

LACKAWANNA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR STABLE PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS AND COORDINATION
Fiscal Years 2023-2024

Issued: April 6, 2023

RFQ ID #: 96/23/1100/02

1. INTRODUCTION:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a fair and open process, sealed submittals will be received and reviewed by the County of Lackawanna ("COUNTY") Board of Commissioners ("Board of Commissioners") for the provision of services to eligible individuals served by the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Youth and Family Services STABLE program. This RFQ will be used in applying for funds to provide services for Fiscal Years: July 2023 to June 2024.

Submission Deadline:

Respondents must submit their written Submittals by 4:00 p.m.
prevailing time:

May 08, 2023

Contact Person: Kathleen Snyder Email: snyderk@lackawannacounty.org

Submissions received will be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Youth and Family Services (herein after referred to as the Department), based upon such criteria as the Department, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. The Department reserves the right to request clarification or additional information from any respondent. The Department, in its sole discretion, may accept or reject any or all submittals.

The Department reserves the opportunity to modify this Request for Qualifications (herein after referred to as RFQ) at its own discretion and without prior notice, and to waive any immaterial defect or informality in any proposal as may be permitted by law.

2. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Request for Qualifications is to solicit submissions from qualified agencies and /or individuals to provide professional services on behalf of the County in connection with the administration of the STABLE Program.

Service areas include:

- **Management and Care of Horses and potentially other livestock used in an instructional setting**
- **Horse riding and horsemanship instruction**
- **Assistance in curriculum development with OYFS personnel to foster prosocial interactions with adults and peers in the STABLE program in partnership with a child welfare professional and/or a law enforcement professional**
- **Instruction to at-risk youth regarding care of animals**

3. PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:

One (1) original copy of the Submittal must be provided.

Submittals must be emailed directly to Lackawanna County Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Youth and Family Services - Attn: Kathy Snyder @ snyderk@lackawannacounty.org. Submittals must be sent with the submitting agency or individual and the RFQ number clearly marked in the Subject Box. Submittals by fax, telephone, or UPS is not permitted.

The final selection will be made in the sole discretion of the Department.

4. PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETINGS:

There will be an opportunity for prospective Submitters to 'meet' with the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging staff for a Question and Answer session:

Please email Kathy Snyder at: snyderk@lackawannacounty.org to request a Microsoft Teams meeting or phone conference.

5. QUESTIONS:

Questions can be submitted via email to snyderk@lackawannacounty.org

* Questions will be answered by the appropriate individual(s) and responded to within 3 business days via email, with a return reply acknowledging receipt of the email request.

* QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL SUBMITTERS within 7 days through posting on the Lackawanna County website at www.lackawannacounty.org

All questions pertaining to this RFQ must be electronically submitted on or before: Friday, April 14, 2023

6. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS:

The Department will independently evaluate each submittal and selection will be made upon the following criteria:

1. Experience and reputation in the field.
2. Experience and reputation in the field with respect to contracting with or directly working for governmental entities to provide services on behalf of the County.
3. Nationally recognized certification(s) for horse riding instruction or at least ten years of instruction/riding experience.
4. Experience in working with at-risk children including but not limited to children with a history of abuse and/or neglect, behavioral health issues, intellectual disabilities, and criminogenic needs in a primarily outdoor setting.
5. Availability to accommodate any required meetings of the Department.
6. Ability to meet reporting requirements and timelines for completion as set forth by the Department including data collection for research and analysis regarding program outcomes.
7. Other factors determined to be in the best interest of the County in the Department's sole discretion.

7. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Each Submission must be in sufficient detail to permit evaluation, at a minimum, with respect to the following issues. Submissions must include the information that is specifically requested herein as well as such additional information as a respondent deems relevant to the process. Each submitter agrees that their Submittal constitutes a firm offer to the County that cannot be withdrawn for ninety (90) days from the Submission due date

To achieve a maximum degree of comparability, the Submissions shall be organized in the manner specified below and use corresponding lettering and/or numbering.

Title Page:

(1 page): Show name of your firm, address, name of contact, telephone number(s) and email address along with the current date. Also include the title and number of the RFQ.

Table of Contents:

All Submissions to the County must include the following:

SECTION 1 Agency Information (see Form A)

- Name, address, phone number and email address of the agency;
- The corporate officer's name, title and signature. This person must be able to execute agreements on behalf of the agency;
- The service(s) for which the submittal has been prepared.

SECTION 2 Agency Description (see Form A)

- A brief description of your agency's history, ownership and organizational structure;
- Include as attachments an organizational chart, a copy of the most recent audit and a copy of any licenses that pertain to services provided.

SECTION 3 Agency Services (see Form A)

- List all services provided by your agency and address at which they are provided.

SECTION 4 Scope of Services/Statement of Qualifications (see Form B)

- Provide a description of the proposed service and your agency's qualifications and experience in providing this service;
- Provide the names, experience, qualifications and applicable licenses held by the individual primarily responsible for servicing the Program and any other person(s), whether as employees or subcontractors, with specialized skills that would be assigned to service the Program.

