provided to meet the Scope of Services requirements, as described in *Attachment 4*. The proposal must address how services will be provided to clients who use English as their second language.

b. Start Up and Transition Plan

If the proposer would be a new provider of dependency representation in Lake County, or is an existing provider proposing to modify its existing organizational model, provide a description of the plan to start up operations and transition representation from the current dependency representation provider, if applicable, including a plan and timeline for the following:

- (i) Securing financing to cover first 75 days of operations, pursuant to *section 7.1.6.g* of the RFP;
- (ii) Recruiting and selecting qualified staff, including administrative, support, legal and investigator/social worker staffing;
- (iii) Training staff;
- (iv) Transferring case files from the current provider; and
- (v) Securing and furnishing space, including furniture, computer and telephone equipment, and all other necessary business equipment.

Note: If a proposer does not require a start up and transition plan, a statement to that effect must be provided in this section.

c. Organization and Staffing Plan

- (i) For all provider types, this section of the proposal must include information regarding the Proposer's proposed organizational structure, including the following:

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- Classification, number, and full time equivalent (FTE) status of attorneys included in the proposal;
 - Experience, training and credentials of attorneys included in the proposal;
 - Number, type and FTE status of non-attorney staffing, if applicable;
 - Proposed number of clients per attorney (counting each child as a client, irrespective of sibling group affiliation, and each parent as a client).
- (ii) For organizational models which include a supervising attorney, describe who will supervise the work and work products to ensure the quality, performance and consistency of dependency representation, including courtroom coverage, for both attorney and non-attorney staff and any independently contracted attorneys used by the Proposer.
- (iii) For organizational models which include an investigator/social worker position, describe the duties of the position.

d. Courtroom Coverage and Calendar Management

This section of the proposal must include information regarding the Proposer's plan to represent parties in the current arrangement of all dependency departments described in *Attachment 4, Section 2*. The proposal must describe how each courtroom will be staffed so as to ensure adequate attorney availability at all times, including the following: A description of how courtroom coverage will be provided in all dependency courtrooms:

- (i) A description of how calendaring conflicts with both local non-dependency and out-of-county cases, if applicable, will be avoided; and
- (ii) A description of how qualified substitute representation will be provided when assigned counsel is unavailable due to vacation, illness, or other unavoidable absence. **Substitute counsel must be prepared to address substantive case issues in order to avoid court delay.**
- A list of substitute attorneys must be approved by the AOC within thirty days of execution of a new contract.
 - N.B. Substitute counsel are subject to the competency and education requirements specified in *Section 7.1.3* below, as well as the performance requirements outlined in *Attachment 4, Section 5*.

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- e. Proposals for Conflicts
 - (i) Proposals must include a plan for identifying and handling conflict situations, pursuant to the criteria contained in *Attachment 4, Section 4*.
 - (ii) Proposals must describe how any subcontractors used for handling conflict cases will be screened and supervised.
- f. Facilities

Proposers must identify the proposed location(s) of office(s) and client interview facilities, which must be in Lake County.
- g. Reporting and Billing Requirements
 - (i) Proposals must include a plan for maintaining case and statistical information required for reporting and billing purposes, as specified in *Attachment 4, Section 9*.
 - (ii) Contractors will be required to provide statistical information via the Juvenile Court Activity Tracking System (JCATS), a web-based case management program. A snapshot of the JCATS screen, showing required reporting elements, is provided in *Appendix A, JCATS Screen Shot*.

7.1.3 Competency and Experience Requirements (Including Resumes of Key Staff)

a. Competency and Continuing Education

The Proposer must describe how dependency counsel competency requirements will be met, as described in:

California Rules of Court, Rule 5.660

http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/title_5.pdf

If the Proposer is proposing to subcontract with one or more individuals or organizations to provide dependency representation, the Proposer must describe how the competency and experience requirements of the Court will be met by that individual or organization, and how the Proposer intends to monitor compliance of the subcontractor.

b. Key Staff Qualifications and Resumes

- (i) Resumes must be included in this section for key staff that describes their background and experience in conducting the proposed activities. Key staff includes all executive and supervisory level staff. Proposal must describe key staff's knowledge of the requirements necessary to complete this project and describe professional qualifications and experience of key staff, as well as each individual's ability and experience in conducting the proposed activities.

