

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

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 website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW				
Department Office/Division/Program:		Maine Judicial Branch- Administrative Office of the Courts		
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Betsy Boardman, Juvenile and Child Protection Process Specialist		
(If applicable) Department Reference #:				
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)		\$ 61,000	Advantage CT / RQS #:	
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	11/15/2021	Proposed End Date:	11/15/2022
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:		The Opportunity Alliance		
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Development and staffing of a virtual dependency curriculum for parents involved in the child welfare system.		

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Please respond to ALL of the following:
1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The Maine Judicial Branch (MJB) receives federal funding from the Administration for Children and Families for our Court Improvement Program. For FFY 2021 (10/01/2021 - 09/30/2022), *additional funds have been awarded* to address needs that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to the program instructions issued with the additional grant funds, the funds must be used to "address needs stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency to ensure the safety, permanence, and well-being needs of children are met in a timely and complete manner." One manner in which the funds may be directly used is to advance quality child welfare hearings, noting that "it is critical for judges, lawyers, and clients, (to) have the resources necessary to participate in these aspects of their cases, whether hearings are conducted remotely or in person." A key component to a quality hearing is parent participation and engagement.

The Maine Justice for Children Task Force (the Task Force) has identified a need to promote the education of and enhance engagement of parents who are involved in the child welfare system. The designed project seeks to provide funding to an organization that will develop and implement a two-hour, bi-monthly virtual dependency training for parents who are currently involved in the child welfare system. The development of the curriculum *and the delivery of the training will be conducted by parent partners who were previously involved in the child welfare system, in collaboration with system stakeholders (parents' attorney, assistant attorney generals, judges, guardians ad litem, and Department of Health and Human Services caseworkers).*

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) is a community action agency that has provided advocacy, leadership, and support to help individuals, families, and communities for 50 years. TOA is the only organization in Maine with experience in training and offering peer led support from individuals previously involved in the child welfare system to individuals currently involved in that system. TOA has current staff with lived child welfare experience who have extensive training and the necessary infrastructure to support parents currently engaged in the child welfare system. Additionally, The Opportunity Alliance has current data collection processes that would be utilized in connection with tracking case outcomes.

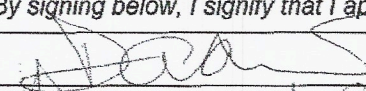
3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The negotiated cost of this project included a careful analysis of staffing needed to develop and implement the dependency training, the cost of national technical support, and the amount of funds needed to collect and share data to show the efficacy of the dependency training. The cost includes over 750 hours of personnel time as well as a year's worth of technical support from Washington State where this project has been successfully implemented.

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

There are no plans for future competition for the above proposed services at this time because TOA is currently the only organization in Maine with experience in training and offering peer led support from individuals previously involved in the child welfare system to individuals currently involved in that system. If additional providers begin to offer this service, a plan for competition would be developed.

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PART IV: APPROVALS			
Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.		
			
Printed Name:	Dennis A Carlisle	Date:	9/14/21
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	DocuSigned by: William J.E. Allen		
	Printed Name:	<small>2D5B6E39F57E44A...</small> William J.E. Allen	Date:

NOI 0920210738 09/16/2021 - 09/22/2021