

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF COLLIN

Subject: Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, Title IV-E County Legal Services - Auditor

On August 26, 2008, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in regular session with the following members present and participating, to wit:

Keith Self
Phyllis Cole
Jerry Hoagland
Joe Jaynes
Kathy Ward

County Judge, Presiding
Commissioner, Precinct 1
Commissioner, Precinct 2
Commissioner, Precinct 3
Commissioner, Precinct 4

During such session the court considered a request for approval of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Title IV-E County Legal Services with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Thereupon, a motion was made, seconded and carried with a majority vote of the court for approval of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Title IV-E County Legal Services with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for the reimbursement of Legal Services for FY2009 CPS cases through and including September 30, 2009 and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute the agreement. Same is hereby approved in accordance with the attached documentation.



ATTEST:

Stacey Kemp
Stacey Kemp, Ex-Officio Clerk
Commissioners' Court
Collin County, TEXAS

Keith Self

Keith Self, County Judge
Phyllis Cole

Phyllis Cole, Commissioner, Pct. 1
Jerry Hoagland

Jerry Hoagland, Commissioner, Pct. 2
Joe Jaynes

Joe Jaynes, Commissioner, Pct. 3
Kathy Ward

Kathy Ward, Commissioner, Pct. 4

**State of Texas Title IV-E County Legal Services
Contract**

~~Contract #23397461~~

NDW

23379896

THIS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT (Contract) is entered into by and between the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS or the Department) and Collin County (County), pursuant to the authority granted and in compliance with the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code.

SECTION I. STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED

A. Statement of Need

DFPS is the single state agency responsible for the administration of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act related to Child Welfare Services and the Federal Payments for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

In accordance with Government Code Section 40.0566, County Outreach Program, DFPS and the County desire to enter into this Contract to provide a mechanism to allow counties providing Title IV-E allowable services the opportunity to obtain federal funding. DFPS will make IV-E funds available to counties to increase the amount of legal staff and services available to process child welfare cases. "Legal services" are activities performed by attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and clerical or other legal support staff on behalf of the county, in accordance with professional legal judgment, pertaining to children who have been abused or neglected or placed in out-of-home care or children at risk of placement in out-of-home care, including pursuing terminations of parental rights and otherwise assisting children in achieving permanence. Under this Contract, allowable services include the following as described herein and as qualified in 5000 Section of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Title IV-E Finance Handbook (Handbook), as currently in effect and as subsequently modified. The Handbook is incorporated herein by this reference:

1. Costs directly related to the administration of the foster care program are deemed allowable if they are necessary and reasonable, incurred while providing proper and efficient services to Title IV-E eligible children, and are in accordance with OMB A-87, 45 CFR §95.507, and 45 CFR §1356.60(c).
2. Training Expenditures for Title IV-E training costs associated with attending or participating in IV-E approved training.

B. Statement of Work

1. County's Responsibilities:

a. The County will assist the Department in providing fair, adequate and expeditious judicial determinations regarding children eligible for services under Subtitle IV-E of the Social Security Act. Such services will be in accordance with the attached Cost Allocation Plan and with Subtitle IV-E of the Social Security Act. The County shall ensure the provision of allowable Title IV-E Services to children referred by DFPS in accordance with the Handbook;

b. The County shall comply with the following requirements:

- (i) Assist DFPS in identifying and meeting the needs of the children in the County who are referred by DFPS;
- (ii) Develop an estimated annual budget for the operations of child welfare services and recommend an estimated budget to the Commissioners' Court and appear in support of same at budget hearings;
- (iii) Authorize the expenditure of County funds and other special funds on behalf of the children in the County referred by DFPS and;
- (iv) Review on a monthly basis child welfare expenditures and receipts, as well as a summary of services delivered during the month.