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- (ii) If the Proposer is proposing to subcontract with one or more organizations to provide dependency representation, key staff resumes for those agencies must also be included. Resumes for key attorney staff must demonstrate training and experience necessary to comply with the California Rules of Court, Rule 5.660.

7.1.4 Improving Child Welfare Outcomes

The Proposer must describe the role of dependency counsel for parents, children or both in improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. Proposer should emphasize any relevant experience which may have lead to improved outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system. The Proposer must specifically speak to the role of counsel with respect to relative and sibling placement, reunification, reentry and guardianship rates, and must address the specific data presented regarding child welfare outcomes in Lake County, as identified in *Attachment 4, Section 7*. The proposer may provide examples based on their experience with each of these topics.

7.1.5 Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions

- a. On *Attachment 3, Proposer's Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions*, the Proposer must either indicate acceptance of the Terms and Conditions or clearly identify exceptions to the Terms and Conditions. An "exception" includes any addition, deletion, qualification, limitation, or other change.
- b. If exceptions are identified, the Proposer must also submit a red-lined version of the Terms and Conditions that clearly tracks proposed changes, and a written explanation or rationale for each exception and/or proposed change.

7.1.6 Certifications, Attachments, and other requirements

Proposer must include the following certifications/forms in its proposal:

- a. A completed and signed *Attachment 5, Payee Data Record Form*, or provide a copy of a form previously submitted to the AOC.
- b. A completed and signed *Attachment 6, Darfur Contracting Act Certification* form.
- c. A completed and signed *Attachment 7, Conflict of Interest Certification Form*, to certify that the Proposer has no interest that would constitute a conflict of interest under California Public Contract Code sections 10365.5, 10410 or 10411; Government Code sections 1090 et seq. or 87100 et seq.; or rule 10.103 or rule 10.104 of the California Rules of Court, which restrict

employees and former employees from contracting with judicial branch entities.

- d. If Proposer is a corporation, proof that Proposer is in good standing and qualified to conduct business in California.
- e. Copies of current business licenses, professional certifications, or other credentials.
- f. Proof of financial solvency or stability (e.g., balance sheets and income statements). Proposers must demonstrate a history of sound financial practice. Sole practitioners may include personal bank statements or credit line statements.
- g. A completed and signed *Attachment 9, Statement on financial capability of supporting operations for seventy-five days prior to first payment*. The proposal must include a statement that the Proposer is financially capable of supporting the operation for seventy-five (75) days prior to the first payment. The statement must describe how this will be accomplished. After receipt of a proper invoice, first payment for services will be forwarded to the successful Proposer via U.S. mail, within 45 days after the first thirty (30) days of service. Thereafter, the Proposer may bill on a monthly basis; the AOC will pay valid invoices within sixty (60) days of receipt *except in the absence of a new State Budget Act*.

7.2 Cost Proposal and Detailed Program Budget.

- 7.2.1 Cost proposals will be evaluated on their own merit, without regard to proposals submitted in response to any other RFP.
- 7.2.2 Proposers are asked to submit proposals based on the Caseload Funding Model adopted by the Judicial Council in October 2007².
- 7.2.3 The maximum total annual funding for proposals, not including any necessary start up and transition costs, is **\$246,402 to \$289,884**, based on an attorney's full time equivalent salary ranging between **\$59,047** and **\$100,031**.
- 7.2.4 The Proposer must specify the total maximum cost to the AOC for the project for the following periods:
 - June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015,**
 - June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016, and**
 - June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017.**

² The Judicial Council adopted the Caseload Funding Model at its October 26, 2007 meeting. The report to the Judicial Council detailing the model may be found at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/102607itemF.pdf>.

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7.2.5 Proposers must also provide in this section of the proposal a detailed line item budget for the periods below using *Appendix B, Budget Template*. *Appendix B* includes tabs for each period and proposers must complete all tabs.

June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2015,

June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016, and

June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017.

