

ADDENDUM 1

REVISED SECTION – I. INTRODUCTION

The Austin Independent School District (herein after referred to as “AISD” or the “district”) is seeking proposals from firms qualified and experienced in providing high quality, cost-effective and reliable school based mental health treatment and therapeutic services. Note: Request for Proposals 19RFP129 replaces previous non-awarded RFPs 19RFP059 and 19RFP115 due to changes in the scope of work and performance requirements.

The Austin ISD Department of Health Services seeks to fund 19+ school mental health centers (SMHC) at elementary, middle and high school campuses. In collaboration with the district, the vendor is encouraged to expand to additional campuses based on availability of funds.

Funding for the SMHC will be provided by the district through local funds in conjunction with third party billing completed by the Proposer. A mental health needs assessment and financial needs assessment will determine the appropriate funding source.

The following school campuses are to be served:

Anderson HS	Austin HS	Bowie HS	Crockett Early College HS
Eastside Memorial Early College HS Liberal Arts and Science Academy	International HS McCa1.81fG6ID 3tLHS	Lanier HS	LBJ Early College HS

Responses to this RFP should include a comprehensive solution to address our growing need for mental health center services at schools. We welcome and invite innovative and creative ideas that present staffing models and billing solutions to maximize reimbursements for current school-based healthcare services and generate additional revenue to expand services so long as the model delivers high-quality services to students without increasing current expenses.

Austin ISD is shifting from a per campus allocation of funding to a fee-for-service (FFS) payment model based on allowable billing rates.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

Currently, the Austin ISD School Mental Health Centers (SMHC) operate on 43 campuses across elementary, middle and high schools. They are supported by local funding, VOCA funding, federal funding, state funding and private funding. SMHC's are open year-round, 12 months of the year and do not close during school district traditional breaks (i.e. Winter Break, Spring Break, etc.) The goal of SMHC's are to serve all students, staff, families that seek intensive mental health support services.

The treatment approach used in Austin ISD SMHC is based on the "Ecological Model of Care" which supports the connections between students, families and staff. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-031210-101141> https://www.acha.org/healthycampus/healthycampus/ecological_model.aspx. Services are provided not only to students, but also to family and staff members.

The ecological approach in the District is supported by trauma informed models of intervention which focus on healthy attachments, self-regulation and competency such as Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI): <https://child.tcu.edu/about-us/tbri/#sthash.pciGWABM.dpbs> and Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC): <https://arcframework.org/what-is-arc/>. Further, the following evidence based therapeutic orientations are utilized: Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), motivational interviewing (MI), play therapy and family systems therapy.

All services are carried out in the form of individual, group and family therapy sessions by licensed, clinical mental health providers in the child's school. Cross system collaboration (home, school, treatment providers, child) is implemented to support the child's healing. Students are referred for SMHC services by the student, staff, campus Child Study Team, or parent/guardian.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliant referral and consent forms are utilized to protect the confidentiality of student educational records and healthcare information. Parent/guardian consent is required in order for a student to receive services.

REVISED SECTION - VI. SCOPE OF SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The following describes the service and performance requirements that selected vendor(s) will be required to perform. Failure to address or to fully describe capabilities to accomplish all elements of this section will result in a loss of evaluation points.

Austin ISD is seeking to provide high-quality, cost effective and reliable school based mental health treatment and therapeutic services to district students in a reliable, effective manner at competitive rates. The Austin ISD Department of Health Services seeks to fund 19+ plus school mental health centers (SMHC) at elementary, middle and high school campuses. In collaboration with the district, the vendor is encouraged to expand to additional campuses based on availability of funds.

Proposer will provide direct mental health services on each campus to those that need intensive mental health services, including to; students, staff, and family members. AISD would prefer to have a minimum of 2.0 FTE's/campus, each therapist split funded by AISD local funds and private insurance reimbursements. Services run year-round and over holidays. The proposer may provide an alternative staffing model in the proposal if it meets the goals of the program.

We are open to innovative methods that can expand the mental health treatment service coverage to more students. We also are interested in proposals from respondents with billing models to maximize reimbursement for health care services currently provided in schools, generating additional revenue to expand student health services. In all models, respondents will be required to comply with the requirements of all applicable laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and regulations.

The respondent is free to set its own job qualifications, to be reviewed and approved by the District. The healthcare staff employed by the respondent must meet the appropriate Texas LCSW, LPC, LMFT, PHD and PSYD, etc. licensure requirements for the scope of services the staff will provide. It is the respondent's responsibility to hire the best-qualified healthcare staff. The respondent must advise the District when terminating an employee and the respondent will be asked to remove underperforming or unsatisfactory employees at the District's discretion under the guidance of AISD's Director of Health Services in consultation with the vendor.

