

Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families Child Safety and Permanency Division

Request for Proposals for a Grantee to Develop Community-Based Services to Promote Family Preservation for African American and Other Disproportionately Represented Children.

Date of Publication: August 24, 2026

Minnesota's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion:

It is State of Minnesota policy to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion in making competitive grant awards. See Executive Order [19.01](#).

The Policy on Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities. See [OGM Policy 08-02](#).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by contacting the Department of Children, Youth, and Families Equal Opportunity and Access Division (EOAD) at 651-539-8123, by email at ada.dcyf@state.mn.us, or through your preferred relay service. For additional information regarding disability rights, accommodations, or accessible services, please contact EOAD using the information above.

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Objective of RFP	1
1.2 Proposal due date	1
1.3 Background	1
1.4 Funding Availability	7
2. Scope of Work	10
2.1 Overview	10
2.2 Tasks and Deliverables	11
2.3 Collaboration.....	14
3. Proposal Requirements.....	14
3.1 Proposal Contents	14
3.2 Detail of Proposal Components	15
3.3 Required Statements and Forms	18
4. RFP Process	20
4.1 Responders' Conference	20
4.2 Responders' Questions	20
4.3 Proposal Submission	20
5. Proposal Evaluation and Selection	21
5.1 Overview of Evaluation Methodology	21
5.2 Evaluation Team.....	21
5.3 Evaluation Phases	21
5.4 Contract Negotiations and Unsuccessful Responder Notice	22
6. Required Contract Terms and Conditions	23
7. State's Authority	24
Appendices A-F attached	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective of RFP

The Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families, through its Child Safety and Permanency Division (STATE), is seeking Proposals from qualified Responders to develop community-based primary support and family preservation services targeting African American and other disproportionately represented children in the Minnesota child welfare system. The term of any resulting contract is anticipated to be for three years (initial two years and one year extension), from July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2029. STATE may extend the contract up to a total of five years, contingent upon successful contract performance and outcome achievement and funding availability.

1.2 Proposal due date

Proposals must be submitted on October 23, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Central Time. This Request for Proposal (RFP) does not obligate the STATE to award a contract or complete the project, and the STATE reserves the right to cancel the solicitation if it is considered to be in its best interest. All costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be borne by Responders.

1.3 Background

One of STATE's top is improving equity in the Minnesota child welfare system to eliminate ongoing disparities and disproportionality for targeted populations who have historically been overrepresented in the child welfare system. In 2024, the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPACWDA) was passed by the Minnesota Legislature and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz. The primary purposes of this act were to:

- protect the best interests of African American and disproportionately represented children,
- promote the stability and security of African American and disproportionately represented children and their families by establishing minimum standards to prevent the arbitrary and unnecessary removal of African American and disproportionately represented children from their families, and
- improve permanency outcomes, including family reunification, for African American and disproportionately represented children.

Under [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693](#), the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families must establish direct grants to organizations, service providers, and programs owned and led by African Americans and other individuals from communities disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. These direct grants are to ensure the provision of services and support for African American and other disproportionately represented children and their families involved in Minnesota's child welfare system. These direct grants may be used to support existing eligible services or facilitate the development of new services and providers, both of which serve to create a more expansive network of service providers available for African American and other disproportionately represented children and their families.

These efforts will support a broader array of culturally affirming and responsive services which work with children and families in their communities to address their needs and ensure child and family safety

and well-being within a culturally appropriate and family-centered lens and framework. STATE's approach, consistent with state granting and contracting standards, is to support a fair and equitable grant to support organizations and programs operated by and providing for communities of color and American Indians to develop and implement effective strategies to reach the communities. By investing in community-based organizations to develop child welfare improvement strategies based on cultural knowledge, wisdom and community strengths, community members are more likely to benefit.

This RFP is intended to advance the development of a continuum of support and family preservation services for children and families through an investment in community-based organizations and agencies, collaborations and public-private partnerships. Lead agencies are strongly encouraged to establish new partnerships and build upon existing collaborative efforts with other federal, state or locally funded public and private organizations, including faith-based organizations, serving the same populations and sharing the same goals and objectives. However, collaboration is not required to be considered and selected. Funds will be used for community-based resources that will integrate existing services to address unmet needs that have been identified by the state and communities as contributing to ongoing child welfare disproportionality and disparity for African American and other disproportionately represented children.

Types of funded organizations could include, but are not limited to:

- Private child welfare agencies
- Early childhood education agencies
- Childcare providers
- Education, vocational rehabilitation
- Disability Services provider services
- Physical health providers
- Mental health providers
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment programs
- Job readiness and/or self-sufficiency
- Child and family development
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, 2-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) community agencies
- Community action organizations
- Juvenile justice program
- Economic service providers
- Domestic violence prevention agencies
- Youth development organizations
- Housing programs
- Faith-and community-based organizations
- Healthy marriage and family support agencies
- Fatherhood and/or mothering and other parenting programs
- Other health and human service organizations

The scope and parameters of this RFP are established in accordance [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693, African American and Disproportionately Represented Family Preservation Grants](#).

Additionally, the purpose and intent of this RFP are in alignment with recommendations outlined in the Governor's Task Force on the Protection of Children's Final Report and Recommendations from [March 2015](#) indicating that the state should directly fund more front-end community services, including prevention and early-intervention services that have the capacity to promote safety, reduce risk and promote healing from abuse and neglect.

Definitions

The terms “community-based,” “primary support,” and “family preservation” are not specifically defined in the definitions section of MAAFPACWDA located in [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.63](#). However, the following frameworks are given below to provide a general and non-exclusive understanding of the scope and framework of services or support which may be provided under this any contract resulting from this RFP.

Primary Supports within child welfare refers to the formal and informal services, relationships, resources, interventions, and community-based support that assist children, parents, caregivers, and families in achieving safety, stability, well-being, permanency, and strengthened family functioning. Primary support is intended to help families address challenges, build protective factors, maintain family and community connections, and reduce the likelihood of ongoing or future child welfare involvement.

