

October 22, 2021

DSP Informational Memo Series 2021-30i

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson   
Administrator

**Re: Notice of Available Funding: Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs**

**Purpose:**

This memo notifies counties, tribes, and non-profit agencies of the availability of funding to support Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) programs throughout the state and explains how to access the current Request for Grant Proposal (RFP).

**Background:**

In 2013, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) created the Bureau of Youth Services (BYS) to bring a stronger program and policy focus to vulnerable youth in Wisconsin. In 2015, the BYS began using a 3-year competitive procurement process for RHY programs to coincide with the regionalization of youth services. In 2022, the competitive procurement will be a 5-year cycle.

DCF's RHY Program seeks to ensure services for youth that support safe shelter and stable housing, connections to healthy, supportive and potentially permanent adults, and access to resources/supports designed to assist youth in meeting their social, emotional, mental, cognitive, and physical health needs.

**Information Summary:**

The target population for the RHY Program is youth and young adults ages 12-21 who have run away, are at-risk of running away, are homeless, or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Proposers may select a subset of this age range and youth may or may not have a history of child welfare or youth justice involvement. *All RHY Programs must have an emergency shelter option and services available for homeless and other vulnerable youth under the age of 18.* Non-profit organizations, local units of government and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

A total of \$825,000 annually is available to DCF to make grant awards under this RFP. DCF

anticipates awarding seven (7) RHY grants, with the intent of issuing one award in each of the seven DCF Youth Services Regions, provided applications are received in all regions. In the event no proposal is received that meets the requirements in one or more of the regions, DCF reserves the right to award to multiple grantees in any region. All programs will be funded at a minimum of \$75,000, with higher amounts awarded up to a maximum of \$200,000 based on population. Programs are not required to provide services throughout the entire region. Additional funding information and a map outlining the Youth Services regions are provided in the RFP.

The anticipated contract start date is January 1, 2022 and shall run through December 31, 2022. Based on availability of funding, satisfactory performance and mutual agreement of the agency and the contractor, the contract may be renewed up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods.

The current RFP can be found at: <https://vendornet.wi.gov/> under "Bids" and the title "Runaway and Homeless Youth". Proposals are due no later than 2:00 pm on November 11, 2021.

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MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>