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- c. The County shall provide the money required as match for federal funds under this Contract. In addition, the County shall ensure that none of the money used as match will be federal dollars, either directly or indirectly. Furthermore, the County certifies that the money used as match has not been used to secure any other federal matching funds.
- d. The County will certify that the expenditures reported to DFPS on the 4116X, State of Texas Voucher (Billings) are allowable expenditures under Title IV-E. The County shall be financially liable to DFPS for any and all audit exceptions identified for unallowable costs reported to DFPS in the County's Billings.
- e. The County shall participate in DFPS' financial and statistical reporting systems.
- f. Health and Safety
 - (i) To the extent permitted by law, the County will verify and disclose, or cause its employees and volunteers (including Child Welfare Board Members) to verify and disclose criminal history and any current criminal indictment involving an offense against the person, an offense against the family, or an offense involving public indecency under the Texas Penal Code as amended, or an offense under Chapter 281 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. This verification and disclosure will be required of child welfare board members and of all who have direct contact with children referred by DFPS;
 - (ii) The County shall prevent or promptly remove any employee or volunteer (including Child Welfare Board members) from direct child contact and/or from access to child records who is alleged to have committed an offense of abuse, neglect, or exploitation or an offense described in subsection (i), above; and
 - (iii) The County shall promptly report any suspected case of abuse, neglect, or exploitation to DFPS as required by Chapter 261, Texas Family Code. All reports must be made within 24 hours of the discovery of the abuse or neglect. The County may report this information to DFPS' Statewide Intake at 1-800-252-5400.
- g. Confidentiality
 - (i) All information obtained, learned, developed, or filed by the County in connection with the Services provided under this Contract, including data contained in official Department files or records, shall be held confidential by the County in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. The County shall not disclose confidential information to any person, organization, agency, or other entity except as authorized or required by law. The County shall immediately notify the Department of all requests for information deemed confidential under this Contract. In the event the County is required by law to release confidential information, the County shall notify the Department in writing, prior to releasing confidential information.
 - (ii) Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to preclude, prevent, or prohibit access to confidential information by the Department or Department designees.
 - (iii) The provisions of this Section shall remain in full force and effect following termination of, or cessation of the Services required by this Contract.
- h. The County shall adhere to all the legal, programmatic, and administrative requirements identified in Section 2000 of the Handbook related to the Services to be provided under this Contract.
- i. The County shall maintain financial, programmatic, and supporting documents developed under this Contract for a minimum of five years after the termination of the contract period. Contract period

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means the effective dates of the Contract as described in Section III, below; renewals are considered to be separate contract periods.

- j. The County shall submit Service delivery reports required by DFPS or self-evaluations of performance and other reports requested by DFPS in an appropriate format and on a timely basis; and to the extent permitted or required by law, make available at reasonable times and for reasonable periods, children's records and other programmatic or financial records, books, reports, and supporting documents for reviewing and copying by DFPS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or their authorized representatives.
 - k. The County shall allow DFPS and its representatives to monitor, audit, evaluate and otherwise review the Services provided under the Contract. In addition, the County will ensure that DFPS has access to all documentation and information related to the Services provided under this Contract.
 - l. The County shall not use any funding received under this Contract to influence the outcome of elections or the passage or defeat of any legislative measures.
 - m. Contractor agrees to comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including without limitation:
 - (i) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d *et seq.*);
 - (ii) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794);
 - (iii) Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*);
 - (iv) Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107);
 - (v) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1688);
 - (vi) Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. §200 *et seq.*); and
 - (vii) The HHS agency's administrative rules, as set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, to the extent applicable to this Agreement.
- 1) Contractor agrees to comply with all amendments to the above-referenced laws, and all requirements imposed by the regulations issued pursuant to these laws. These laws provide in part that no persons in the United States may, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political beliefs, or religion, be excluded from participation in or denied any aid, care, service or other benefits provided by Federal or State funding, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination.
 - 2) Contractor agrees to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 80 or 7 C.F.R. Part 15, prohibiting a contractor from adopting and implementing policies and procedures that exclude or have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of clients in its programs, benefits, or activities on the basis of national origin. Applicable state and federal civil rights laws require contractors to provide alternative methods for ensuring access to services for applicants and recipients who cannot express themselves fluently in English. Contractor agrees to ensure that its policies do not have the effect of excluding or limiting the participation of persons in its programs, benefits, and activities on the basis of national origin. Contractor also agrees to take reasonable steps to provide services and information, both orally and in writing, in appropriate languages other than English, in order to ensure that persons with limited English proficiency are effectively informed and can have meaningful access to programs, benefits, and activities.
 - 3) Contractor agrees to comply with Executive Order 13279, and its implementing regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 87 or 7 C.F.R. Part 16. These provide in part that any organization that participates in programs funded by direct financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Health and Human Services shall not, in providing services, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion or religious belief.

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- 4) Upon request, Contractor will provide HHSC Civil Rights Office with copies of all of the Contractor's civil rights policies and procedures.
- 5) Contractor must notify HHSC's Civil Rights Office of any civil rights complaints received relating to its performance under this Agreement. This notice must be delivered no more than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of a complaint. Notice provided pursuant to this section must be directed to:

HHSC Civil Rights Office
701 W. 51st Street, Mail Code W206
Austin, Texas 78751
Phone Toll Free (888) 388-6332
Phone: (512) 438-4313
TTY Toll Free: (877) 432-7232
Fax: (512) 438-5885

- n. Contractor agrees to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (29 U.S.C. §201 *et seq.*) regarding minimum wages, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor.