SECTION 5 County Contracts (see Form C)

- Provide a listing of all like or similar service contracts or Mutually Agreed Upon Written Agreement (MAWA) with other county

programs to provide services. Include agency name, contact person, services, contract dates and amounts. If no other contracts, please state N/A.

SECTION 6 Statement of Assurances (see Form D)

- A statement of assurance that your agency is not currently in violation of any regulatory rules and regulations set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) that may have any impact on your agency's operations;
- A statement of assurance that your agency has no conflict of interest in providing service on behalf of Lackawanna County;
- A statement of assurance that your agency is not involved in any current or pending litigation involving Lackawanna County or any of its Departments or Authorities;
- A statement of the insurances currently held by your agency.

SECTION 7 Additional Information

- Include any additional information not specifically required but deemed important and relevant by the submitting agency.

SECTION 8 Subcontractors

- **RESPONDENTS SHOULD NOTE THAT ANY AND ALL WORK INTENDED TO BE SUBCONTRACTED AS PART OF THIS SUBMITTAL MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY BACKGROUND MATERIALS AND REFERENCES FOR PROPOSED SUBCONTRACTOR(S) – NO EXCEPTIONS**

8. RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful Submitter shall have primary responsibility for the following:

- * The provider must be able to provide care of horses and other Program animals as needed including but not limited to weekends, holidays, or evenings.
- * Possess a working knowledge of psychological trauma as it pertains to abused and neglected children.
- * Possess a working knowledge of animal behavior, especially related to horses, in order to request medical care or other supports if the animal's behavior or appearance requires specific interventions

* Properly and efficiently meet reporting requirements and follow contract guidelines.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY:

All Submissions in response to this RFQ shall be held confidential until a contract is awarded. Following the contract award, Submissions are subject to release as public information unless the Submission or specific parts of the Submission can be shown to be exempt from the Pennsylvania Public Information Act. Respondents are advised to consult with their legal counsel regarding disclosure issues and take the appropriate precautions to safeguard trade secrets or any other proprietary information. The County assumes no obligation or responsibility for asserting legal arguments on behalf of potential Respondents. If a Respondent believes that a Submission or parts of a Submission are confidential, then the Respondent shall so specify. The Respondent shall stamp in bold red letters the term "CONFIDENTIAL" on that part of the Submission, which the Respondent believes to be confidential. Vague and general claims as to confidentiality shall not be accepted. All Submission and parts of Submissions that are not marked as confidential will be automatically considered public information after the contract is awarded.

10. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Any agency or person considering doing business with Lackawanna County Government must disclose the agency or person's affiliation or relationship that might cause a "Conflict of Interest" with County Government entity. Any attempt to intentionally or unintentionally conceal or obfuscate a conflict of interest may automatically result in the disqualification of the Submitter's submittal.

11. COMMUNICATION WITH ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

All communications during this process should be directed to the appropriate contact listed in this RFQ. Any firm that makes any effort to communicate with any other official of Lackawanna County, either directly or indirectly, during this process will be EXCLUDED from consideration.

12. FORMS ATTACHED

- Form A – Agency Information, Description and Services
- Form B – Scope of Services/Statement of Qualifications

- Form C – County Contracts
- Form D – Statement of Assurances

Qualification Base Selection Process

The statement of qualifications will be evaluated in accordance with the County's Qualifications Base Selection Process. Anyone submitting a statement of qualifications is advised to review that process, which is set forth on the County's website.

III. AGENCY SERVICES

Instructions: In the space below, please list all services and the address of service delivery provided by your agency.

This form should be completed and submitted with the Request for Qualification by the submission date noted in the Annual Request for Qualification for Service Providers.

Service Name	Address

SCOPE OF SERVICES/STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

FORM B

I. SERVICE DESCRIPTION

In the space below, please provide a brief description of the proposed service and your agency's qualifications and experience in providing this service.

II. EMPLOYEE DETAILS

In the space below, please provide the names, experience, qualifications, and applicable licenses held by the individual primarily responsible for servicing the Program and any other person(s), whether as employees or subcontractors, with specialized skills that would be assigned to service the Program.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES

FORM D

- I ATTEST** that [TYPE NAME OF AGENCY] is not currently in violation of any regulatory rules and regulations set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) that may have any impact on our agency's operations.
- I ATTEST** that there are no conflicts of interest to which [TYPE NAME OF AGENCY] would be subject if it were to provide the requested service on behalf of Lackawanna County.

If unable to attest to the above statement, please explain below:

- I ATTEST** that [TYPE NAME OF AGENCY] is not involved in any current or pending litigation with Lackawanna County or any of its Departments or Authorities.
- I ATTEST** that [TYPE NAME OF AGENCY] currently carries the following types of insurance coverage:
- Workers' Compensation Insurance
 - Commercial General Liability Insurance
 - Professional Liability Insurance
 - Automobile Insurance