



## **PROCUREMENT FOR MASTER-SERVICES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTOR**

The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) is soliciting letters of interest from workforce development organizations to serve as a Master Services Contractor for a multi-county initiative to serve youth 16-25, with physical or mental impairments,<sup>1</sup> in the juvenile justice system eligible for vocational and work-focused educational rehabilitation services. OYCR anticipates providing funding for up to ten counties to participate in this initiative.

### **Background**

OYCR will be receiving \$10 million annually for a three-year period under an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), also a department in the California Health and Human Services Agency. These are federal Title IV funds, pre-matched at the state level, that do not require a local match. The funds will support services to youth living in both secure settings as well as in the community in pursuit of educational and vocational services designed to lead to employment and career opportunities. It is intended that priority be given to youth in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) and Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs) in those counties that operate SYTF facilities, but the initiative is not limited to those counties or youth and may also serve youth in other detention settings or at home or in another community setting under probation supervision.

### **Elements of the Initiative**

The initiative is expected to operate as a collaborative effort between:

- The OYCR, which will select the ten or less participating counties or county consortia.
- The Master-Services Contractor (MSC): OYCR will engage a single experienced workforce development provider to serve as master contractor. This entity will work with the selected county probation departments and county offices of education to identify qualified local CBO providers and other providers to deliver vocational and related services both to youth while in custody, in LRPs, or living in the community under probation supervision. The MSC will also create communities of practice for shared learning among both government and Community Based Organization (CBO) providers.
- Participating county probation departments will fund a Workforce Development Navigator position (WDNs) to identify and engage potential youth enrollees and refer them for eligibility determination by DOR staff. Upon eligibility determination, the WDNs will help link the eligible

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<sup>1</sup> These include but are not limited to musculoskeletal disorders; learning disabilities; psychological or psychiatric conditions; sensory disabilities including blindness, deafness, and hearing and visual impairments; substance abuse disorders; intellectual or developmental disabilities; and chronic illnesses, including metabolic and immune system disorders.

youth to CBO providers, participate in the individual rehabilitation plan development for the youth, and provide documentation as needed about the progress of the youth.

- DOR will be responsible upon referral from the WDN for eligibility determination<sup>2</sup> for rehabilitation services, the development of the DOR Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), supporting the youth's employment, career or education case plan and will communicate with probation or COE as necessary to track progress.
- Local CBO vocational service providers will be identified and contracted for by the MSC for service delivery. The services to be provided will be among those described in the attached description of vocational rehabilitation services and will be determined by the MSC in consultation with the WDN, the youth and family, and the probation case manager.
- Each site will be expected to track and report data that shows the outcomes of the pilot site.

### **County, MSC and Sub-Contractor Funding**

Each participating county will receive up to \$200,000 annually for administration and support of the WDN function, totaling up to \$2,000,000 annually.

The MSC and its service-provider subcontractors will receive the remaining \$8,000,000, or more, up to the full \$10,000,000 annually, for all administration and services provided to the eligible participating youth.

### **Application Process**

Organizations wishing to be considered for the Master Services Contractor should submit a brief letter of interest describing their experience in serving people in the justice system, and their capacity to

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<sup>2</sup>The Department of Rehabilitation's (DOR) determination of an applicant's eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services must be based only on the following requirements:

1. A determination by qualified personnel, who need not be Department employees, that the applicant has a physical or mental impairment. The term "individual with a disability" means that the applicant has a physical or mental impairment that constitutes a substantial impediment to employment and the applicant would benefit from vocational rehabilitation services.
2. A determination by qualified personnel, who need not be Department employees, that the applicant's physical or mental impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment for the applicant.
3. A determination by a Rehabilitation Counselor that the applicant requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment consistent with the applicant's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice; and
4. A presumption that the applicant can benefit from the provision of vocational rehabilitation services in terms of an employment outcome in an integrated setting.

operate in multiple regions of California, by January 12, 2024. All letters will be acknowledged and OYCR will seek additional information from the most qualified organization(s) to serve as the basis for a no-bid contract.

Letters should be submitted to [oycr@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:oycr@chhs.ca.gov).