

Administrative Office of the Courts

Supreme Court of New Mexico



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Request for Proposals for the Following:

**RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTOR
OFFICE OF FAMILY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY**

RFP NUMBER: FRC-FY22-01

Date of Issuance: April 30, 2021

Proposal Deadline: June 1, 2021

The Procurement Code NMSA Sections 13-1-1 through 13-1-199 imposes civil and misdemeanor penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities, and kickbacks.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently, representation of children and families in abuse and neglected cases is provided by approximately 110 attorneys under contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). At any point in time, these attorneys will be engaged in about 1,500 cases that involve approximately 2,400 children and 2,100 parents, guardians, or custodians. Many of these attorneys provide diligent representation and advocacy but others do not. The AOC has neither the staff nor other resources to monitor these contracts. Over the last 20 years, a number of efforts have been launched to improve performance, primarily through the Children's Court Improvement Commission.

The most recent effort to address this issue began with an in-depth assessment of the quality of representation for families in child abuse and neglect cases. The study, conducted by the NM Supreme Court Children's Court Improvement Commission, found a number of issues including overall poor quality of representation, lack of caseload management, inadequate compensation, and lack of monitoring and oversight resulting in delays in permanency and hindrances to other positive outcomes for families.

In response, lawmakers passed Senate Joint Memorial 10 (54th Legislative Session, 2019) creating the Family Representation Task Force tasked with recommending new structural and practice models for providing high quality legal representation. The Task Force completed its work, recommending the creation of the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA), an autonomous entity that would allow for independent decision-making and oversight.

The Family Representation and Advocacy Act, and the accompanying Constitutional Amendment, were then drafted, modeled after the Law Office of the Public Defender legislation. The Act creates the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy in the Judiciary as well as an Oversight Commission. The Constitutional Amendment creates a concrete plan and time frame for complete independence of the Office. Both the statute and joint resolution were introduced in the 2021 Legislative Session but neither were passed before the session ended. They will be reintroduced in 2022.

More information may be found in the *Family Representation Task Force Report and Recommendations*, dated July 15, 2020 that can be downloaded here. Information about the legislation can also be found on this site.

<https://courtappointedattorneys.nmcourts.gov/family-representation-taskforce/>

The contractor in this position will conduct the early planning phases for creating the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy and begin preparing for implementation. The contract will extend for a one-year period, beginning on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. A permanent director will be hired for fiscal year 2023. The Contractor will work with the Family Representation Commission (FRC).

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Action	Responsibility	Date
1. Issue RFP	AOC	April 30, 2021
2. Acknowledgement of Receipt	Offerors	May 10, 2021
3. Deadline to Submit Written Questions	Offerors	May 12, 2021
4. Response to Written Questions and RFP Amendments	AOC	May 14, 2021
5. Submission of Proposal Response Deadline	Offeror	June 1, 2021
6. Evaluation of Proposals and Selection of Finalists	Evaluation Committee	June 9, 2021
7. Notification of Finalists	AOC	June 9, 2021
8. Interviews with Finalists	AOC/Offeror	June 11-15, 2021
9. Finalize/Award Contract	AOC/Offeror	June 28, 2021
10. Protest Deadline	Offeror	July 14, 2021

PURPOSE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Solicitation of Proposals

This Request for Proposals (RFP) has been developed for the purpose of soliciting, evaluating, and selecting proposals in a fair and competitive manner. If an offeror fails to meet any mandatory items set forth in this RFP, their proposal will be declared non-responsive.

All costs incurred by the offeror in the preparation, transmittal, or presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the offeror.

Before the award is made, the AOC may conduct discussion with offerors who submit proposals that are determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for awards, but the award may be made without discussions.

When it is in the best interest of the State of New Mexico, this RFP may be canceled, or any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part.

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFP process may be terminated or reduced in scope if sufficient appropriations or authorizations do not exist. Such termination will be affected by the AOC by

sending written notice to the contractor. The decision of the AOC as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available will be accepted by the contractor as final.

Applicants may revise or withdraw their proposal before the proposal submission deadline date and time by delivering written notice to the AOC Procurement Manager. The revision or withdrawal must be signed by the person submitting the proposal.

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP or if additional information is needed to clarify any provision of the RFP, the revision and/or additional information shall be provided to all persons who receive the RFP packet. All persons intending to make a proposal shall provide written acknowledgment of receipt of any revisions or supplements. The AOC shall not issue a revision or supplement to the RFP less than seven working days before the deadline set for the receipt of proposals, unless the AOC extends the deadline.

Any protests of the award must be made in accordance with the Procurement Code, NMSA 1978 Section 13-1-1 through 13-1-199.

Acknowledgement of Receipt May 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. MDT

Potential offerors should email the "Acknowledgement of Receipt Form" (APPENDIX A) to be placed on the procurement distribution list. The form should be signed by an authorized representative of the organization, dated, and returned to the Procurement Manager on May 10, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. MDT.

