



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.
Director

Curley L. Bonds, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Rimmi Hundal, M.A.
Chief Deputy Director

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ADDENDUM TWELVE 24-HOUR RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT AND ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT CONTRACT FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT/URGENT CARE CENTER (BID NUMBER DMH091521B1)

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is issuing the Questions and Answers (Q&A) for Addendum Twelve for Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Crisis Stabilization Unit/Urgent Care Centers at the following sites:

- 1) Jacqueline Avant Children and Family Center (on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital campus) - Children and Youth CSU – 1741 East 120th Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90059;
- 2) Olive View Community Mental Health Urgent Care Center - Children and Youth CSU – 14659 Olive View Drive, Sylmar, CA 91342; and
- 3) High Desert Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center & Crisis Walk-In Center - Children and Youth CSU – 415 East Avenue I, Lancaster, CA 93535 (site will be available in the Fall of 2025).

Due to the delayed release of this Q&A, we will adjust the timeline of this solicitation. The Application/Proposal due date is adjusted as follows:

Applications/Proposals due by: 2/25/2025 at 12 p.m. PST

Proposals must be submitted to SolicitationsTeam@dmh.lacounty.gov. All other content remains the same. No other information will be provided.

Sincerely,

DMH Solicitations Team

c: Jaclyn Baucum
Damien Parker
Stella Krikorian
Otilia Holguin
Yanela Soulier

ADDENDUM TWELVE

24 HOUR RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT AND ACUTE PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT CONTRACT FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC CRISIS STABILIZATION/URGENT CARE CENTER (BID NUMBER 091521B1)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)

Question 1: Attachment I requires experience in providing crisis stabilization services for the 12 and under population:

“As of the date of release of this Addendum 12, Applicant must have five (5) years of experience providing: 1.) trauma focused mental health services, 2.) crisis intervention, and 3.) crisis stabilization to children 0-12 years.”

Given there are few CSUs serving this population in the County and state, won't this severely limit the number of qualified agencies? Can this be changed to crisis intervention and/or crisis stabilization to children 0-12 years?

Answer: No, this requirement will not be changed. There is a difference between crisis intervention and crisis stabilization. Children in this age group need *more*, rather than less specialty care. This will limit the number of qualified agencies, but in the long run, these agencies should be more uniquely qualified.

Question 2: What is the intention and purpose of requiring contracts with the County's DCFS and Probation Departments?

“Applicant must have active contracts with the LAC Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and LAC Probation Department (PD)”

Neither department contracts for mental health services, including high level crisis stabilization services. If the intention is that a CSU provider must have experience serving children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation system and working with those systems, shouldn't that be in providing mental health services for them, including crisis intervention services? For example, the highest intensity outpatient program for such youth and families, Wraparound, is contracted through DMH, not DCFS or Probation.

This limitation would prevent the County benefitting from considering providers with substantial experience in providing crisis stabilization services, including for such youth involved in child welfare or juvenile probation, but not having contracts with both departments.

Can this requirement be modified to require contracts with these departments or a history of providing mental health services for children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation system?

Answer: No, this requirement will not be modified. The Department's intent is to contract with entities that have the experience and capability to work with the target population. There is a varied pool of entities that meet this requirement and the Department of Mental Health seeks to best serve the needs of at-risk children served by LACDMH, DCFS and PD.

Question 3a: This break out is indicated: *"Each CSU/UCC will have a total of nine (9) chairs broken out by age range (3 chairs for ages 3-5; 3 chairs for ages 6-9; and 3 chairs for ages 10-12)."*

Does this mean there will be 3 subunits separating these age groups?

Answer: No, these will not be divided, physical subunits.

3b. Does this mean the CSU will be limited to serving a maximum of 3 in each age group?

Answer: No, there isn't a maximum limit of 3 per age group. This is estimating the age groups that will be served.

3c. Or is this only indicating there will be three sizes of chairs?

Answer: This speaks to three age groups that will be served, not the size of chairs.

