

**Corey R. Steel**  
State Court Administrator



**Deborah A. Minardi**  
State Probation Administrator

**TO:** All Current & Prospective Nebraska Licensed Child Caring Agencies, and Interested Community Juvenile Justice Stakeholders

**RE:** Request for Information – Residential Care Services (High-Risk/High-Need Juveniles)

**DATE OPEN:** November 12, 2024

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** December 19, 2024, @ 11:59 pm CST

**FROM:** Deb A. Minardi, State Probation Administrator  
Kari Rumbaugh, Deputy Administrator, Juvenile Services Division

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation (“AOC”), on behalf of its Juvenile Services Division, is issuing this Request for Information (“RFI”) to solicit insights and gauge provider interest and feasibility in meeting the temporary residential needs of high-risk/high-need juveniles supervised by Nebraska Probation through services modeled on AOC’s Specialized Restorative Residential Program (RESTORE) at the current rate of \$352 (three hundred fifty-two) dollars per day. It also seeks relevant feedback from other juvenile stakeholders on innovative solutions to address limited residential options within Nebraska, including the requested daily rate.

## **II. RFI NON-BINDING NATURE**

Completion of this RFI does not create any contractual obligation. Information received will help AOC determine if a Request for Qualification (RFQ) is warranted or if options can be implemented without further publication. AOC is not liable for any costs incurred by providers in replying to this RFI. This RFI does not obligate the AOC to respond to RFI submissions, issue an RFQ, or include any RFI provisions or responses in any RFQ.

## **III. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The scope and purpose of this RFI is to:

- Explore opportunities to expand services for high-risk/high-need Juvenile Justice youth.
- Improve access to highly structured residential settings.
- Pair skilled caregivers with a well-integrated continuum of outpatient clinical supports.
- Facilitate intensive family engagement and restorative relationship-building opportunities.
- Enhance our existing model and expand placement options through insights from community stakeholders and providers with similar programs. This shall include the requested daily rate.

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#### **IV. SPECIALIZED RESTORATIVE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM (RESTORE)**

The Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, in partnership with a current Probation registered service provider, has been offering a Specialized Restorative Residential Program (RESTORE) exclusively serving youth in Douglas County since the fall of 2023. AOCB has identified the need to expand access to residential services targeting the unique needs of this population to prevent placement in more restrictive settings or outside Nebraska. In Fiscal Year 2023, 200 youth were served outside the state, and 115 youth were committed to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers. The primary need is in the Greater Omaha area, with secondary needs in the Tri-cities areas of Kearney, Grand Island, and Hastings. AOCB will accept responses for programming locations across the state.

#### **V. RESPONSE SUBMISSION**

A. AOCB is interested in hearing feedback on the proposed service expansion from:

1. Providers, organizations, and groups currently providing or interested in providing residential services to high-risk/high-need juvenile justice-involved youth. Respondents in this category must be willing and able to obtain a Residential Child Caring Agency (RCCA) license from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services- Public Health to operate a group home facility within the State of Nebraska.

[https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/Pre-ScreeningRCCA\\_CPAtool.pdf](https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/Pre-ScreeningRCCA_CPAtool.pdf)

2. Community organizations, stakeholders, interest groups, and subject matter experts knowledgeable in residential services for high-risk/high-needs juvenile justice youth.

#### **VI. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

A. All responses should be submitted in writing as a PDF, and should include the following:

1. A program narrative/description aligning with the posted Service Definition for RESTORE programs,

[https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/RESTORE\\_Service\\_Definition\\_Final.pdf](https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/RESTORE_Service_Definition_Final.pdf)

**OR**

A clearly outlined alternative method to facilitate a change in behavior, attitudes, and personal interactions with the target population and achieve the service

outcomes. Alternatives must be evidence-based or follow best practice models that include:

- a) Multi-disciplinary approach with clinical oversight
- b) Trauma-informed relationships
- c) Restorative practices
- d) Positive Youth Development
- e) Youth and family engagement
- f) Skill building/cognitive-behavioral interventions
- g) Strength-based, incentive-driven programming
- h) Transition planning and aftercare services

B. QUESTIONS ASKED: All responses should be submitted in writing as a PDF, and should include the following:

2. WHO: Brief narrative background information on RFI Respondent
  - a) Organization- mission/philosophy, services, size, etc., or
  - b) Individual- Connection to Juvenile Justice reform, experience
  - c) Experience providing residential services for high-risk/high-need justice-involved youth.
  - d) Experience receiving or accessing residential services as a youth, family, or stakeholder.
3. WHAT: Feedback on AOC's desire to expand the RESTORE Program.
  - a) How and to what extent does an expansion of this service meet the needs of the targeted population?
  - b) Are you aware of alternative evidence-informed models, programs, or studies that we should consult in developing service expansion options?
  - c) How important is it to include the following evidence-based, evidence-informed models in the service expansion and why:
    - o Adolescent development
    - o Positive Youth Development
    - o Restorative Justice
    - o Family and Youth Engagement
    - o Cognitive Behavioral interventions
    - o Other
4. WHERE:
  - a) Description of the location(s) that should be considered for service expansion.
  - b) Location(s) your organization would be interested in providing services.
5. HOW: What should the AOC be considering when determining the need for service expansion for the target population? Examples:
  - a) Features & location of non-secure setting (congregate/non-congregate, etc.)
  - b) Clinical needs and Medicaid-funded services

- c) Community integration
- d) Education access and supportive services
- e) Family engagement
- f) Cultural competency and lived experience voices
- g) Transition and aftercare

**VII. TIMELINE**

- **November 1, 2024** - RFI Opens & accepting of provider-submitted responses begins.
- **December 15, 2024** – Provider RFQ response submissions are due by 11:59 pm CST.
  - ❖ Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically via email no later than December 15, 2024, by 11:59 pm CST at [nsc.publiccommentds@nejudicial.gov](mailto:nsc.publiccommentds@nejudicial.gov).
- **March 01, 2025** – On or around March 01, 2025, AOCB will publish a summary of this RFI’s findings on the [State of Nebraska Judicial Branch](#) website and email it to each respondent

**VIII. REL QUESTIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

AOCB believes that this RFI, including the content and instructions, provides adequate information for a response. If you have questions, the point of contact for this RFI is as follows:

Julie Smith  
Out-of-Home Program Specialist  
Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation  
521 S.14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8910  
[julie.a.smith@nejudicial.gov](mailto:julie.a.smith@nejudicial.gov)  
402-341-8545

**V. Other Specifications**

1. Certifications. By submission of a response, the Provider acknowledges, certifies, and agrees to comply with the terms, conditions, declarations, and requirements set forth herein.

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