The procurement distribution list will be used for the distribution of written responses to questions. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt form shall constitute a presumption of receipt and rejection of the RFP, and the potential offeror's organization name shall not appear on the distribution list.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of this procurement includes professional services and administrative tasks related to completing the early planning phases for creating OFRA. As described above, OFRA is a new independent state office of attorneys and interdisciplinary teams designed to provide effective advocacy for children and families. The contract will begin on July 1, 2021 and end on June 30, 2022. The AOC reserves the option of renewing the initial contract on an annual basis up to the end of the federal grant.

Proposal Narrative

As part of the proposal, offerors must submit a narrative section that describes experience with:

A. Public Agencies

- the organization and administration of public institutions
- state budgets and public financing
- experience with federal grants
- involvement with creating new public policy

B. Legal Representation (as an attorney or in any other capacity)

- experience with legal representation of children and families
- working with at risk and underserved populations,
- any relevant work with substance abuse and mental health issues
- any other work related to the child welfare system
- working with child welfare agencies and programs

Mandatory Service Components

Competently perform and provide services in compliance with the structure set out by the Family Representation Commission (FRC) and public or federal funding directives including, but not limited to the following:

- Work with FRC to promote and pass the legislation to create the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA)
- Work with FRC to promote and pass the legislation to create the Constitutional Amendment
- Develop outreach and social marketing for voters to pass the Constitutional Amendment
- Conduct initial research and planning to determine how current Court Appointed Attorney operations, funding, and other efforts will eventually transfer to OFRA
- Work with FRC to develop the Interdisciplinary Legal Team practice model, including but not limited to staffing model, developing the capacity for Medicaid reimbursement for relevant services, using the Title IV-E stipend program with NM Universities for some positions, and much more (possibly a pilot)
- Work with FRC to develop direct representation model, including but not limited to developing attorney positions, performance standards, plans for requisite code changes, outreach and social marketing,
- Work with FRC to develop policy, practice, and infrastructure elements to ensure that there will be no conflict of interest between attorneys and that adequate firewalls will be put in place
- Work with FRC to develop the requisite infrastructure:
 - Design administrative, organizational, and operational infrastructure – organization charts, administrative and operational policies and procedures, etc
 - Identify positions and funds currently in AOC to be transferred to OFRA
 - Develop start-up budget, including IV-E funds; explore possible new funding streams (e.g., Medicaid; fees; cannabis tax)
 - Develop personnel/staffing plan to include employees and contractors; develop job descriptions for managing and supervising attorneys; attorneys providing representation; paralegals; investigators; social workers; peer mentors; navigators, and other support staff
 - Develop plan to provide attorney supports including mentors, paralegals and investigators in the central office who can be deployed to regional offices as well as administrative and clerical staff
 - Develop plans for an expert witness fund and a plan for a contracted pool of experts
 - Develop plans for additional supports for both staff and contracted attorneys to include online legal research access, motions bank, formal listservs, case law updates, etc.
 - Develop a recruitment plan and a program that seeks to create a pipeline by attracting law school students
 - Develop staff development plans: identify training needs and develop curricula to be offered at no cost to attorneys; develop training plans for other staff; develop a performance evaluation plan

- Research options for malpractice coverage; explore shared malpractice insurance for contractors
- Develop a facility plan
- Develop data collection/data management systems (including case management, caseload weighting, time and tracking, outcome tracking) and the necessary firewalls
- Develop evaluation, quality assurance, and quality improvement plans
- Develop complaint and grievance system
- Develop bylaws and the like for the Oversight Commission
- Develop policies and procedures

Contract Amounts

The one-year contract shall not exceed \$140,000 and is at the sole authorization and discretion of the AOC. Selected offeror shall perform as an independent contractor for the entire term of the contract and is solely responsible for all state, federal, or local taxes due as well as any licenses or training costs.

Compensation

Offerors shall comply with all contracting and billing procedures of the AOC and State of New Mexico, including the accurate submission of monthly activity logs, which summarizes performance with each invoice. Offerors shall agree to submit monthly invoices to the AOC between the first and fifteenth day of each contract month, for services performed the month prior. Invoices and activity log(s) shall be submitted via email to the AOC. **Invoices and activity logs submitted after than the 15th of every subsequent service month may result in a decrease or total loss of reimbursement, at the discretion of the AOC.** Payments shall be made by the AOC to the successful Offeror(s) within thirty days upon receipt of an accurate and complete invoice for service satisfactorily performed.

Experience, Mandatory Service Components, and References

Offerors must submit a detailed narrative statement of relevant experience, including professional qualifications and other experiences related to legal representation in child welfare matters as described in the Scope of Work and Mandatory Service Components above (*see* page 5). Resumes must also be included.

Submission Response Deadline June 1, 2021, at 5:00pm MDT

Proposals must be received by the AOC by the above date and time to be accepted for review. Proposals are to be submitted electronically. Requests for extensions of this deadline shall not be granted. Proposals received after the above date and time will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.

Interaction with the AOC and the Court

The AOC will assign a staff person and a program manager, to work with the Offeror(s) to manage the contract, its requirements, and deliverables. Such management and oversight by the AOC, however, does not relieve the Offeror(s) of the primary responsibility for complying with deliverables and meeting deadlines in the contract, or other requirements as requested by the AOC and the Commission.

