



## PROCUREMENT JUSTIFICATION FORM (PJF)

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

*INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services intranet site (Forms page) for additional instructions.*

## PART I: OVERVIEW

Department Office/Division/Program:		DHHS/OCFS	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Jennifer Levesque / Brianne Carrero	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		ECE-24-1507	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 793,667.00	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT-10A-2023073100000000200
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	4/1/2024	Proposed End Date: 3/31/2025
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Maine Behavioral Healthcare South Portland, ME	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) Service pilot for Maine children birth to three (3) years old with Autism and Developmental Disabilities.	

## PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Check the box below for the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Willing and Qualified
<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	K. Client Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	F. University Cooperative Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	L. Other Authorization

Please respond to ALL of the questions in the following sections.

### PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

Over 3,500 children in Maine have Autism, and comprehensive, evidence-based early intervention has been repeatedly shown to improve lifelong outcomes, strengthen families, and reduce costs. Research has shown that Children who receive early, intensive treatment using the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), demonstrate improvement in cognition, language, and adaptive skills, with the greatest gains demonstrated by Children who begin receiving the intervention before the age of three (3). However, the youngest Children with ASD throughout Maine have very limited access to the evidence-based treatment models which have the best outcomes, and the State is in need of a new model to improve access to services for Children with ASD who are birth to three (0-3) years old. Serving children under three (3) requires a different intervention than serving older children with Autism. It is a specialty area where comprehensive training does not currently exist in Maine. The State lacks an organization funded to develop and lead an effective statewide Learning and Coaching Network to train, coach, measure, and support Rehabilitative and Community Support (RCS) agencies in providing a comprehensive evidence-based intervention model that can be utilized through Section 28, which is an existing funding mechanism for RCS agencies, many of which are smaller organizations, to deliver these services.

Maine Behavioral Healthcare, through its Glickman Lauder Center of Excellence in Autism and Developmental Disorders (GLCOE), is the leading provider and clinical research center in Maine for children with Autism and Developmental Delays. This Agreement will fund a statewide technical support and training program to replicate the model of successful early intervention that is currently operated through Section 28. The GLCOE will serve as the coordinating center and trainer for statewide implementation. This Agreement will run a training, coordination, and Learning and Coaching Network for RCS agencies in Maine and teach those RCS agencies how to operate and bill for the model for early intervention service for children birth to three (3) years old with Autism. The Provider will assist agencies involved in this pilot, in documenting and billing MaineCare in accordance with Section 28 policy. The Provider is also assisting with a related FMAP project 102.3 which is bringing an evidence-based parenting instruction program (RUBI-Research Units in Behavioral Intervention) to the State of Maine for children with Intellectual Delays (ID) and Autism. That work will be integrated within this project, as all families enrolled with participating agencies will receive RUBI.

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II. Reference the RFP number, if applicable.

Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) is an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program, which has extensive research and evidence for improving outcomes in young children with autism and is employed by numerous providers throughout the country. Multiple systematic reviews have determined this model to be an evidence-based practice, including the Maine DHHS-Department of Education (DOE) evidence-based practice report of 2009. The use of evidence-based models in the birth to three (3) age group in Maine has been extremely limited, as they have not been supported by the DOE. Maine Behavioral Health's Glickman Lauder Center of Excellence in Autism and Developmental Disorders (GLCOE) is the only program in the State of Maine using the EIBI model for birth to three (3) year-olds with Autism through Section 28 Specialized Services of MaineCare.

**PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The negotiated costs in this agreement cover the expenses of 4.4 FTEs, all with master's degrees or higher, as well as program evaluation and benefits. With the workforce challenges, the wages submitted for this agreement are competitive and reflect a slight increase above the average wage in the program area (Portland). Additionally, this agreement will support the RCS agencies that the Department partners with, by offering them reimbursement for their engagement with this program: training, and coaching, startup materials and equipment as well as travel and mileage costs.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

This is a one-time service, to build service abilities and create a specialty service for providers of Rehabilitative and Community Support Services, also known as MaineCare 'Section 28 Services' to provide exceptional Early Intervention Services to Maine children who are birth to three (0-3). This pilot will ensure that an evidence-based parenting program is available and accessible for many years to come. The Department does not plan on initiating an RFP for this service but has already begun working toward an Early Intervention service in the Medicaid package, in collaboration with the Office of MaineCare services.


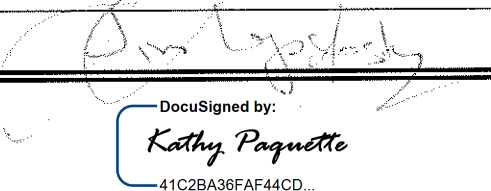
**PART IV: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) / MAINE JOBS & RECOVERY PLAN (MJRP)**

Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

- Yes, MJRP funds (023) – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).
- Yes, ARPA funds (025) – If Yes, please be aware of the requirements from awarding federal agencies.
- No – If No, proceed to Part V.

**PART V: APPROVALS**

The signatures below indicate approval of this procurement request.

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):			
Typed Name:		Date:	9-Apr-24
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	 <small>DocuSigned by: Kathy Paquette 41C2BA36FAF44CD...</small>		
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date:	4/26/2024