7.2.6 The budget template includes the following line items:

- a. Personnel,
- b. Benefits (e.g., medical/dental, vacation, etc.),
- c. Additional Professional Services (e.g., interpreters, etc.),
- d. Travel (includes in-county and out-of-county travel),
- e. Training,
- f. Insurance: These costs must reflect coverage levels as outlined in *Attachment 2, Exhibit A, and Section 7*. Deductible amounts must be provided in the budget narrative;
- g. Rent;
- h. Overhead (includes utilities, supplies, etc.); and
- i. Reimbursable expenses (expert witnesses, out-of-state travel to visit child clients, and conflict appointment payments).

7.2.7 As specified in *Attachment 2, Exhibit C, Sections 2-3*, the State will provide reimbursement for out-of-state travel to visit child clients and expert witnesses, as well as for conflict appointment payments. An estimate of these expenses must be included in the Budget Template.

7.2.8 All Proposers are required to submit an electronic copy of the completed Budget Template in Excel format to the AOC, as specified in *Section 6.2.3*, above.

7.2.9 If the proposal includes any subcontract representation, the payment method and rate for cases that require representation other than by personnel employed by the organization must be described (e.g., hourly, per case, per hearing, etc.) in the Budget Template.

7.2.10 No facilities will be provided for the Proposer under this proposal. All office space will be the responsibility of the Proposer.

7.2.11 Start Up and Transition Budget

If applicable, the proposer must specify the total cost for start up operations and transition of representation from the current dependency provider, if applicable, using the Budget Template provided in *Appendix B*.

- a. The proposer must complete the tab entitled “Startup and Transition,” detailing the total cost that will be incurred prior to beginning dependency

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representation services, unless no startup budget is required.

- b. Funding for start up and transitions costs will be limited to no more than 10% of the Proposer’s annualized budget for the first period of services, as identified by the Proposer on *Appendix B, Budget Template*.
- c. Start up and transition funding is only available to Proposers who submit a Startup and Transition Plan identified in *section 7.1.2.b* of the RFP.

7.2.12 Budget Justification Narrative

- a. Proposers must submit a narrative that explains all budgeted line items shown in the Budget Template. An explanation for all budgeted line items for the start up and transition budget, if any, must also be included.
- b. If the proposal includes efficiencies and economies of scale, and hence savings to be realized through their proposed model of representation (e.g., administrative or overhead savings), the proposer should describe those savings in their response to the Budget Narrative section of the proposal.

NOTE: It is unlawful for any person engaged in business within this state to sell or use any article or product as a “loss leader” as defined in Section 17030 of the Business and Professions Code.

8.0 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

8.1 References

Upon request, proposers will be required to provide references. References may be judicial officers; attorneys who are familiar with the provider’s dependency representation, including opposing counsel; and system partners such as the County’s Health and Human Services Agency staff. The AOC or the Court may check references provided by the proposer. Proposer may identify other courts for which they have provided dependency services; if such courts are identified, proposer must state that he or she agrees to the AOC and/or the Court contacting those courts. Information for references must include the following:

- Organization name;
- Contact person name, address, and telephone number; and
- Dates that services were provided.

9.0 OFFER PERIOD

A Proposer’s proposal is an irrevocable offer for one hundred twenty (120) days following the proposal due date. In the event a final contract has not been awarded within this one hundred twenty (120) day period, the AOC reserves the right to negotiate extensions to this period. The AOC may release all offers upon issuance of a Notice to Award. (*See Section 3.0, above*)

10.0 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

- 10.1 At the time proposals are opened, each proposal will be checked for the presence or absence of the required proposal contents. Proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation team to determine the proposer’s demonstrated ability to provide quality legal services in dependency proceedings for the quantity of cases it proposes to service. Proposals will be evaluated individually and ranked by score.

- 10.2 If the highest scored proposal does not provide representation for all parties in dependency proceedings in Lake County, the Court and the AOC will identify the next highest scoring proposal for the remaining portion of the services, and award the remaining portion of the services to the next highest scoring proposer(s) until all cases have been assigned.