Basic Requirements and Conditions

1. Acceptance of Conditions Governing the Procurement

Offerors must indicate their acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement section in the letter of transmittal. Submission of a proposal constitutes acceptance of the Evaluation Criteria.

2. Incurring Costs

Any cost incurred by the offeror in preparation, transmittal, or presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the offeror.

3. Prime Contractor Responsibility

Any contract that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of the contract with the AOC. The AOC will make contract payments to only the prime contractor.

4. Subcontractors

Any contract that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement without the written approval of the AOC.

5. Questions about the RFP

Responses will be provided only to questions submitted in writing and only to clarify information already included in this RFP. Written questions must be received by May 12, 2021, and should be sent via email to the AOC. All questions and responses must be made public to all offerors through www.nmcourts.gov.

6. Response to Written Questions and RFP Amendments

Written responses to written questions and any RFP amendments shall be posted through www.nmcourts.gov by May 14, 2021.

Additional written requests for clarification of distributed answers and amendments must be received by the Procurement Manager no later than three (3) days after any response and/or amendments are issued.

6. Amended Proposals

An offeror may submit an amended proposal before the deadline for receipt of proposals. Such amended proposals must be complete replacements for a previously submitted proposal and must be clearly identified as such in the transmittal letter. The personnel of the AOC will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.

7. Amendments to the RFP

If amendments to the RFP are issued, it will be posted on the NM Courts Website (www.nmcourts.gov/court-administration/request-for-proposals/). If amendment content to RFP is needed that affect price or technical content, an amendment will be issued no later than one (1) week before the due date for proposal submissions.

8. Offeror's Rights to Withdraw Proposal

Offerors will be allowed to withdraw their proposals at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. The offeror must submit a written withdrawal request signed by the offeror's duly authorized representative addressed to the AOC. The approval or denial of withdrawal requests received after the deadline for receipt of the proposals is governed by the applicable procurement regulation.

9. Disclosure of Proposal Contents

The proposals will be kept confidential until a contract is awarded. At that time, all proposals and documents pertaining to the proposals will be open to the public, except for the material which is

proprietary or confidential. The AOC will not disclose or make public any pages of a proposal which the offeror has stamped or imprinted “proprietary” or “confidential,” subject to the following requirements.

Proprietary or confidential data shall be readily separable from the proposal in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential portion of the proposal. Confidential data is normally restricted to confidential financial information concerning the offeror’s organization and data that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, 57-3-A-1 to 57-3A-7, NMSA 1978.

If a request is received for disclosure of data for which an offeror has made a written request for confidentiality, the AOC shall examine the offeror’s request and make a written determination that specifies which portions of the proposal should be disclosed. Unless the offeror takes legal action within 10 days to prevent the disclosure, then the proposal shall be open to public inspection subject to any continuing prohibition on the disclosure of confidential data.

10. No Obligation

This procurement in no manner obligates the AOC or any of its departments or agencies to the service offered until a valid written contract is approved by the AOC.

11. Termination

This RFP may be canceled at any time up to and including the deadline for submitting protests and any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part when the AOC determines such action to be in the best interest of the AOC and the State of New Mexico.

12. Sufficient Appropriation

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFP process may be terminated if sufficient appropriations or authorizations do not exist. Such termination will be affected by sending written notice to the contractor. The decision of the AOC as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available will be accepted by the contractor as final.

13. Agreement

The AOC requires that all offerors agree to be bound by the General Requirements contained in the RFP. Any offeror concerns must be brought promptly to the attention of the AOC.

14. Governing Law

This procurement and any agreement with offerors that may result shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

15. Basis for Proposal

Only information supplied by the AOC in writing through the AOC or in this RFP should be used as the basis for the preparation of offeror proposals.

16. Contract Terms and Conditions (see Sample Contract Appendix D)

The contract between the AOC and the Contractor or Contractors will follow the format specified by the AOC. Should an offeror object to any of the terms and conditions of the AOC as contained in this Section, then the offeror must propose specific alternative language that would be acceptable to the AOC. General references to the offeror’s terms and conditions or attempts at complete substitutions are not acceptable to the AOC and will result in disqualification of the offeror’s proposal. Offerors must provide a brief discussion of the purpose and impact, if any, of each proposed change followed by the specific proposed alternate wording. All contracts for professional services are subject to the review and approval by the AOC.

17. Offeror's Terms and Conditions

Offerors must submit with the proposal a complete set of any additional terms and conditions which they expect to have included in a contract negotiated with the AOC.

18. Contract Deviations

Any additional terms and conditions, which may be the subject of negotiation, will be discussed only between the AOC and the selected offerors and will not be deemed an opportunity to amend the offerors proposal.

19. Offeror Qualifications

The Evaluation Committee may make such investigations as necessary to determine the ability of the offeror to adhere to the requirements specified within this RFP. The Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal of any offeror who is not a responsible offeror or fails to submit a responsive offer as defined in NMSA 1978 Sections 13-1-83 and 13-1-85.