Primary support is needed across the full child welfare continuum and may be used:

- As a prevention strategy before foster care placement to help stabilize families, address identified needs and safety concerns, and reduce the likelihood of unnecessary child removal
- Concurrently during foster care placement to support children, parents, caregivers, and kin in maintaining relationships, strengthening reunification efforts, promoting permanency, and addressing the conditions that contributed to child welfare involvement
- Post-foster care placement, reunification, or permanency to support long-term family stability, child and family well-being, healing, and successful transition from formal child welfare involvement.

Primary supports may also include, but are not limited to, aid to kinship and family networks, culturally responsive services, behavioral and mental health supports, parent education, housing and economic assistance, advocacy, mentoring, educational supports, community-based services, and other interventions that strengthen families and support positive outcomes for children and families.

Primary support is grounded in principles of child safety, family-centered practice, cultural responsiveness, equity, collaboration, and community partnership

Family Preservation Services within child welfare refers to a continuum of services, supports, and interventions which are designed to strengthen, stabilize, reunify, and sustain families in order to ensure safely maintaining children within their family and community connections whenever and as soon as possible. Family preservation recognizes that children generally experience the best outcomes when they can safely remain connected to their parents, siblings, relatives and kin, culture, and community.

Family preservation is a core priority throughout all stages of child welfare involvement and includes efforts to:

- Prevent unnecessary child removal and foster care placement through early intervention, prevention services, and family-centered support
- Maintain and strengthen family relationships and connections during foster care placement through reunification planning, parent engagement, kinship connections, visitation, and supportive services

- Support long-term family stability, reunification, permanency, and well-being after foster care placement through ongoing services, community support, and post-reunification interventions intended to reduce future system involvement and foster care reentry.

Family preservation is grounded in the principles of child safety, family strengths, cultural responsiveness, permanency, well-being, and shared responsibility among families, communities, and child-serving systems.

Primary support and family preservation services may also be utilized to assist responsible county social service agencies with providing active efforts to prevent placement and promote reunification as detailed in [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.64](#)

Owned or Led

Consistent with [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693, subdivision 1](#), the commissioner shall establish direct grants to organizations, service providers, and programs owned and led by African Americans and other individuals from communities disproportionately represented in the child welfare system.

- **For Profit Organizations**

For an organization which is a private for-profit entity such as a sole proprietorship, limited liability corporation, or similar business organization is owned or led by primarily or majority of African American or other individuals from a community or communities disproportionately represented in the Minnesota Child Welfare System.

- **Non-Profit Organizations**

For a nonprofit organization (does not have to be tax exempt), where the organization itself is not owned by an individual, individuals, or a cooperation or similar entity, the organization is considered to be led by an African American or other individuals from a community disproportionately represented in the Minnesota Child Welfare System if the organization is led by a primary or majority of individuals in senior, and/or executive leadership roles or positions who are individuals from a disproportionately represented population as described in the referenced statute above.

Eligible Services

Selected proposals will clearly demonstrate how their program or intervention meet the requirements of an eligible service. As detailed in Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693, services eligible for grants under this section include but are not limited to:

- child out-of-home placement prevention and reunification services
- family-based services and reunification therapy
- culturally specific individual and family counseling
- court advocacy
- training for and consultation to responsible social services agencies and private social services agencies regarding this act
- development and promotion of culturally informed, affirming, and responsive community-based prevention and family preservation services that target the children, youth, families, and

communities of African American and African heritage experiencing the highest disparities, disproportionality, and overrepresentation in the Minnesota child welfare system;

- culturally affirming and responsive services that work with children and families in their communities to address their needs and ensure child and family safety and well-being within a culturally appropriate lens and framework. This may include but is not limited to services to support informal kinship care arrangements.

In addition to the listed eligible services, there are other activities and services that may be approved by the commissioner that further the goals of MAAFPACWDA, including but not limited to the recruitment of African American staff and staff from other communities disproportionately represented in the child welfare system to work for responsible social services agencies and licensed child-placing agencies. This may also include, but is not limited to:

- Economic, income, or other financial supports
- Housing and transition support
- Child care (as long as it does not meet the criteria for ineligible service as listed below)
- Parenting assessment, evaluation, and education
- Parenting support for mother/fathers and/or co-parents
- Domestic violence programming
- Training for other community-based organizations working specifically with African American and other disproportionately represented children and families involved the child welfare system
- Family group consultation and related meetings
- Family mediation for children and families involved in the child welfare system
- Chemical health services and supports
- Child welfare navigator
- Child welfare, juvenile justice, and a family court navigators
- Kinship caregiver and relative navigators
- Child and adolescent and behavioral health services
- Kinship caregiving models
- Family preservation services
- Supervised visitation

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693, the commissioner may specify the priority of an activity and service based on its success in furthering these goals. The commissioner shall give preference to programs and service providers that are located in or serve counties with the highest rates of child welfare disproportionality for African American and other disproportionately represented children and their families and employ staff who represent the population primarily served. Please reference **Appendix E**, *Child welfare racial disparities, Trends and regional data*, for more information related to county and regional disparity and disproportionality within Minnesota.

Ineligible services

In accordance with [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693](#), grant money from any contract resulting from this RFP may not be used to supplant funding for existing services or for the following purposes:

- child day care that is necessary solely because of the employment or training for employment of a parent or another relative with whom the child is living.
- foster care maintenance or difficulty of care payments.
- residential treatment facility payments.
- adoption assistance or Northstar kinship assistance payments under Minnesota Statutes, Chapters [259A](#) or [256N](#).
- public assistance payments for Minnesota family investment program assistance, supplemental aid, medical assistance, general assistance, general assistance medical care, or community health services.
- administrative costs for income maintenance staff.

As indicated above, there may be needs that program recipients of selected grantees may have that cannot be met through the provision of services under this RFP. In those cases, grantee organization staff should work with children and families to assist them with locating, accessing, and available, adequate, and appropriate additional resources that may be available through the county, state, or other community services to meet needs related to ineligible services under this RFP. Selected grantees will receive ongoing support and technical assistance from the state in regards to oversight, operational and financial administration and reconciliation to ensure grantees are knowledgeable about eligible and ineligible services to prevent any unintentional provision of ineligible services or misuse of funds.