Question 4: The RFA explains the County's intention to award a maximum of one contract for a provider.

"In an effort to open contracting opportunities and to contract with varied entities, Applicants are advised that LACDMH will only accept one (1) application per Applicant. Applicants must not bid on more than one site."

But why limit providers to submitting only one proposal, as that could limit the County's ability to choose the best providers? For example, three providers that could provide the CSU at any of the three sites all bid on the same site and no providers bid on one of the other two sites. Why not allow bidding on three sites but the County limit contracts to a maximum of one?

Answer: The Board of Supervisors (Board) has directed Departments to open contracting opportunities to various entities throughout the County. Studies and reports are being drafted regularly to update the Board on the progress made on this front. The Board gets inquiries and complaints from entities about Departments awarding contracts and funding to the same entities time and time again. To meet the Board's directives, we are limiting responses to one (1) application per Applicant.

Question 5: Exhibit A to the Sample Contract in Attachment II indicates the programs will be funded on a fee for service basis. Budget form Exhibit 7 includes the County's Crisis Stabilization rate to providers for the 24-25 year. Is it intended that the County will fund these CSUs at this rate, at another rate it will establish for the 25-26 year, should applicants propose a rate based on their budgeted costs and an estimate of service volume, or will this rate be negotiated between the County and the provider(s) it selects?

Answer: The rate will not be negotiated with the selected provider. There is an established rate for these services and Bidders must provide estimated budgeted costs. The final budget will be discussed and negotiated between the County and the selected provider(s) on an individual basis.

Question 6: If the County is intending to pay the same rate for these CSUs/UCCs as it does for other, larger CSUs/UCCs serving adults and adolescents, how is this justified given that a 9 bed CSU will not have the same economy of scale and that utilization of CSUs by younger children may be at a lower level than for adults and adolescents? These CSUs will have higher per patient and per hour of service costs.

Answer: Please see response to Question #5.

Question 7: Given these CSUs for younger children are unprecedented in the County, can the program be reimbursed on a cost basis for an

extended start up period, i.e. one year, to determine what utilization levels will be?

Answer: The resultant contract is not a cost-based contract and start-up costs will be negotiated with the selected provider.

Question 8: The RFA cover letter includes: *“Each CSU/UCC will have a total of nine (9) chairs broken out by age range (3 chairs for ages 3-5; 3 chairs for ages 6-9; and 3 chairs for ages 10-12).”*

Please clarify whether the CSU is to limit patients it serves at the same time to 3 in each of the 3 age groups? Or can the CSU serve up to 12 patients, ages 3-12, at a time regardless of the mix of ages.

Answer: The chair allocation refers to the estimated number of chairs designated for each age group (3-5, 6-9, and 10-12), but the CSU is not limited to serving only 3 patients from each age group at the same time. The CSU can serve up to 9 patients in total, regardless of age mix, as long as there is adequate accommodation and coverage for each age group. The chairs can be used interchangeably, provided the needs of each age group are met.

Question 9: What does it mean that the chairs will be “broken out” by age group? Will there be sub-units or other physical separation between chairs for each of the three age groups?

Answer: See response to Question #3 and #8

Question 10: Attachment I, Section 4.0 states: *“Applicants must provide an estimated annual budget for Psychiatric CSU/UCC services at full occupancy (9 child and adolescent chairs).”*

Does full occupancy mean 9 chairs X 24 hours X 365 days/year = 78,840 hours of service per year? Or is the applicant to provide an estimate of what occupancy will be?

Answer: The applicant must provide an annual budget estimated on volume expectancy. The average UCC occupancy is 50% in a 24-hour period.

Question 11: Are organizations with no youth/child experience in Los Angeles County, but with youth/child experience in at least one other California county eligible to participate in this bid?

Answer: No. Proposer(s) must meet all minimum mandatory qualifications as stated in the RFA document – Addendum 12.