20. Right to Waive

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to waive minor irregularities. The Evaluation Committee also reserves the right to waive mandatory requirements, provided that, all of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the same mandatory requirements, and the failure to do so does not otherwise materially affect the procurement. The right to waive minor irregularities and mandatory requirements is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

21. Change in Contractor Representatives

The AOC reserve the right to require a change in Contractor representatives if the assigned representatives are not, in the opinion of the AOC, representing the Contractor adequately.

22. Notice of Criminal Penalties

The Procurement Code, NMSA 1978 Sections 13-1-28 through 13-1-199, imposes civil and misdemeanor criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico Criminal Statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities, and kick-backs.

23. Right to Publish

Throughout the duration of this procurement process and contract term, potential offerors and Contractors must secure from the AOC written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this RFP or the subsequent contract. Failure to adhere to this requirement may result in disqualification of the offeror's proposal or termination of the contract.

24. Ownership of Proposals

All documents submitted in response to this RFP will become the property of the AOC and the State of New Mexico.

25. Electronic Mail Address Required

The majority of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (email) and so any offeror must have a valid email address to receive correspondence.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Procurement Manager Contact Information:

Kerry Armour
Administrative Office of the Courts
Email: aockla@nmcourts.gov

General Counsel Contact Information:

Celina Jones
Administrative Office of the Courts
Email: aoccaj@nmcourts.gov

PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

All proposals shall be communicated to:

Kerry Armour
Administrative Office of the Courts
Email: aockla@nmcourts.gov

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

1. Number of Responses

Offerors may submit more than one proposal. If submitting more than one proposal, then the offeror shall identify each proposal as distinct from any other submission.

2. Proposal Submittal

Offerors shall email their proposal on or before the closing date and time for receipt of proposals.

3. Proposal Format

In order to facilitate the analysis of responses to the RFP, vendors are required to prepare their proposals in accordance with the instructions outlined in this section. All proposals must be typewritten and submitted as a PDF with standard 8.5x11 pages.

4. Proposal Organization

The proposal must be organized and indexed in the following format and must contain, at a minimum, all listed items in the sequence indicated:

- (a) Letter of Transmittal (APPENDIX B)
- (b) Table of Contents
 - 1) Proposal (following Scope of Work, *see* pages 5-7 and Evaluation Criteria, *see* page 15)
 - 2) Proposal Narrative (detailing offers' experience and qualifications)
- (c) Project Proposal (detailing offerors' approach to the work as outlined in the Mandatory Service Components)
- (d) Campaign Contribution Form (APPENDIX C)
- (e) Offeror's Additional Terms and Conditions (if any)
- (f) Other Supporting Material

Within each section of their proposal, offerors should address the items in the order in which they appear in this RFP with specific attention paid to the Scope of Work, Project Narrative, and Mandatory Service Components. All forms provided in the RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of the proposal. Any proposal that does not adhere to these requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis. Offerors may attach other materials which may improve the quality of their responses. However, these materials should be included as items in a separate appendix.

5. Letter of Transmittal (APPENDIX B)

Each proposal must be accompanied by a Letter of Transmittal. The letter of transmittal MUST:

- a) identify the RFP being responded to:

- b) identify the submitting firm;
- c) identify the name and title of the person authorized to contractually obligate the firm;
- d) identify the name, title, and telephone number of the person authorized to negotiate the contract on behalf of the firm;
- e) identify the names, titles, and telephone numbers of the persons to be contacted for clarification;
- f) explicitly indicate acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement;
- g) be signed by the person authorized to contractually obligate the firm;
- h) acknowledge receipt of any and all amendments to this RFP; and
- i) include any federal tax identification number and/or New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax number.

6. Resumes

Each proposal must attach the most recent resumes of the offeror(s).

7. Campaign Contribution Disclosure

Potential offerors must submit with their response the “Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form” (APPENDIX C) pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 13-1-191.1 (2007).

EVALUATION

Process

A representative of the AOC will open the proposals immediately after the deadline and will record them in the proposal log. An evaluation committee will review all proposals based on the published criteria and may, or may not, request an oral presentation by offerors. Proposals must be in electronic format. All proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the mandatory requirements stated in this document. Proposals deemed to be non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration. The determination as to non-responsiveness is under the discretion of the AOC in coordination with the evaluation committee of is final. The AOC may contact the offeror for clarification. The evaluation committee may use additional sources of information to complete an evaluation.

Proposals deemed to be responsive will be evaluated by the evaluation committee based on the evaluation criteria and the assigned point value. Offerors with the highest points earned will be selected as finalists. If offerors are requested to submit best and final responses, then they will have points recalculated based on the best and final response. The responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the AOC when taking evaluation criteria into consideration will be recommended for contract award. It is important to note that any serious deficiency in any one factor may be grounds for rejection despite the overall score.

The AOC will send an email with the award letter to the successful offeror and will send regret notifications to unsuccessful offerors.

1. Notification of Finalists

The Procurement Manager will notify the finalist offerors on June 9, 2021. Only finalists will be invited to participate in the subsequent steps of the procurement.