Goals

The goal of this RFP is to fund initiatives designed to promote primary supports and family preservation in concurrent efforts to reduce disparity and overrepresentation in child welfare for African American and other disproportionately represented children and families of through the promotion of community-based services, which could include early intervention and prevention as well as family preservation resources and supports (see **Appendix F, Literature Review: Best Practices for Implementing Active Efforts to Support African American Families and Prevent Child Removal**, 2025). Information about current and past state and federal performance measures for Minnesota, including but not limited to those related to maltreatment, relative care, and permanency can be found on the [Minnesota Child Welfare Data Dashboard](#).

This RFP is made available through a shared framework that the provision of culturally responsive, community-based programs and services will decrease the risk of child welfare system involvement while increasing well-being, preserving families and improving child welfare outcomes for the target population. Children, youth and families who experience a decreased risk of child abuse have a decreased risk of child welfare involvement, foster care entry and separation from their primary caregiver/s and have improved outcomes such as stronger connections to families and community, increased school attendance and performance, and less involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Please visit the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) for more information about prevention and early intervention services and practices.

STATE recognizes and importance of a diverse statewide service array which includes culturally responsive child welfare related program, services, and interventions that can be effectively created and maintained in communities. This is fundamentally essential for families from demographic groups with the demonstrated highest rates of disparity and disproportionality for African American and other disproportionately represented children who are at risk of involvement or are currently involved in the Minnesota child welfare system (see **Appendix E**). Proposal applicants are strongly encouraged to use innovation, collaboration, and partnership to maximize resources and develop effective and maintainable interventions and solutions to identified community needs.

While in some cases, evidence-based practices may be effective in addressing the needs of children and families, responders are not required to use evidence-based practices in their proposal. Projects that are founded in or incorporate evidence-based practices and projects using new innovative or promising strategies are given equal weight in the review scoring process. Promising strategies may include activities, models or approaches that have been effective in communities, even if they have not been thoroughly or formally researched or evaluated. It is possible for projects to be both evidence-based and based on promising strategies; the department does not view these two broad categories as mutually exclusive. All RFP-funded projects must propose ways they will evaluate or measure outcomes showing they have how their proposed services support and preserve families have reduced or eliminated or will eliminate or reduce disparities in child welfare outcomes such as, but not limited to, lowered and shortened child welfare systems involvement, decreased out of home placement, and the maintenance of family connections and relationships within the target populations.

Below are links to websites that provide information about examples of evidence-based and culturally responsive programs. These are only examples and Responders are not required to incorporate any of the programs below into their proposal. Other programs that demonstrate best practices in evidence-based programs and culturally responsive practices can also be included in the submitted proposals.

- [Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy \(TF-CBT\)](#)
- [Managing and Adapting Practices \(MAP\)](#)
- [Home Services to Strengthen Children and Families](#)
- [Reasonable Efforts to Preserve or Reunify Families and Achieve Permanency for Children](#)
- [Protective Factors to Promote Well-being and Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- [Engaging Fathers and Paternal Relatives: A Continuous Quality Improvement Approach to the Child Welfare System](#)

1.4 Funding Availability

Funding

This competitive grant has an overall total award amount of \$1,000,000 annually in state funding for child welfare primary support and family preservation services. Continuation of program funding beyond the initial 36 months will be subject to discretion of STATE based on an evaluation of grantee contract performance and outcome achievement, as well as the availability of state funds.

Funding	Estimate
Estimated TOTAL Amount to Grant	\$1,000,000 annually statewide
Estimated Number of Awards	10
Estimated Award Maximum	\$100,000 per year
Estimated Award Minimum	No minimum
Length of Project Period	36 months
Anticipated Contract Start Date	October 2026

Match Requirement

Matching or cost sharing is not required.

Project Dates

Funding cycle for this program announcement begins July 01, 2026, and ends June 30, 2029.

Eligible Services

Funds may be used to fund broader child abuse risk prevention support activities for eligible members of the target population such as (but not limited to):

- Supporting existing organizational infrastructure, including addressing workforce needs
 - Staff training (such as Motivational Interviewing, family engagement, and co-parenting facilitation training)
 - Accessing technology to be used in the provision of child abuse prevention services related to Responder's proposal.
- Establishing successful community partnerships focused on child abuse prevention
 - Rental space for introductory or beginning collaborative meetings, one-time costs related to assistance with setting up initial organizational agreements or initial fiscal agency services.
- Enabling successful Responders' research in identifying best practices in the elimination of child abuse disparities and addressing systemic social determinants of health, and child and family well-being
- Networking and participating in activities to strengthen knowledge and capacity of designing evaluation systems to monitor their success, learning about and implementing successful strategies in communities

Initial support to create processes to document success and internal and reporting results and outcome of child abuse prevention efforts.

Lobbying vs. Advocacy

Projects focusing on partnership building may potentially involve advocating for change in local, regional, Tribal or state policy. Because Responders will be receiving state funding, there are certain restrictions on how grant funds may be used. This section outlines the distinction between advocacy and lobbying to help applicants understand the limitations of activity in this area. STATE will also be available throughout the grant period to provide technical assistance and guidance to grantees to support them in navigating the line between advocacy and lobbying. Grant funds may not be used for lobbying, which includes influencing an officer or employee of any agency, Congress or member of Congress, or advocating for a specific public policy after it has been formally introduced to a legislative body.

Successful Responders may use grant funds to support advocacy services that specifically focus on and promote primary support, prevention, and family preservation for the eligible members of the target population identified in section 2.2 below. Furthermore, funds may be used on certain activities to educate stakeholders about the importance of existing child welfare policies related to child abuse prevention as a public strategy to reduce the risk of child abuse and promote prevention. Education may include providing facts, assessment data, reports, program descriptions and information about budget issues and population impacts without making a recommendation on a specific piece of legislation. Education may be provided to specific stakeholders, the general community, public policy makers, or other decision makers. Lobbying restrictions do not apply to informal or private policies. Responders may make educational materials related to their projects available to the public and governmental bodies, officials and employees. These materials may not advocate for or against the adoption or rejection of an official action, but may contain facts, analysis, studies and research.

Successful Responders may not use grant funds to participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Successful Responders may and should use other funding sources to influence an official action of a governmental unit or Tribal government related to child welfare, in accordance with federal and state law, grantee policy and funding restrictions, but they must clearly document which activities are covered by which funding source. Volunteers of a successful Responder who spend more than \$250 of their own funds in any year to influence state legislation or administrative rules may need to register as a lobbyist under Minnesota Statute.