All responses to this RFP must present a well-developed plan with a cost that does not increase current district net cost and reflects the respondent's expertise, experience, and capacity to carry out the following duties.

A. Mental Health Center Service Requ g0 [5]-2(e),9(9 Tm0 g0 26)ITETQq0.000000005>1100#000

program funds separately for each funding source: AISD local funds and insurance billing.

Have an accounting system that is able to accurately reflect allocation of therapist funds among various fund sources, when therapists are paid from multiple fund sources.

Ensure that school mental health centers have therapeutic coverage at all times, with appropriate plans in place for leaves of absence, employee resignation/termination....

Adhere to Austin ISD systems and policies:

- A. facility use agreements, including security procedures required as on all AISD campuses.
- B. alignment of student services with the AISD Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).
- C. coordinate services with the AISD Director of Health Services and/or designee.
- D. comply with policy Student Welfare, Wellness and Health Services (FFAE Legal). (<http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/227901/pol.cfm>)

B. Reporting, Evaluation and Key Performance Measures

Collaborate with Austin ISD to provide FERPA/HIPPA compliant analysis and evaluation on progress of students, staff, and families served.

Have proven research experience (published and/or presented) in the area of school based mental health and the ability to collect, track, and analyze mental health outcomes and academic outcomes based on a research methodology that will identify the impact and analysis of the individuals receiving services. This research will be shared with the district, community, and larger mental health profession (through conferences, legislated hearings, etc).

Participate with the district in the following processes:

- a. Summary of therapeutic outcomes using a well validated, standardized tool (i.e.; Behavior Assessment System for Children, Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths, Achenbach...).
- b. Analysis and summary of the child's school related outcomes (comparison of students' attendance rates, disciplinary records pre/post treatment, academic

With continued oversight of the AISD Director of Health Services and direct supervision of the project coordinator, School Mental Health Coordinator, regular reviews will be scheduled to monitor the progress on the SMHC's and to ensure compliance.

C. Financial Sustainability Plan

Austin ISD is shifting from a per campus allocation of funding to a fee-for-service payment model based on allowable billing rates by insurance source (i.e.,

The contractor will conduct a financial assessment to determine payor source for all individuals meeting clinical eligibility criteria. The contractor is responsible for billing and collection for all third-party resources. We anticipate this to be approximately 90% of all students served and 95-98% of all AISD staff. AISD will not require the contractor to provide services to families with insurance who do not agree to bill their insurance for services. We encourage the vendor to work with families to identify a financial solution that can be mutually agreed upon. If the student, staff, and/or family is uninsured, the vendor will connect the family to insurance eligibility services in the community to connect them with a payor source.

The proposer may provide an alternative staffing model in the proposal if it meets the goals of the program. Please provide details on how the service will be delivered, how it meets the goals of the program stated in the RFP, and the benefits of the alternative model to the current model.

Sustainable Plan to Improve Student Health – Respondents are encouraged to provide a long-term and sustainable plan to improve the quality, scope, and utilization of student health services in the most economical way through government subsidies, grants, or partnerships with other healthcare entities.

The district will give preference to a vendor who bids, at a minimum, on all of the

The following describes the scope of service and performance requirements that a selected vendor will be expected to perform and/or provide. Please complete all responses.

Please indicate (Y/N) for each requirement, if your organization meets or is willing to meet the requirement. Please describe in detail how your organization satisfies each of the following requirements, , whenever possible, to demonstrate your ability to meet the requirements.

1. Vendor has experience providing services in a school setting that supports an Ecological approach to care? Include in your response the number of districts and campuses served and how you serve students, families and teachers.		
2. Vendor has a formal training protocol for newly hired therapists? Include in your response what that includes and time from date of hire to placement on campus.		

3.

receiving services to those not receiving services and whether any of your data has been published and/or presented.		
19. Vendor uses trauma informed screening and clinical assessment instruments and tools? Include in your response, which instruments you use.		
20. Vendor has the ability to meet the reporting requirements as noted in the RFP, as well as AISD SMHC monitoring requirements?		
21. Vendor has the ability to adhere to Austin ISD systems and policies?		

Provide a detailed solution on how you will ensure that all data is stored and managed in a secure and compliant manner.

Part 1: \$2,195,000 (AISD funds over a 15-month period ending September 30, 2020 for the uninsured, co-pay/deductible assistance for the insured, campus support activities, startup fees, overhead costs...). 19.

Part 2: Proposer collection of Medicaid, CHIP and private insurance based on

1. Vendor is set up on all major insurance panels including Medicaid?		
2. Vendor has systems in place to determine insurance eligibility? Include in your response, how you verify and determine insurance eligibility.		
3. Contractor's accounting system has the ability to identify the receipt and expenditures of program funds separately for each fund source?		