2. Finalist Interviews

Finalist will be required to participate in an interview process to be held from June 11 through 15, 2021. Finalists will be requested to schedule an interview appointment at the same time that receive notice their selection as a finalist.

3. Finalize and Award Contract(s)

The contract(s) shall be finalized and awarded to the Offeror(s) whose proposal(s) is/are most advantageous on June 28, 2021. In the event that mutually agreeable terms cannot be reached within the timeframe specified, the AOC reserves the right to finalize a contract with the next most advantageous Offeror(s) without undertaking a new procurement process. The most advantageous proposal(s) may or may not have received the most points in the evaluation process. The award is subject to the appropriate State approvals. Award of the contract(s) will not vest any Offeror(s) with contract rights, and any contract(s) will not be binding until contract execution and approval. Award occurs at the time a contract mutually acceptable to the AOC, and the successful Offeror(s) has been finalized.

4. Protest Deadline

Any protest by an Offeror must be timely and in conformance with Section 13-1-172, NMSA 1978, and applicable procurement regulations. The fifteen (15) day protest period for responsive Offerors shall begin on the day following the contract award and will end at 5:00 pm MDT on June 14, 2021. Protest must be written and must include the name and address of the protestor. It must also contain a statement of grounds for protest including appropriate supporting exhibits, and it must specify the ruling requested from the Procurement Manager. The protest must be emailed to the Protest Manager at the electronic address as listed under this section. Protests received after the deadline will not be accepted.

All protests shall be communicated to:

Jennifer Vieira
Administrative Office of the Courts
aocjlv@nmcourts.gov

Criteria

EVALUATION POINT TABLE: The following is a summary of evaluation factors with a point value assigned to each factor. These weighted factors will be used in the evaluation of individual Offeror proposals.

Factor	Score/Points Available	Rationale for Score
1. Applicant’s experience in the area of legal representation to children and families	_____/15	
2. Applicant’s experience with public administration, state budgets, and public financing	_____/15	
3. Plan for establishing OFRA, including plan for promoting and publicizing a constitutional amendment to create OFRA	_____/15	
4. Plan for developing an interdisciplinary legal team practice model and direct representation model	_____/15	
5. Plan for developing the organizational and administrative OFRA infrastructure	_____/15	
6. Plan for developing both initial and long-term budgets for OFRA, incorporating both state and federal funds	_____/15	
8. Applicant’s ability to follow instructions and provide information as required by the RFP.	_____/10	

APPENDIX A: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTOR
OFFICE OF FAMILY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY**

In acknowledgement of receipt of this Request for Proposal (RFP), the undersigned agrees that s/he/they has received a complete copy, beginning with the title page and table of contents, and ending with Attachments.

The acknowledgement of receipt should be signed and emailed to the AOC Procurement Manager no later than 5:00 p.m. MDT on May 10, 2021 Only potential Offerors who elect to return this form, which has been completed with the indicated intention of submitting a proposal, will receive copies of all Offeror written questions and the AOC’s written responses to those questions, as well as any RFP amendments that may be issued.

ORGANIZATION: _____

REPRESENTED BY: _____

TITLE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ **FAX NUMBER:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

This name and address will be used for all correspondence related to the Request for Proposal.

Your firm does/does not (circle one) intend to respond to this Request for Proposal.

Send Acknowledgement to:

Kerry Armour
Administrative Office of the Courts
Email: aockla@nmcourts.gov

APPENDIX B: LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

RFP NUMBER: _____

APPLICANT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PROPOSAL DATE: _____

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: _____

FEDERAL TAX NUMBER: _____

NM GROSS RECEIPTS TAX NUMBER: _____

ACCEPTANCE: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: _____

TOTAL COST AND CERTIFICATION \$ _____

The proposer understands that the AOC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any irregularities in order to award the bid in the best interest of the State of New Mexico.

I hereby certify that I am authorized to act on behalf of the company making this proposal and that all statements made in this document are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

APPENDIX C: CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FORM

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

THIS FORM MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND MUST BE FILED BY ANY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR WHETHER OR NOT THEY, THEIR FAMILY MEMBER, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAS MADE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE.

Pursuant to the Procurement Code NMSA 1978, Section 13-1-191.1 (2007), any prospective contractor seeking to enter into a contract with any state agency or local public body must file this form with that state agency or local public body.

A prospective contractor subject to this section shall disclose all campaign contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to an applicable public official of the state or a local public body during the two years prior to the date on which a proposal is submitted or, in the case of a sole source or small purchase contract, the two years prior to the date on which the contractor signs the contract, if the aggregate total of contributions given by the prospective contractor or a family member or representative of the prospective contractor to the public official exceeds two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) over the two-year period.

Furthermore, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 13-1-181 the state agency or local public body may cancel a solicitation or proposed award for a proposed contract or a contract that is executed may be terminated pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 13-1-182 if:

- 1) a prospective contractor, a family member of the prospective contractor, or a representative of the prospective contractor gives a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process, or,
- 2) a prospective contractor fails to submit a fully completed disclosure statement pursuant to the law.