All expenses will require STATE approval prior to the release and/or use of designated funds. A detailed description of the expense and how it will support the Responder's ability to meet the deliverables of the RFP though the Responder's proposed activities are also required.

Funding will be allocated through an equitable and competitive application review and selection process which includes the inclusion, representation and partnership of members with cultural, regional and special knowledge of the target population and communities. If selected, Responder may only incur eligible expenditures when the contract is fully executed, and the grant has reached its effective date.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

2.1 Overview

This RFP provides background information and describes the services desired by STATE. It describes the requirements for this procurement and specifies the contractual conditions required by the STATE. Although this RFP establishes the basis for Responder Proposals, the detailed obligations and additional measures of performance will be defined in the final negotiated contract.

With this RFP, STATE is seeking proposals from qualified Responders to develop culturally responsive prevention, early intervention, family preservation and restorative services for African American and other disproportionately represented children and youth in Minnesota. In order to provide these services to children, youth and families in Minnesota, the STATE seeks to enter into grant agreements with community-based service provider(s) that meet the requirements set up by the Responder that provide community-based and culturally responsive program(s). If an organization is providing a service that requires professional training, certification, or licensure, service such as therapy, Motivational Interviewing, professional assessments or diagnoses, responders must demonstrate they meet the certification requirements of the respective practice model or framework they are proposing to use in their proposed service program.

The service model used by Responders can be, but is not required to be, an evidence-based model (see clause 1.3. of this RFP). Successful proposals will include a plan for family engagement, as needed, to address safety and/or well-being needs related to children and youth's involvement in child welfare, trauma and contributing to parent-child relationships and other family dynamics which could contribute to the potential risk of child abuse, child welfare involvement or out-of-home placement. By offering in-home and/or community-based services to children and families, the goal is to improve equity and access. Connecting families to culturally responsive and affirming services through partnership and community engagement will better meet their unique cultural and family needs.

The funding in this RFP will be prioritized through an equitable and objective scoring process, with higher scores for agencies that demonstrate the following in their work plan of project goals and objectives:

- **Cultural Sensitivity, Responsiveness, and Diversity:** The Responder establishes or has established policies, practices and procedures that are culturally sensitive to a variety of cultures as reflected in the client population. Cultural sensitivity is defined as the capacity to function in more than one culture, requiring the ability to appreciate, understand and interact with members of diverse populations within the local community. The Responder will include the ability to reach underserved and difficult-to-treat populations (communities with disparities, underserved populations in rural areas, families with complex histories and needs, families at risk of child protection involvement, families with closed child welfare or child protection cases who have achieved permanency through reunification, a transfer of legal and physical custody, or adoption). The Responder will offer fair and culturally responsive services to a variety of populations, especially those with disparities. Population refers to groups such as racial and ethnic communities, which could include, but is not limited to, specific or varied racial and

ethnic groups, American Indians, LGBTQIA2S+ communities, disability status, veterans and geographical diversity.

- **Standardized Instruments:** Standardized instruments are used to track service and program outcomes and measure progress related to the RFP goals. Fidelity-monitoring tools are used to ensure fidelity in model delivery. This could include, but is not limited to, conducting pre- and post- service surveys/assessments, focus groups, observations, case studies and document reviews (as determined by the provider or agency), as well as collecting, reviewing, and reporting on quantifiable individual social service data for children and families served. The Responder must show a strong commitment to using culturally responsive services and programming, monitoring results and developing a detailed strategy for maintaining such practices.
- **Child, Youth and Family-Appropriate / Friendly Facility:** While the focus of this RFP is to support and promote the use of in-home and community-based services, there may be times where it is necessary to conduct programming and provide services at the agency or organization site, or other designated locations. As part of this proposal, the expectation is that the locations where services and program sessions occur will provide a comfortable, private, child, youth and family-friendly setting that is adequately accessible and physically, culturally and psychologically safe for clients.
- **High Degree of Program Fidelity and Oversight:** Organization demonstrates the specific strategies and protocol they will use to ensure programming fidelity in the provision of services and support as well as record keeping, financial and fiduciary accountability and oversight, and accurate and timely reporting, in alignment with all listed and agreed upon granting requirements or the terms of their award and contract.

2.2 Tasks and Deliverables

The tasks and deliverables of this RFP will focus on effective prevention and family preservation strategies to reduce disparities and disproportionality in families entering the child welfare system or re-entering the post-permanency system across Minnesota. In the delivery of the RFP tasks and deliverables, the state encourages all respondents to utilize innovative and culturally affirming strategies, programs and services to support prevention and family preservation for families at risk of child welfare or child protection involvement. Federal funding guidelines support primary and secondary prevention strategies for families at risk of experiencing maltreatment and/or child welfare/protection system involvement.

Target Population

This proposal funding can be used to engage with and provide services African American and other disproportionality represented children and their families involved the child welfare system. To be considered involved in the child welfare system for the purposes of this RFP and the provision of eligible services as outlined in [Minnesota Statutes, section 260.693, subdivision 1](#), a child or family must have one of the following types of open cases in any county or state program areas:

- Parent Support Outreach Program Areas
- Minor Connect
- Homeless Youth
- Sexually Exploited Youth
- Child Protection
 - Investigation or Assessment
 - Family Assessment (ongoing)
 - Youth under a Child in Need of Protection or Services Petition
 - Ongoing Case Management
 - Children in Out of Home Placement (Foster Care)

It will be the expectation of STATE that for any responder selected as a grantee and awarded a contract, they will develop process and protocols to screen potential recipients of services through their program/s for any ongoing open county child welfare including investigations or assessment as well as ongoing case management. This expectation supports ensuring the appropriate use of state funds, internal and external financial accountability and oversight, and the prevention of the misuse or duplication of funding and financial resource provisions. Selected responder proposals will strongly demonstrate their process for meeting this expectation.

