



Board of Commissioners:
Pat DeWine, David Pepper, Todd Portune
County Administrator: Patrick J. Thompson
Director: Moira Weir
General Information: (513) 946-1000
General Information TDD: (513) 946-1295
www.hcifs.org
www.hcadopt.org
www.hcfoster.org

22 E. Central Parkway • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 946-1000 • Fax: (513) 946-2384
E-mail:

May 23, 2008

ADDENDUM #1

RFP 08-003

Type B Professional Providers Network Services

TO ALL POTENTIAL PROVIDERS:

Questions and Answers at Providers Conference:

1. **Q:** There was mention that more than one vendor could be chosen for the proposal; is it possible to specify a smaller geographic area to cover rather than Hamilton County as a whole?
A: **The goal is to work with a vendor(s) who is able to meet the continuum of services for the entire Hamilton County area. However, we will consider a Vendor(s) who targets specific geographical areas, provided the Vendor can show a significant concentration of providers within the targeted areas, who are interested in the services contained within the scope of the RFP. This vendor(s) would need to meet all other specifications contained within the RFP.**

2. **Q:** On page 5 of the RFP it indicates that the population the RFP is intended to procure services for is approximately 1,000 certified providers. Is the intent to provide services for all 1,000?
A: **Even though the population is 1,000 we know that vendor(s) may not be able to service all 1,000; we understand there may only be a certain percentage with which vendor(s) can work.**

3. **Q:** Do you envision that all vendor(s) who are providing services under this contract will be working with providers to obtain a CDA or working with them towards accreditation?
A: **Yes. The exception would be Head Start Enhancement, where providers would not immediately have to begin CDA classes.**



4. **Q:** If they are not in Head Start, is it acceptable (when the contract begins) that they are working their way toward accreditation? Is nurturing providers along to prepare to begin their CDA or accreditation acceptable?

A: **We understand that whenever this contract starts, it is not going to necessarily match when the education programs are starting. For example, if the contract starts in October and the CDA program or next accreditation program doesn't start till November, then those first couple of months are going to be involved with other activities: recruitment, getting the paperwork done, those kinds of things.**
We will allow monthly reimbursement for recruitment, assessment and application/enrollment activities for providers which occur prior to their beginning a training component, not to exceed the start of the program component or 120 days whichever comes first. Any exceptions to this timeframe must have prior, written approval from HCJFS before reimbursement can be made. Activities other than those listed above would need to be approved by HCJFS prior to reimbursement.

5. **Q:** The contract only runs for one year but in many cases, it will take vendor(s) longer than one year to complete their training components and receive their credentialing. Are Vendors expected to have providers complete their training component within one year?

A: **Providers actively working towards credentialing also satisfy one of our goals for this contract, which is to improve the quality of child care services for our customers. Providers, who are making progress, as documented by an action plan, can still make a positive impact to our customers. If the Vendor(s) is able to document that the provider is making steady progress towards completing the training component, the Vendor(s) will not be penalized if a provider has not completed their training component at the end of the first contract year. While funding can not be guaranteed after the initial contract year, HCJFS is hopeful funding will be available so that providers who have been progressing will be able to complete their Accreditation or CDA credentialing the next contract year.**

6. **Q:** We provide interpreting services for Hamilton County Job & Family Services, whoever wins this contract, would we contract with them if they needed language services?

A: **Yes, it is possible that the Vendor that currently provides this service for HCJFS would be utilized to provide interpreting services for the selected vendor as needed.**



7. **Q:** This question is very broad, but what are the two things you most hope to achieve during this contract term?

A: We want to be able to see a difference in the children that our home providers serve; that when we (our staff), go in provider homes, we will be able to see when we walk in that provider's home, there's a difference in the environment and in the service children are actually receiving. We hope to hear from parents that providers have made a positive impact to their children and from the providers themselves that there's a positive impact to the services they provide. We should be able to see it, touch it, feel it; that there is change for the better going on here, that the additional training and services are helping the provider help the children and their families. Our staff should also notice a measurable difference when they go on home visits with a reduction in non-compliance issues and complaints for the providers involved in this program.

And then obviously, at the end, the providers should be able to notice a difference in the reimbursement rates and/or opportunities for which they are eligible. But throughout the process we should be able to notice a difference in these training components will ultimately enhance children's lives.

8. **Q:** For the most part, many of the certified providers serve only subsidized children, and am I correct in believing that if they serve subsidized children, getting their credentials will not increase their rate of pay and they may not charge parents additional? So it's only the private fee paying parents that they can charge additional rates based on the higher credential?

A: Obtaining Accreditation can potentially increase pay levels by up to 5 percent. Increasing educational levels through obtaining a CDA can be a step to prepare providers who desire to change from Type B certification to Type A or Center licensure, possibly leading to increase income and/or business opportunities. We believe these training components will allow providers to be better equipped to compete for these future opportunities with an even greater income potential (i.e. pending State programs to promote Step Up to Quality and pending legislation that may include mandated licensing of Type B providers).

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE TO THE RFP:

9. **Section 2.3 Budgets and Cost Considerations.** Paragraph A states services will begin no later than August 2008; this should read October 2008.



Section 2.3 Budgets and Cost Considerations. Paragraph E; delete this paragraph as it does not apply to the RFP.

Adult Services/421-LIFE • Cash Assistance • Child Care Services
Child Support Services • Children's Services/241-KIDS • Employment and Training
Food Stamps • Medicaid • Mt. Airy Shelter • Tuberculosis Control