The following definitions apply:

“Applicable public official” means a person elected to an office or a person appointed to complete a term of an elected office, who has the authority to award or influence the award of the contract for which the prospective contractor is submitting a response to a proposal or who has the authority to negotiate a sole source or small purchase contract that may be awarded without submission of a competitive proposal.

“Campaign contribution” means a gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or other thing of value, including the estimated value of an in-kind contribution, that is made to or received by an applicable public official or any person authorized to raise, collect, or expend contributions on that official's behalf for the purpose of electing the official to statewide or local office. “Campaign Contribution” includes the payment of a debt incurred in an election campaign, but does not include the value of services provided without compensation or unreimbursed travel or other personal expenses of individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee, nor does it include the administrative or solicitation expenses of a political committee that are paid by an organization that sponsors the committee.

“**Family member**” means spouse, father, mother, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law of (a) a prospective contractor, if the prospective contractor is a natural person; or (b) an owner of a prospective contractor.

“**Pendency of the procurement process**” means the time period commencing with the public notice of the request for proposals and ending with the award of the contract or the cancellation of the request for proposals.

“**Prospective contractor**” means a person or business that is subject to the competitive sealed proposal process set forth in the Procurement Code or is not required to submit a competitive sealed proposal because that person or business qualifies for a sole source or a small purchase contract.

“**Representative of a prospective contractor**” means an officer or director of a corporation, a member or manager of a limited liability corporation, a partner of a partnership or a trustee of a trust of the prospective contractor.

DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR:

Contribution Made By: _____

Relation to Prospective Contractor: _____

Date Contribution(s) Made:

Amount(s) of Contribution(s):

Nature of Contribution(s): _____

Purpose of Contribution(s): _____
(Attach extra pages if necessary)

Signature Date Title (position)

--OR--
NO CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OVER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) WERE MADE to an applicable public official by me, a family member or representative.

Signature Date Title (position)

APPENDIX D: SAMPLE CONTRACT

Contract No. _____

STATE OF NEW MEXICO RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTOR OFFICE OF FAMILY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this 1st day of July 2021, by and between the State of New Mexico, Administrative Office of the Courts, hereinafter referred to as the AOC, and _____, hereinafter referred to as the Contractor for the purpose of developing the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA) and planning for its implementation.

Address of Contractor:

Phone Number of Contractor:

E-mail Address:

DFA Supplier #:

IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. SCOPE OF WORK

Competently perform and provide services in compliance with the structure set out by the FRC and federal grant deliverables including, but not limited to the following:

- Work with FRC to promote and pass the legislation to create the Office of Family Representation and Advocacy
- Work with FRC to promote and pass the legislation to create the Constitutional Amendment
- Develop outreach and social marketing for voters to pass the Constitutional Amendment
- Conduct initial research and planning to determine how current Court Appointed Attorney operations, funding, and other efforts will eventually transfer to OFRA
- Work with FRC to develop the Interdisciplinary Legal Team practice model, including but not limited to staffing model, developing the capacity for Medicaid reimbursement for relevant services, using the Title IV-E stipend program with NM Universities for some positions, and much more (possibly a pilot)
- Work with FRC to develop direct representation, including but not limited to developing attorney positions, performance standards, plans for requisite code changes, outreach and social marketing,
- Work with FRC to develop policy, practice, and infrastructure elements to ensure that there will be no conflict of interest between attorneys and that adequate firewalls will be put in place
- Work with FRC to develop the requisite infrastructure:
 - Design administrative, organizational, and operational infrastructure – organization charts, administrative and operational policies and procedures
 - Identify positions and funds currently in AOC to be transferred to OFRA
 - Develop start-up budget, including IV-E funds; explore possible new funding streams (e.g., Medicaid; fees; cannabis tax)

- Develop personnel/staffing plan to include employees and contractors; develop job descriptions for managing and supervising attorneys; attorneys providing representation; paralegals; investigators; social workers; peer mentors; navigators, and other support staff
- Develop plan to provide attorney supports including mentors, paralegals and investigators in the central office who can be deployed to regional offices as well as administrative and clerical staff
- Develop plans for an expert witness fund and a plan for a contracted pool of experts
- Develop plans for additional supports for both staff and contracted attorneys to include online legal research access, motions bank, formal listservs, case law updates, etc.
- Develop a recruitment plan and a program that seeks to create a pipeline by attracting law school students
- Develop staff development plans: identify training needs and develop curricula to be offered at no cost to attorneys; develop training plans for other staff; develop a performance evaluation plan
- Research options for malpractice coverage; explore shared malpractice insurance for contractors
- Develop a facility plan
- Develop data collection/data management systems (including case management, caseload weighting, time and tracking, outcome tracking) and the necessary firewalls
- Develop evaluation, quality assurance, and quality improvement plans
- Develop complaint and grievance system
- Develop bylaws and the like for the Oversight Commission
- Develop policies and procedures

2. COMPENSATION

A. Compensation for the Contractor's service shall be paid exclusively from funds appropriated to the AOC. Payments pursuant to this Agreement shall provide compensation for all service performed herein. The Contractor shall receive no other compensation from the State for services performed pursuant to this Agreement.