Child Welfare Outcomes

One of the indirect purposes of MAAFPACWDA is to promote and support the elimination of disparities and child welfare outcomes for the identified target populations. Child welfare is a vast and nuanced field and historical data, and research has identified disparities and disproportionality for African American and other children at multiple decision points across the child welfare continuum including reporting, screening decisions, out of home placement, placement stability, reentry, and permanency. The state remains committed to providing services and support to communities to reduce and eliminate these disparities and disproportionality. [Minnesota Child Welfare Data Dashboard](#) provides additional information about current state and county performance in targeted state and federal child welfare measures. Responders are encouraged to utilize this tool as they complete their application as needed. Examples of state and federal child welfare performance measures the state is seeking to improve include, but are not limited to:

- Decreasing rates of child maltreatment reporting
- Decreasing rates of maltreatment recurrence
- Decreasing maltreatment in foster care
- Decreasing rates of foster care entry
- Decreasing rates of foster care reentry
- Shortening lengths of stay in out-of-home placement
- Increasing rates of relative care
- Increasing placement stability
- Decreasing time to permanency

General areas of innovation and culturally affirming strategies, programs and services to support family preservation and prevention for families not already involved in child welfare or child protection may include, but are not limited to:

- In-home or out-of-home parenting and caregiver support and services
 - This includes services for biological, legal, and noncustodial parents, legal guardians and nonformal (not foster care) relative kinship care providers.
- Child and family well-being and wellness services
- Family engagement in case planning services
- Child and family advocacy services
- Relative and kinship support
- Permanency and post-permanency supports and services.

Responders are not required to limit the focus of their proposal to only one of the child welfare service areas listed above and may choose to target several areas as well as other related service areas not listed above.

Responders should clearly identify the proposed community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent placement and preserve families that are accessible, effective and culturally appropriate, and build upon existing strengths such as, but not limited to:

- Offering assistance to families
- Providing early, comprehensive support for parents
- Promoting the development of parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children
- Parenting assessments, parenting evaluations, in-home parenting services and group parenting
- Increasing family stability
- Improving family access to other formal and informal resources and opportunities for assistance available within communities, including access to such resources and opportunities for unaccompanied homeless youth
- Supporting the additional needs of families with children with disabilities through respite care and other services
- Demonstrating a commitment to involving parents in the planning and program implementation of the lead agency and entities carrying out local programs, including meaningful involvement of parents of children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of disproportionately represented, underrepresented and underserved groups
- Providing referrals to early health and developmental services
- Fostering the development of a continuum of preventive services for children and families, including unaccompanied homeless youth, through state and community-based collaborations and partnerships, both public and private
- Including specific family resources and community-based child abuse and neglect prevention program services, such as respite care services, child abuse and neglect prevention activities, disability services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, domestic

violence services, housing services, transportation, adult education, home visiting and other similar services

- Expanding community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, and
- Public information activities that focus on the healthy and positive development of parents and children, and promotion of child abuse and neglect prevention activities.

2.3 Collaboration

Multi-organization collaboration is allowed and welcomed. Responders may choose to enter into financial (fiscal agency) and/or operational agreements to provide the proposed activities, programs and services to complete the tasks and achieve the deliverables identified to meet the goals of this proposal. Agencies who choose to enter into multi-organization collaborations should clearly identify the roles, duties and responsibilities of all agencies included in their proposal. Additionally, each collaborative agency should be included in each of the respective Proposal Components 1-8 in section 3.1 below. Responders who submit a proposal involving a multi-organization collaboration are considered the lead agency for the purposes of this RFP and will be the entity that is awarded the contract with the state and bears the responsibility for all financial and operational management and fidelity in relation to the execution of their awarded contract. Lastly, Responders should include any Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), Memoranda of Agreement (MOA), or any similar documents created between all involved organizations included in the Responder's proposal.

3. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must conform to all instructions, conditions, and requirements included in this RFP.

Responders are expected to examine all documentation and other requirements. Failure to observe the terms and conditions in completion of the Proposal is at the Responder's risk and may, at the discretion of the STATE, result in disqualification of the Proposal for nonresponsiveness. Acceptable Proposals must offer all services identified in Section 2, "Scope of Work," agree to the contract conditions specified throughout the RFP, and include all of the items referenced in the Required Statements and Applicable Forms sections. Responder must also agree to the terms and conditions in the attached sample contract unless specifically making an exception pursuant to Required Statement "Exception to Sample Contract and RFP Terms."

3.1 Proposal Contents

Responses to this RFP must consist of all of the following components. Each of these components must be separated from the others and identified with labeled tabs.

Proposal Components	RFP Section
1. Table of Contents	3.2(1)
2. Executive Summary	3.2(2)
3. Description of the Applicant Organization	3.2(3)
4. Description of Target Population	3.2(4)
5. Project Goals and Objectives	3.2(5)

6. Project Activities and Work Plan	3.2(6)
7. Evaluation Plan	3.2(7)
8. Budget Proposal	3.2(8)
9. Professional Responsibility and Data Privacy	3.2(9)
10. Required Statements and Forms	3.3

3.2 Detail of Proposal Components

The following will be considered minimum requirements of the Proposal. The emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

1. **Table of Contents:** List each section and the accompanying page number.
2. **Executive Summary:** This component of the Proposal should demonstrate the Responder's understanding of the services requested in this RFP and any problems anticipated in accomplishing the work. The Executive Summary should also show the Responder's overall design of the project in response to achieving the deliverables as defined in this RFP. Specifically, the Executive Summary should demonstrate the Responder's familiarity with the project elements, its solutions to the problems presented and knowledge of the requested services.
3. **Description of the Applicant Organization:** This section must include information on:
 - The programs and activities of the organization,
 - The number of people served,
 - Geographic area served, and
 - Staff experience, and/or programmatic accomplishments.

You should include reasons why your organization is capable of effectively delivering the services outlined in the RFP. Include a brief history of the organization and all strengths that are considered an asset to the program. You should demonstrate the length, depth, and applicability of all prior experience in providing the requested services, the skill and experience of lead staff, and designate a project manager with experience in planning and providing the proposed services.

As a component of its response, Responder may explain how its staff and leadership are reflective of the community, culturally competent, and responsive to the population(s) being served (see next section). Identify the plan, including that related to staff recruitment and retention, for improving community ties, rapport, and engagement.

4. **Description of Target Population:** It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making. [Policy 08-02](#) establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities.