- 10.3 The AOC will evaluate the proposals on a **100-point** scale using the criteria set forth in the table below. Award, if made, will be to the highest scored proposal. Although some categories are weighted more than others, all are considered necessary, and a proposal must be technically acceptable in each area to be eligible for award. The evaluation categories, maximum possible points for each category, and evaluation criteria for each category are set forth below:

CRITERIA	RFP REFERENCES	MAXIMUM POINTS
Plan to provide comprehensive, high quality and timely representation to all parent and/or child clients, including all levels of conflict: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Description of how services will be provided; 2. Start up and Transition Plan; 3. Organization and Staffing Plan; 4. Related experience, background and professional qualifications of the personnel who are responsible for providing dependency counsel services and program administration; 5. Adequate oversight of the quality of services provided by the Proposer and subcontractors, if applicable, under this proposal; and 6. Complete and timely response to follow-up questions from the Court and the AOC regarding the proposal, if applicable. 	7.1.2 7.1.2 8.0	45
Reasonableness of cost proposal, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposed average cost per client; 2. Percentage of Proposer’s costs directly applied to attorney services, and to indirect costs; 3. Proposed efficiencies and economies of scale; and 4. Start up and transition costs, if any. 	7.2 Appendix B	30
Description of the role of dependency counsel for parents, children or both in improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system including:	7.1.4	15

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CRITERIA	RFP REFERENCES	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. Description of the role of counsel with respect to relative and sibling placement, reunification, reentry and guardianship rates; and 2. Addressing the specific data presented regarding child welfare outcomes in Lake County, as identified in <i>Attachment 4, Section 7</i> .		
Acceptance of Proposal and Contract Terms and Conditions, including: 1. Title Page information 2. Attachment 2 – AOC Standard Terms and Conditions (submit only if there are exceptions/modifications as indicated on Attachment 3) 3. Attachment 3 – Proposer’s Acceptance of Terms and Conditions 4. Attachment 5 – Payee Data Record Form 5. Attachment 6 – Darfur Contracting Act Certification 6. Attachment 7 – General Certifications Form 7. Attachment 8 – Statement that Proposer is financially capable of supporting the operation for seventy-five (75) days prior to the first payment.	7.1.1 7.1.2 7.1.5 7.1.6	10

11.0 INTERVIEWS

The AOC may conduct interviews with Proposers to clarify aspects set forth in their proposals or to assist in finalizing the ranking of top-ranked proposals. The interviews may be conducted in person or by phone. If conducted in person, interviews will likely be held at the AOC’s offices in **San Francisco**. The AOC will not reimburse Proposers for any costs incurred in traveling to or from the interview location. The AOC will notify eligible Proposers regarding interview arrangements.

12.0 RIGHTS

The AOC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, as well as the right to issue similar RFPs in the future. This RFP is in no way an agreement, obligation, or contract and in no way is the AOC or the State of California responsible for the cost of preparing a proposal. One copy of each proposal will be retained by the AOC for official files and will become a public record.

13.0 CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

PROPOSALS ARE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE AND RULE 10.500 OF THE CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT. The AOC will not disclose (i) social security numbers, or (ii) balance sheets or income statements submitted by a Proposer that is not a publicly-traded corporation. All other information in proposals will be disclosed in response to applicable public records requests. Such disclosure will be made regardless of whether the proposal (or portions thereof) is marked “confidential,” “proprietary,” and regardless of any statement in the proposal

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(a) purporting to limit the AOC's right to disclose information in the proposal, or (b) requiring the AOC to inform or obtain the consent of the Proposer prior to the disclosure of the proposal (or portions thereof). Any proposal that is password protected, or contains portions that are password protected, may be rejected. Proposers are accordingly cautioned not to include confidential, proprietary, or privileged information in proposals.

14.0 DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION GOALS

The AOC has waived the inclusion of DVBE participation in this solicitation

15.0 PROTESTS

Any protests will be handled in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Judicial Branch Contract Manual (see www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jbcl-manual.pdf). Failure of a Proposer to comply with the protest procedures set forth in that chapter will render a protest inadequate and non-responsive, and will result in rejection of the protest. The deadline for the AOC to receive a solicitation specifications protest is the **proposal due date** set forth on the cover page of this RFP and in *Section 3, Timeline For This RFP*. Protests must be sent to:

AOC – Business Services
Attn: Protest Hearing Officer, **RFP#: CFCC-031814-LCDR-CF**
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

END OF RFP