

**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/CBHS	
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Jennifer Levesque/Melanie Boucher	
(If applicable) Department Reference #:		CBH-23-330X (multiple see attached vendor list)	
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	Multiple, (see attached)	Advantage CT / RQS #:	Multiple, (see attached)
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	Proposed End Date:	
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:	Effective Date:	8/1/2023
	Previous End Date:	New End Date:	6/30/2024
GRANT	Project Start Date:	Grant Start Date:	
	Project End Date:	Grant End Date:	
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Multiple, (see attached)	
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		School Tele Behavioral Health Pilot-SFY23	

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION			
Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Competitive Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	G. Grant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B. Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	H. State Statute/Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	I. Federal Agency Directed
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents	<input checked="" 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.

Children and youth continue to demonstrate marked increases in social, emotional, and mental health needs, including substantial increases in depression, anxiety, behavioral issues, and suicidal ideation. Data from Maine hospitals show that Emergency Department utilization has increased markedly for children and youth with behavioral health (BH) complaints, including significant increases in visits for suicidal ideation for adolescent females.

These trends existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but have dramatically increased over the past several years due to a complex array of factors, prompting several national child health organizations to declare a national emergency in children's mental health. Additionally, the pandemic caused profound workforce shortages, particularly in the health care and BH workforce, which are worse in rural communities, further compounding the issues of finding access to BH care.

Improving access to BH services presents an important challenge. Given current BH workforce shortages, officials see an opportunity to provide these services through telehealth. Maine DHHS has noted a successful program developed out of Heywood Healthcare in western Massachusetts that has expanded access to BH services for students by offering tele-BH counseling services in the school setting. Community Health Workers (CHWs) that are on-site in schools, coordinate access to BH counseling services and help students address unmet health-related social service needs.

Given current needs, the Department (DHHS) and the Department of Education (DOE) will initiate a pilot program, partnering with local mental health providers with telehealth experience. The pilot program will provide additional counseling support and services in schools paired with the in-school support of a Community Health Worker in targeted rural areas of the state. Concurrent work with existing School-Based Health Centers to prioritize and expand mental health services will continue along with efforts to support and strengthen integrated school-based mental health program across the state.

Funding will allow contracts with community mental health and/or tele-behavioral health providers to:

- Provide tele-behavioral health counseling services to students in schools;
- Provide a Community Health Worker (CHW) that will be based in the school; and
- Cover start-up and infrastructure supplies as necessary.

Services may include access to direct counseling, psychiatrists, and behavioral consultation. Providers will be able to bill insurance for eligible services.

The purpose of this amendment is to extend the pilot an additional year, move unspent funds from Year 1 of the Agreement to Year 2, and add funds necessary to support the extension of the pilot.

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

The pilot is centered in several rural communities, with a focus on communities hard hit by BH needs and workforce shortages, with the goal of improving access to BH services in rural schools by expanding telehealth counseling services and social supports for students within their school setting. Community Mental Health Providers were asked if any were willing to collaborate with the DHHS in a pilot combining telehealth in the schools with an on-site Child Health Worker Position; three (3) providers volunteered:

Acadia Healthcare is a demonstrated leader in the provision of tele-counseling in schools and is doing some of the most robust work around school based mental health; working with schools like Baileyville that have experienced community tragedies of youth committing suicide. Acadia is partnering with the Pittsfield School Department, serving the Vickery and Warsaw Schools.

Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS) has a presence in several rural school systems and is willing to expand to additional schools with provision of telehealth services and Child Health Worker. They have been a trusted provider of behavioral healthcare for years. CHCS is partnering with rural Guilford and Ellsworth schools, serving Piscataquis Community High School and Ellsworth Middle School.

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH) has a robust school telehealth program in place and agrees to implement the pilot with the Child Health Worker position as part of the team. KBH is currently serving China Middle School and Messalonskee High School.

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

Pilot project funds will support efforts to develop this model and work with rural schools to ramp up these services, with the understanding that the participating behavioral health providers will also be able to bill insurance for eligible services.

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

The Department does not plan to competitively procure these services in the future. If the pilot is determined to be successful, it will inform policy changes in Medicaid, specifically as it pertains to behavioral health services in the school setting and incorporating the Community Health Worker, a fundamental position in this pilot.

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

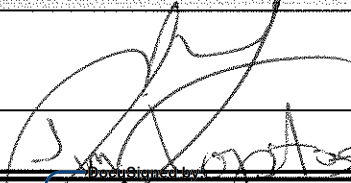
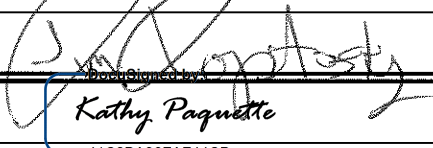
Does this request utilize ARPA/MJRP funds?

Yes – If Yes, please attach the approved Business Case(s).

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: 12-Sep-23
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:		
Typed Name:	Kathy Paquette	Date: 10/16/2023

DHHS Office:
OCFS

Service: SCHOOL TELE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PILOT-SFY23

Vendor Name	Agreement Number	Am d	CT 10A	Start Date	End Date	Amendmen t Amount	Revised Amount
Acadia Healthcare Inc., Community Health and Counseling Services, Kennebec Behavioral Health,	CBH-23-3301	A	20220823000000000565	8/1/2022	6/30/2024	\$137,688.00	\$333,422.00
	CBH-23-3302	A	20220823000000000566	8/1/2022	6/30/2024	\$137,688.00	\$333,422.00
	CBH-23-3303	A	20220823000000000567	8/1/2022	6/30/2024	\$137,687.00	\$333,421.00
Total Items	3				Totals	\$413,063.00	\$1,000,265.00