This grant will serve:

- African American and other disproportionately represented children and families involved in the Minnesota child welfare system
- For the purposes of this grant, this may include:
 - A person who is under the age of 18 and who is a member of a community whose race, ethnicity, disability status, or low-income socioeconomic status is disproportionately encountered, engaged, or identified in the child welfare system as compared to the representation in the state's total child population, as determined on an annual basis by the commissioner. A child's race, or ethnicity is determined based upon a child's self-identification or identification of a child's race, or ethnicity as reported by the child's parent or guardian.
 - A parent, custodian, or family member of a child meeting the criteria listed above
 - Communities consisting of children or adults meeting the criteria listed above

Responder should detail how their proposal will impact the target population/s including describing:

- How they will reduce the risk of child abuse and child welfare and protection involvement for the target populations while addressing disparity and disproportionality in related child welfare outcomes.
- The level of need for services in the community and what group (s) or subgroups with the targeted population (e.g., parents, youth, fathers, mothers, relatives/kin, etc.) of individuals will be targeted for services by the Responder's program.
- How Responder's program will serve diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities in this area. Be sure to address any underserved populations specifically identified in this RFP.
- Whether the program and activities will have a local, regional or statewide impact, and whether they will serve low- and moderate-income individuals and families. the services provided and outreach methods that will be used to effectively reach the target population. Include a description of referral systems, staff experience, cultural frameworks and modalities used, and other methodologies to reach the target population.
- How the programs and activities will positively impact the target population. Responder may provide examples, performance measures and desired outcomes.

5. Project Goals and Objectives: This section should clearly define and discuss the goals and objectives of the project. Propose and describe specific milestones and outcomes that will be used to demonstrate the program's effectiveness.

6. Project Activities and Work Plan: All Proposals submitted under this RFP must address, in sufficient detail, how the Responder will fulfill the expected outcomes and features set forth

above. Simply repeating the outcomes and features and asserting that they will be performed is not an acceptable response. This section should detail how the project will be carried out in an effective and efficient manner, including

- a. Who will be involved,
- b. What resources are required,
- c. Target dates for project activities and the timeframe for completion.
- d. A description of the program design you propose to implement. **See attached template Work Plan and Activities in Appendix B.**

7. Evaluation Plan: The STATE is committed to funding services that produce a measurable result for the people of Minnesota. A successful Responder must develop indicators of the success and effectiveness of the program and be able to measure and evaluate them to determine outcomes. This section should describe the methods and criteria that will be used to measure whether the project goals and objectives have been achieved.

8. Budget Proposal: This section should specify the grant amount requested and detail all expenses for the proposed project. Describe and explain the proposed use of the grant funds and any applicable matching funds. Identify supporting services, associated costs and which components are essential to delivering minimum quality services. Include a budget narrative for the applicant and each subcontracting entity. The explanation should provide sufficient detail to justify the total amount budgeted in each category. The program budget must be complete and reasonable, must correspond to the proposed program activities, and must specify how the amounts for each budget item were determined.

Responders are encouraged to apply only the amount needed for their proposed programs. The total available funds will not necessarily be divided equally, nor will selected applicants be guaranteed the entire amount requested. Budget proposals will be judged on efficient use of funds (that is, funds are being spent on direct services versus administrative costs, as detailed in their budget proposal) and overall cost-effectiveness. Submit the Budget proposal using the attached template Budget in **Appendix C** and Budget Justification in **Appendix D**.

9. Professional Responsibility and Data Privacy:

- a. **Professional Responsibility:** It is crucial that STATE locate reliable grantees to serve our clients. Therefore, Responders must be professionally responsible and include satisfactory information regarding their professional responsibility in their Proposals. Per [Minnesota Office of Grant Management \(OGM\) Policies](#) 08-02 and 08-13, Responder's past performance as a grantee of STATE will be considered when evaluating a grant application.

Professional responsibility information includes information concerning any complaints filed with or by professional, state and/or federal licensing/regulatory organizations within the past six years against your organization or employees relating to the provision of services. If such complaints exist, please include the date of the complaint(s), the nature of the

complaint(s), and the resolution/status of the complaint(s), including any disciplinary actions taken.

All Proposals must also include information about litigation, pending and/or resolved within the past two years, that relates to the provision of services by your organization and/or its employees. If such litigation exists, please include the date of the lawsuit, nature of the lawsuit, the dollar amount being requested as damages, and if resolved, nature of the resolution (e.g., settled, dismissed, withdrawn by plaintiff, verdict for plaintiff with amount of damages awarded, verdict for Responder, etc.).

Responder may submit information which demonstrates recognition of their professional responsibility, including references and/or letters of recommendation. This may also include awards, certifications, and/or professional memberships.

The information collected from these inquiries will be used in STATE's determination of the award of the contract. It may be shared with other persons within the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families who may be involved in the decision-making process and/or with other persons as authorized by law. You are not required to provide any of the above information. However, if you choose not to provide the requested information, your organization's Proposal may be found nonresponsive and given no further consideration. The STATE reserves the right to request any additional information to assure itself of a Responder's professional status.

- b. Data Privacy:** If your organization or any proposed subcontractor has, in the past five years, suffered any breach or loss of personal, financial or other data considered private or confidential, please provide a description of such breaches, and provide details on what steps were taken to address the issue both in the short term and the long term to prevent such a breach/loss from happening again.

3.3 Required Statements and Forms

Complete the correlating forms found in [eDocs](#)¹ (search for the form numbers referenced below at the [eDocs](#) link or paste the form file path name found in the footnotes below to your browser) and submit the completed forms in the "Required Statements and Forms" section of your Proposal. You must use the current forms found in [eDocs](#). Failure to submit a Required Statement or to use the most current forms found in [eDocs](#) is at the Responder's risk and may, at the discretion of STATE, result in disqualification of the Proposal for nonresponsiveness.

- a. Responder Information and Declarations (DHS-7020-ENG)**²: Complete the "Responder Information and Declarations" form available at the above link and submit it with the Proposal. If you are required to submit additional information as a result of the declarations, include the

¹ <http://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/edocs/index.jsp>

² <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7020-ENG>

additional information as part of this form. Responder may fail the Required Statements Review in the event that Responder does not affirmatively warrant to any of the warranties in the Responder Information and Declarations. Additionally, STATE reserves the right to fail a Responder in the event the Responder does not make a necessary disclosure in the Responder Information and Declarations or makes a disclosure which evidences a conflict of interest.

b. Exceptions to Sample Contract and RFP Terms (DHS-7019-ENG)³: The contents of this RFP and the Proposal(s) of the successful Responder(s) may become part of the final contract if a contract is awarded. A Responder who objects to any condition of this RFP or STATE's sample contract terms and conditions (attached as **Appendix A**) must note the objection(s) on the "Exceptions to Sample Contract and RFP Terms and Conditions" form available at the above link and submit it with its Proposal. Much of the language reflected in the sample contract is required by statute. Only those exceptions indicated in your response to the RFP will be available for discussion or negotiation.