B. The Court shall pay to the Contractor \$140,000 for services satisfactorily performed, inclusive of gross receipts taxes. Payment shall be made in twelve equal monthly payments in the amount of \$10,000. Contractor is responsible for payment of all local, state, and federal taxes as due.

C. Invoices and shall be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts, via email, to a designated employee, on or after the 1st but no later than the 15th of every month, for services completed in the prior month. Invoices and logs submitted after than the 15th of every subsequent service month will result in decreased or loss of reimbursement, of the AOC. This deadline will be enforced to ensure fidelity with the federal grant data and evaluation requirements.

D. Each invoice must be dated and have an electronic signature or original signature. Invoices should also include an accurate but brief summary of services performed along with the number of court cases/clients served. Contractor agrees to provide accurate information as required in both the invoice and service log(s). The AOC will provide Contractor with a template of an invoice and service log upon full execution of this contract.

E. Upon acceptance that the services have been received and accepted, payment shall be tendered to the Contractor, within thirty (30) days of the date the invoice is received by the AOC. If the payment is made by mail, the payment shall be deemed tendered on the date it is postmarked. AOC shall not incur late charges, interest, or penalties for failure to make payment within the time specified herein. If the AOC finds that the services are not acceptable, it shall provide the Contractor a letter of exception explaining the defect or objection to the services, and outlining steps the Contractor may take to provide remedial action.

F. If the AOC finds that the services are not acceptable and/or are inaccurately reported, AOC staff shall provide the Contractor with a written explanation for the defect or objection and outline steps the Contractor may take in order to provide immediate remedial action. Pending the outcome of the correction(s) requested, payment to the Contractor may be delayed and/or reduced at the discretion of the AOC management.

G. At the sole discretion of, and with pre-authorization from the AOC, the Contractor may be reimbursed a maximum of \$2,250.00, inclusive of gross receipts tax, for the purchase of needed goods or services.

H. Contractor agrees to abide by the compensation rules and authorizations set out by the AOC in the above agreement's Scope of Work. If seeking reimbursement for approved expenses, Contractor shall submit adequate and legible receipts and reimbursement paperwork on the 15th of every month with the next monthly invoice. Upon acceptance that sufficient reimbursement paperwork and receipts have been accurately submitted, payment shall be tendered to the Contractor within thirty (30) days of the date the paperwork is approved and accepted by AOC. AOC shall not incur late charges, interest, or penalties for failure to make payments within the time specified herein.

3. TERM

This Agreement shall not become effective until approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The term of this agreement shall begin July 1, 2021 and shall terminate June 30, 2022, unless sooner terminated.

4. TERMINATION

A. This Agreement shall terminate at the end of the contract term. This Agreement may be sooner terminated without cause by either of the parties hereto upon written notice delivered to the other party at least 30 days prior to the intended date of termination. By such termination, neither party shall nullify obligations already incurred. If the effective date of the termination occurs prior to the end of the month, the Contractor shall be paid a pro-rated portion of the month specified in paragraph 2(B).

B. Default by either party is cause for termination, provided that written notice is given the other party at least 14 days before such termination shall occur. Default is construed to include any of the following events:

1. if the Contractor fails to provide the services set forth herein; or
2. if either party fails to comply with the terms of the Agreement.

5. STATUS OF CONTRACTOR

A. The Contractor and the Contractor's agents and employees are independent contractors performing professional services and are not employees of the State of New Mexico and shall not accrue leave, retirement, insurance, bonding, use of state vehicle, or receive benefits afforded to the employees of the State of New Mexico as a result of this Agreement. The Contractor acknowledges that all sums received hereunder are reportable by the Contractor for tax purposes, including without limitation, self-employment and business income tax. The Contractor agrees not to purport to bind the State of New Mexico to any obligations not assumed herein by the State of New Mexico, unless the Contractor has express authority to do so, and then only within the strict limits of that authority.

B. The Contractor shall avoid employment that would be in conflict with the Contractor's duties under this agreement or give the appearance of impropriety.

6. ASSIGNMENT

The Contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this Agreement or assign any claims for money due or to become due under this Agreement without prior written approval of the AOC.

7. SUBCONTRACTING/DELEGATION

The Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement without the written approval of the AOC.

8. APPROPRIATIONS

The terms of this Agreement are contingent upon sufficient appropriations and authorizations for expenditures being made by the Health and Human Services Department through the Administration for Children and Families and the Children's Bureau pursuant to the Strengthening Child Welfare Systems to Achieve Expected Child and Family Outcomes Grant and for the performance of this Agreement. If sufficient appropriations and authorizations are not made, this Agreement shall, notwithstanding the provisions of any other paragraph, terminate on the Contractor's receipt of written notice of termination from the AOC. The AOC's decision of whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations for expenditures have been made shall be accepted by the Contractor and shall be final. If the AOC proposes an amendment to the Agreement to unilaterally reduce funding, the Contractor shall have the option to terminate the Agreement or to agree to the reduced funding, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the proposed amendment. The Contractor's obligations upon termination are defined in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement.