2. DFPS' Responsibilities:

- a. DFPS shall provide the County with the child population rate each quarter; and
- b. DFPS shall process and pay the federally reimbursable portion of County-certified IV-E allowable expenditures identified on the 4116X, State of Texas Purchase Voucher in accordance with the terms of this Contract.

SECTION II. BASIS FOR CALCULATING PAYMENT OBLIGATIONS

A. Budget Documents:

1. The amount of the Title IV-E federally reimbursable portion of this Contract is based on the Budget Documents attached hereto as Exhibit "II" entitled Budget for Title IV-E County Contracts, Form 2030IVE, which includes Attachments "A", "B", and "C" (Budget Documents). Exhibit "II" and its corresponding attachments are incorporated herein by this reference.
2. The Budget Documents should be amended for each fiscal year with the written agreement of the contract manager for DFPS. If the Contract is automatically renewed, and if the parties have not agreed to amended Budget Documents, the Budget Documents are also renewed without amendment but may be later amended by agreement of the County and DFPS.
3. If the County is going to include indirect costs as part of its Billings, the Contract will include by reference either (a) the County's approved Indirect Cost Agreement with the Federal Government; or (b) appropriate documentation certifying the County's official indirect cost rate.

B. This Contract is at all times contingent upon the availability and receipt of federal funds.

C. Billing Requirements:

1. The County shall submit Billings in an accurate and timely manner for each quarter by the end of the following quarter. Billings must be submitted with all documentation necessary to support the expenditures contained in the Billings.
2. DFPS will notify the County within 30 days of Billings that are inadequately documented, appear to be unallowable in whole or in part, or are not in accordance with the Budget Documents for the Contract.
3. If the quarterly Billings for the County average or are expected to average less than \$1,000 per quarter, the County may request, and the contract manager for DFPS may grant written permission to submit

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Billings on an annual basis with the Billing for each quarter submitted and documented separately but at the same time before the end of the first quarter of the following fiscal year.

4. Any Billing or amended Billing which is submitted to DFPS later than 7 quarters after the end of the quarter of the expense shall not be processed by DFPS unless DFPS determines, in DFPS' sole discretion, that DFPS is able to submit the bill to the federal government for payment in a proper and timely fashion.

SECTION III. TERM OF CONTRACT

This Contract shall be in force effective September 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. This Contract shall automatically renew for one fiscal year at a time through September 30, 2012, unless sooner terminated as described herein.

SECTION IV. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE. The following instruments are incorporated into the contract for all purposes and are on file with the Department, the Contractor, and subcontractor(s):

- A. Cost Allocation Plan and supporting narrative
- B. Designation of authorized signatory for the Contractor
- C. Form 2047e, Certification Regarding Federal Lobbying
- D. Copy of approved Indirect Cost Agreement
- E. Other forms, as needed: Internal Control Structure Questionnaire Form 9007, Risk Analysis Questionnaire Form 9105, and Budget Form-2030IVE

SECTION V. MODIFICATIONS

- A. This Contract contains the entire understanding of the parties and supersedes all previous discussions, proposals, or agreements between DFPS and the County.
- B. This Contract may be modified by executing a formal written amendment signed by both DFPS and the County.

SECTION VI. TERMINATION

- A. If the County fails to provide services according to the terms of this Contract, DFPS may, upon written notice of default to the County, terminate all or any part of the Contract. Termination is not necessarily an exclusive remedy but will be in addition to any other rights and remedies provided under this Contract.
- B. DFPS, based on information from monitoring or other verifiable sources, may terminate this Contract for cause or take other actions including, but not limited to:
 1. Requiring the County to take specific corrective actions in order to remain in compliance with any contractual term,
 2. Recouping payments made to the County or imposing administrative error sanctions based on audit findings of violations of Contract requirements, and

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3. Suspending, placing into abeyance, or removing any contractual rights to include, but which are not limited to, withholding of payment.
- C. This Contract may be terminated at any time by mutual consent. In addition, either party may consider the Contract to be canceled by giving thirty (30) days notice to the other party. This Contract will be terminated at the end of the thirty (30) day period. This Contract shall otherwise terminate by the date specified pursuant to Section III, above.

SECTION VII. CERTIFICATIONS

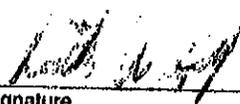
By executing this Contract, the undersigned parties bind themselves to the faithful performance of this Contract and certify their authority to enter into this Contract.

**Texas Department of Family
and Protective Services**

Collin County



Signature
Printed Name: Lisa R. Black
Printed Title: Regional Director, CPS Region 3



Signature
Printed Name: Keith Self
Printed Title: Collin County Judge

9/17/08

Date

9/17/08

Date