Responders are cautioned that claiming either of the following may result in its Proposal being considered nonresponsive and receiving no further consideration:

1. Exceptions to the terms of the standard STATE contract that give the Responder a material advantage over other Responders;
2. Exceptions to all or substantially all boilerplate contract provisions.

c. Disclosure of Funding Form (DHS-7018-ENG)⁴:

(Applies if federal money will be used or may potentially be used to pay for all or part of the work under the contract). In order to comply with federal law, Responder is required to fill out the "Disclosure of Funding" form available at the above link and submit it with its Proposal. The form requires a Responder to provide its Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to uniquely identify business entities. If a Responder does not already have a UEI, it may be obtained from [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

d. Documentation to Establish Financial Stability (DHS-7896-ENG)⁵:

Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.981/[Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 62](#), article 7, section 11 requires that a pre-award risk assessment is conducted for grant awards of \$50,000 or more.

All grantees as defined in Minn. Stat. §16B.981, subd. 1(c) applying for grants in the state of Minnesota must undergo a financial and capacity review prior to a grant award of \$50,000 and higher.

The information collected under this section will be used in STATE's determination of the award of the contract. Responder must complete the "Documentation to Establish Financial Stability" form and submit the form with its Proposal. STATE will request the applicable documentation upon its determination that Responder is a finalist in the solicitation process.

³ <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7019-ENG>

⁴ <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7018-ENG>

⁵ <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-7896-ENG>

4. RFP PROCESS

4.1 Responders' Conference

A Responders' Conference will be held on September 1, 2026, Central Time at 1:00 to 2:30 pm on MS Teams and September 3, 2026, Central time from 12:30 to 2:00 pm on MS Teams. The conference will serve as an opportunity for Responders to ask specific questions of STATE staff concerning the project. Attendance at the Responders' Conference is not mandatory but is recommended. Responders may attend via conference call (contact STATE contact for this RFP for more information about attending by conference call). Oral answers given at the conference will be non-binding. Written responses to questions asked at the conference will be sent to all identified prospective Responders after the conference.

4.2 Responders' Questions

Responders' questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing prior to 4:00 p.m. Central Time on October 16, 2026. All questions must be addressed to:

African American and Disproportionality Represented Family Preservation Grant question--Attention: Sharae Walker
Sharae.walker@state.mn.us

Other personnel are NOT authorized to discuss this RFP with Responders before the Proposal submission deadline. **Contact regarding this RFP with any STATE personnel not listed above could result in disqualification.** STATE will not be held responsible for oral responses to Responders.

Questions will be addressed in writing and distributed to all identified prospective Responders. **Every attempt will be made to provide answers timely, within three business days of receiving the question or no later than October 16, 2026.**

4.3 Proposal Submission

The Proposal must be submitted electronically on October 23, 2026 by 4:00 p.m. Central Time, to be considered. Late Proposals will not be considered and will not be opened. Faxed Proposals will not be accepted.

Clearly label the original "Proposal – [Name of RFP]" The main body of the Proposal pages must be numbered and submitted in 12-point font on 8 ½ X 11-inch paper, single spaced. The size and/or style of graphics, tabs, attachments, margin notes/highlights, etc. are not restricted by this RFP and their use and style are at the Responder's discretion.

The RFP must be emailed to:

African American and Disproportionality Represented Family Preservation Grant Proposal--Attention: Sharae Walker
Sharae.walker@state.mn.us

It is solely the responsibility of each Responder to assure that its Proposal is delivered electronically, in the specific format, and prior to the deadline for submission. **Failure to abide by these instructions for submitting Proposals may result in the disqualification of any non-complying Proposal.**

5. PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION

5.1 Overview of Evaluation Methodology

1. All responsive Proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated by STATE. Proposals will be evaluated on “best value” as specified below. The evaluation will be conducted in three phases:

- a. *Phase I* Required Statements Review
- b. *Phase II* Evaluation of Proposal Requirements
- c. *Phase III* Selection of the Successful Responder(s)

2. During the evaluation process, all information concerning the Proposals submitted, except for the name of the Responder(s), will remain non-public and will not be disclosed to anyone whose official duties do not require such knowledge.

3. Nonselection of any Proposals will mean that either another Proposal(s) was determined to be more advantageous to STATE or that STATE exercised the right to reject any or all Proposals. At its discretion, STATE may perform an appropriate cost and pricing analysis of a Responder's Proposal, including an audit of the reasonableness of any Proposal.

5.2 Evaluation Team

1. An evaluation team will be selected to evaluate Responder Proposals.

2. STATE and professional staff, other than the evaluation team, may also assist in the evaluation process. This assistance could include, but is not limited to, the initial mandatory requirements review, contacting of references, or answering technical questions from evaluators.

3. STATE reserves the right to alter the composition of the evaluation team and their specific responsibilities.

5.3 Evaluation Phases

At any time during the evaluation phases, STATE may, at STATE’s discretion, contact Responders to (1) provide clarification of their Proposal, (2) have each Responder provide an oral presentation of their Proposal, or (3) obtain the opportunity to interview the proposed key personnel. Reference checks may also be made at this time. However, there is no guarantee that STATE will look for information or clarification outside of the submitted written Proposal. Therefore, it is important that the Responder ensure that all sections of the Proposal have been completed to avoid the possibility of failing an evaluation phase or having their score reduced for lack of information.

1. *Phase I:* Required Statements and Forms Review

The Required Statements will be evaluated on a pass or fail basis. Responders must "pass" each of the requirements identified in section 3.3 to move to Phase II.