Question 12: Are organizations without current contracts with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DFCS) and Los Angeles County Probation Department providing services to children (ages 0-12) in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System but that have active contracts within the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System in at least one other California county eligible to participate in this bid?

Answer: No. Proposer(s) must meet all minimum mandatory qualifications as stated in the RFA document – Addendum 12.

Question 13: This opportunity is Addendum #12 of an ongoing RFP process. For this reason and to ensure bidders are clear on the compliance and submission requirements, can the County please provide:

- A list of the required materials/documents to be reviewed to ensure bidders are fully informed.
- A checklist of all required submission materials to ensure that bidders submit compliant bids.

Answer: This is a time-limited RFA process, not RFP. All documents and requirements are included in Addendum 12.

Question 14: Please confirm that current MLK, Jr. and Olive View Campus providers are eligible to apply for a second service on the same location given IMD-exclusion regulations.

14a. Would an operator of a 16-bed Crisis Residential Treatment program on the Olive View Campus be eligible to submit a bid for the Olive View Community Mental Health Urgent Care Center opportunity?

Answer: Yes, the operator may apply. IMD exclusions do not apply to CSU/UCC services.

14b. Would an operator of a 16-bed Psychiatric Health Facility on the MLK, Jr. Campus be eligible to submit a bid for the Jacqueline Avant Children and Family Center Children and Youth CSU on the MLK, Jr. Community Hospital campus?

Answer: Yes, the operator may apply. IMD exclusions do not apply to CSU/UCC services.

Question 15: The RFP notes that providers will operate under a gratis lease but are responsible for operational costs such as maintenance, utilities, and insurance. Please clarify the specific utilities that providers would be responsible for.

Answer: The selected provider(s) will be responsible for any applicable permits, utilities (water, electricity, etc.) and waste disposal.

Question 16: The RFP notes that the reimbursement is service-based and tied to fixed rates: Child & Adolescent Acute Psychiatric: \$1054 per day.

16a. May bidders propose or negotiate alternative day rates dependent on the level of service needed?

Answer: No, the \$1,054 per day is for inpatient rate. The rate for CSU/UCC is \$206.83 per hour as indicated in Addendum 12.

16b. What patch services are eligible under this contract? What would the patch service rates be? Are the rates for patch services fixed?

Answer: Patches will not be considered for CSU/UCC.

16c. Could the County please provide data to support the estimated utilization of each facility?

Answer: Average utilization rate is 42-50%.

Question 17: What is the current utilization rate and/or visits per day at the MLK Jr. and Olive View campus locations? What is the average length of stay per visit?

Answer: Average length of stay is 15 hours. Average utilization rate is 42-50%.

Question 18: Exhibit 7, Section F. Required Forms Budget Template notes: "*Crisis Stabilization – Urgent Care Hourly Rate of \$206.83.*" However, Appendix L. Rate Methodology Chart includes \$1,054 as the Acute Psychiatric (Medi-Cal Child & Adolescent) rate. Please confirm whether this contract will be reimbursed as a daily or hourly rate.

Answer: The contract will be reimbursed at \$206.83 hourly rate. Appendix L is the Rate Methodology Chart for Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital contracts, not for Child UCC services.

Question 19: Please confirm that the reimbursement methodology may be negotiated between LA DMH and the awarded provider.

Answer: No, the reimbursement methodology cannot be negotiated.

Question 20: What is the allowable limit on indirect (%)?

Answer: There is no cap, but it has to be reasonable and may be revised by LACDMH.

Question 21: Please confirm that the following requirement applies to services solicited under Addendum #12: *“Text must be typewritten and double-spaced. The font must be Arial with a font size of 12 points. No other font typeface or smaller point size may be used in the Application. Font type and font size in charts, tables, graphs, and footnotes will not be considered in determining compliance. Margins must be at least one inch each (left, right, top, bottom).”*

In addition to mostly black text, may bidders include text and images in color so long as they are readable when printed in black and white?

Answer: Yes, you can use text and images in color.