

HAMILTON COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
Children's Services Division
Request for Information (RFI) RFI08-004
Parent Education Services

Hamilton County Job and Family Services (HCJFS), Children's Services Division, is interested in obtaining information regarding parent education services to assist HCJFS in the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP). HCJFS anticipates issuing the RFP in the second quarter of 2008.

Children's Services would like to explore different types of parent education services for purchase which would support and achieve the following goals/principals:

1. The immediate goal is to demonstrate measurable change in the parenting skills of the client.
2. Those changes would manifest through these agency goals:
 - a. Preservation of the family unit through prevention and education activities that result in significant improvements in parenting skills.
 - b. Reuniting the parent with the child by addressing the issues that resulted in removal of the child from the home.
 - c. Building a positive relationship between the parent and the child when preservation or reunification is not an option for the family.

Population Considerations:

1. Discipline – positive methods, controlling anger, reasonable expectations;
2. Physical abuse and neglect – prevention and behavior modification;
3. Parenting teens – how to deal with changes in the family and parenting style;
4. Teen moms – modeling appropriate behaviors, providing clear directives, addressing issues specific to teen culture;
5. Domestic violence – how it affects the entire family, special focus on younger moms;
6. Building safeguards for children – intervention by other adults in child's life;
7. Children with mental health needs - how parenting is affected by the child's mental health status;
8. Children who have been sexually abused – how parents can meet the child's special needs;
9. Disruptions in foster care and adoptions – what triggers disruptions and how to prevent; and
10. Mentors – involve parent advocates who have overcome obstacles and can speak to "real life" experiences.

Delivery of services:

1. Focus on individualized services utilizing modeling, behavior specific case plans with defined outcomes, and child development curriculum specific to needs of family;
2. Groups designed to allow for flexibility to divert from agenda and address issues that arise;
3. Inclusion of children and providing a snack/meal when possible;
4. Provision of age appropriate classes for children running concurrently with parenting classes;
5. Provision of smaller classes tailored to specific issues;
6. Scattered sites close to bus routes to ease transportation issues;
7. Utilization of a variety of models based on research on a variety of curriculums;
8. Partnering with other agencies and with case workers in the field;
9. Meetings with agency caseworkers (optimally during daytime) to collaborate on case needs; and
10. Holistic approach that emphasizes depth and real change in behavioral outcomes.

Please submit the following in response to this RFI:

1. Detailed program description
2. Estimated cost per family/child
3. Estimate the numbers of families/children to be served
4. Any research that would support how the proposed program would meet the goals/principals listed above
5. Any additional information that you believe would aid HCJFS in the development of a Request for Proposal that may be the result of this RFI.

Contact Person:

Tracy Reeves
Contract Services, 3rd Floor
Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services
222 East Central Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Reevet01@jfs.hamilton-co.org

Requests should be received no later than the close of business **March 27, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. EST.**