2. *Phase II:* Evaluation of Technical Requirements of Proposals

- a. Points have been assigned as follows to each of the component areas described in Section 3.2 of this RFP:

Proposal Components	Possible Points
1. Executive Summary	15
2. Description of the Applicant Organization	25
3. Description of Target Population	20
4. Project goals and objectives	10
5. Project Activities and Implementation Plan	10
6. Evaluation plan	10
7. Budget proposal	25
8. Professional Responsibility and Data Privacy	10
Total:	125 points

- b. The evaluation team will review the components of each responsive Proposal submitted. Each component will be evaluated on the Responder's understanding and the quality and completeness of the Responder's approach and solution to the problems or issues presented.
- 3. Phase III: Selection of the Successful Responder(s)**
- a. Only the Proposals found to be responsive under Phases I and II will be considered in Phase III.
- b. The evaluation team will review the scoring in making its recommendations of the successful Responder(s).
- c. STATE may submit a list of detailed comments, questions, and concerns to one or more Responders after the initial evaluation. STATE may require said response to be written, oral, or both. STATE will only use written responses for evaluation purposes. The total scores for those Responders selected to submit additional information may be revised as a result of the new information.
- d. The evaluation team will make its recommendation based on the above-described evaluation process. The successful Responder(s), if any, will be selected by Friday January 29, 2027.

5.4 Contract Negotiations and Unsuccessful Responder Notice

If a Responder(s) is selected, STATE will notify the successful Responder(s) in writing of their selection and STATE's desire to enter into contract negotiations. Until STATE successfully completes negotiations with the selected Responder(s), all submitted Proposals remain eligible for selection by STATE. Data created or maintained by the STATE as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret data as defined and classified in Minn. Stat. § 13.37) will be public data when contract negotiations have been successfully completed. If the STATE determines that it is unlikely that a Responder will be selected for contract negotiations, the STATE may, as a courtesy, notify the Responder that it has not been selected for contract negotiations.

In the event contract negotiations are unsuccessful with the selected Responder(s), the evaluation team may proceed with the next highest scorer.

After STATE and chosen Responder(s) have successfully negotiated a contract, STATE will notify the unsuccessful Responders in writing that their Proposals have not been accepted. All public information within Proposals will then be available for Responders to review, upon request.

6. REQUIRED CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Requirements. All Responders must be willing to comply with all state and federal legal requirements regarding the performance of the grant contract. **The full requirements are set forth throughout this RFP and are contained in the attached sample grant contract in the Appendix. The attached sample grant contract should be reviewed for the terms and conditions that will likely govern any resulting contract from this RFP.** Although this RFP establishes the basis for Responder Proposals, the detailed obligations and additional measures of performance will be defined in the final negotiated contract.

B. Governing Law/Venue. This RFP and any subsequent contract must be governed by the laws of State of Minnesota. Any and all legal proceedings arising from this RFP or any resulting contract in which STATE is made a party must be brought in the State of Minnesota, District Court of Ramsey County. The venue of any federal action or proceeding arising here from in which STATE is a party must be the United States District Court for the State of Minnesota in Ramsey County.

C. Grants management policies. All awarded Responders must comply with required [Grants Management Policies and procedures](#) as specified in Minn. Stat. § 16B.97, subd. 4(a)(1). Compliance under this paragraph includes, but is not limited to, participating in monitoring and financial reconciliation as required by the Office of Grants Management (OGM) Policy 08-10.

D. Preparation Costs. STATE is not liable for any cost incurred by Responders in the preparation and production of a Proposal. Any work performed prior to the issuance of a fully executed grant contract will be done only to the extent the Responder voluntarily assumes risk of non-payment.

E. Contingency Fees Prohibited. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.06, no person may act as or employ a lobbyist for compensation that is dependent upon the result or outcome of any legislation or administrative action.

F. Accessibility Standards. Any information systems, tools, content, and work products produced under this CONTRACT, including but not limited to software applications, web sites, video, learning modules, webinars, presentations, etc., whether commercial, off-the-shelf (COTS) or custom, purchased or developed, must comply with the [State of Minnesota Accessibility Standard](#),⁶ as updated on July 1, 2024. This standard requires, in part, compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 (Level AA) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

⁶ <https://mn.gov/mnit/about-mnit/accessibility/>

Information technology deliverables and services offered must comply with the State of Minnesota Accessibility Standard. (The relevant requirements are contained under the “Standards” tab at the link above.) Information technology deliverables or services that do not meet the required number of standards or the specific standards required may be rejected and may not receive further consideration.

G. Contract Evaluation. Pursuant to [Minnesota Office of Grant Management \(OGM\)](#) Policy 08-13, STATE must evaluate and document all grantees’ performance under grant contracts. For all grant contracts over \$25,000, STATE’s evaluation report will be publicly available online without exception.

7. STATE’S AUTHORITY

1. STATE may:
 - A. Reject any and all Proposals received in response to this RFP;
 - B. Disqualify any Responder whose conduct or Proposal fails to conform to the requirements of this RFP;
 - C. Have unlimited rights to duplicate all materials submitted for purposes of RFP evaluation, and duplicate all public information in response to data requests regarding the Proposal;
 - D. Select for contract or for negotiations a Proposal which best represents “best value” as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.02, subdivision 4 and in this RFP document;
 - E. Consider a late modification of a Proposal if the Proposal itself was submitted on time and if the modifications were requested by STATE, and the modifications make the terms of the Proposal more favorable to STATE, and accept such Proposal as modified;
 - F. At its sole discretion, reserve the right to waive any non-material deviations from the requirements and procedures of this RFP;
 - G. Negotiate as to any aspect of the Proposal with any Responder and negotiate with more than one Responder at the same time, including asking for Responders’ “Best and Final” offers;
 - H. Extend the grant contract, in increments determined by STATE, not to exceed a total contract term of five years;
 - I. Cancel the RFP at any time and for any reason with no cost or penalty to STATE; and
 - J. STATE will not be liable for any errors in the RFP or other responses related to the RFP.
2. The award decisions of STATE are final and not subject to appeal.
3. If federal funds are used in funding a contract that results from this RFP, in accord with 45 C.F.R. § 92.34, for Works and Documents created and paid for under the contract, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will have a royalty free, non-exclusive, perpetual and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use, the Works or Documents created and paid for under a resulting contract for federal government purposes.

Remainder of the page intentionally left blank. (RFP Appendices follow)