9. RELEASE

The Contractor, upon final payment of the amount due under this Agreement, releases the AOC, its officers and employees, and the State of New Mexico from all liability, claims, and obligations arising from or under this Agreement.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Any confidential information provided to or developed by the Contractor in the performance of this Agreement shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the Contractor, without the prior written approval of the AOC. This provision shall extend indefinitely beyond the terms of this Agreement.

11. PRODUCT OF SERVICES: COPYRIGHT

All material developed specifically by the Contractor under this Agreement shall become the property of the State of New Mexico and shall be delivered to the AOC not later than the termination date of this Agreement. No such material developed, in whole or in part, by the Contractor under this Agreement shall be subject of an application for copyright by or on behalf of the Contractor.

12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST; GOVERNMENTAL CONDUCT ACT

The Contractor warrants that the Contractor presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interests, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required under this Agreement. The Contractor certifies that the requirements of the Governmental Conduct Act, Sections 10-16-1 through 10-16-18, NMSA 1978, regarding contracting with a public officer or state employee or former state employee have been followed.

13. PENALITIES FOR VIOLATION OF LAW

The Contractor agrees to abide by all federal and state laws, rules and regulations, and executive

orders of the Supreme Court and Governor of the State of New Mexico. Violation(s) of the law which may result in a felony conviction may be grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement at the discretion of the AOC.

14. MERGER

This Agreement incorporates all the agreements, covenants, and understandings between the parties hereto concerning the subject matter hereof, and all such covenants, agreements, and understandings are merged into this written Agreement. No prior agreement of understanding, verbal or otherwise, of the parties or their agents shall be valid or enforceable unless embodied in the Agreement.

15. AMENDMENT

This Agreement shall not be altered, changed, or amended except by instrument in writing executed by the parties to the Agreement and all other required signatories. If the AOC proposes an amendment to the Agreement to unilaterally reduce funding due to budget or other considerations, the Contractor shall have the option to terminate the Agreement or to agree to the reduced funding, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the proposed amendment.

16. APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of the State of New Mexico shall govern this Agreement, without giving effect to its choice of law provisions. Venue shall be proper only in a New Mexico court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with Section 38-3-1 (G) NMSA 1978. By execution of this Agreement, Contractor acknowledges and agrees to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of New Mexico over any and all lawsuits arising under or out of any term of this Agreement.

17. WORKER'S COMPENSATION

The Contractor agrees to comply with state laws and rules applicable to workers compensation benefits for its employees. If the Contractor fails to comply with the Workers Compensation Act and applicable rules when required to do so, this Agreement may be terminated by the AOC.

18. INDEMNIFICATION

The Contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the AOC and the State of New Mexico from all actions, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, damages, attorneys' fees and all other liabilities and expenses of any kind from any source which may arise out of the performance of this Agreement, caused by the negligent act or failure to act of the Contractor, if acting within the scope of their profession and pursuant to this agreement. In the event that any action, suit or proceeding related to the services performed by the Contractor under this Agreement, is brought against the Contractor, the Contractor shall, no later than two (2) days after it receives notice thereof, notify the legal counsel of the AOC and the Risk Management Division of the New Mexico General Services Department by certified mail. As an independent contractor, Contractor is not covered by or entitled to representation by the Risk Management Division of the New Mexico General Services Department.

19. INVALID TERM OR CONDITION

If any term or condition of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected and shall be valid and enforceable.

20. ENFORCEMENT OF AGREEMENT

A party's failure to require strict performance of any provision of this Agreement shall not waive or diminish that party's right thereafter to demand strict compliance with that or any other provision. No waiver by a party of any of its rights under this Agreement shall be effective unless express and in writing, and no effective waiver by a party of any of its rights shall be effective to waive any other rights.

21. NOTICES

Any notice required to be given to either party by this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person, by courier service or by U.S. mail, either first class or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or by email as follows:

To the Court: Celina Jones
 Administrative Office of the Courts
 Email: aoccaj@nmcourts.gov
 Phone

To the Contractor: **Name**
 Address
 Email
 Phone

AUTHORITY

If Contractor is other than a natural person, the individual(s) signing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor represents and warrants that he or she has the power and authority to bind Contractor and that no further action, resolution, or approval from Contractor is necessary to enter into a binding contract.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement is not effective until signed by all parties and is effective on the date specified in Paragraph 3 of this Agreement.

Signed by the parties on the dates indicated:

Administrative Office of the Courts

BY: _____
 Arthur Pepin, Director

Date: _____

Contractor

BY: _____

Date: _____

The following are neither parties nor privies to this agreement:

The Records of the Taxation and Revenue Department reflect that the CONTRACTOR is registered for payment of the New Mexico gross receipts tax. Taxation and Revenue is only verifying registration and will not confirm or deny any taxability statements contained in this contract.

Yes _____ **CRS # XX-XXXXXX-XX-X**

No _____

The Records of the Taxation and Revenue Department reflect that the CONTRACTOR is exempt from payment of the New Mexico gross receipts tax.

Yes _____ **CRS # XX-XXXXXX-XX-X**

No _____

BY: _____
Taxation and Revenue Department Date