

RFP: A Safe Way Forward Prevention Services for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence

OVERVIEW

On March 4th, the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Safe Way Forward (SWF) program, which provides child welfare protections to families experiencing intimate partner violence. The program includes the provision of therapeutic interventions to address intimate partner violence and case management to coordinate services and meet needs, with a focus on the child's physical and psychological safety. Providers will be required to operate two separate sites, one site where survivors and children receive services and a separate site where persons causing harm receive services (must be at least 500 yards apart).

ACS will provide over \$28 million in total funding to support three 65-slot programs in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. There are currently two organizations operating two 65-slot programs in the Bronx and in Staten Island as part of the ACS SWF program demonstration.

The RFP is available in the PASSPort system [here](#). Applications are due on April 19th.

FUNDING

ACS will award \$9,592,500 in total annual funding to support three 65-slot programs, with one program in each of the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. Applicants may apply for programs in more than one borough but must complete a separate application for each.

The payment structure will be line-item reimbursement for permissible expenses up to the maximum allowable annual budget based on the contract award.

Contracts will last for three years starting on December 1st, with the option to renew for two additional three-year terms.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants must be in good standing with ACS and must have:

- At least three years of relevant experience delivering:
 - Child welfare service;
 - Services to address the impact of intimate partner violence on survivors and children; and/or
 - Services providing interventions to people who have caused harm.
- Experience in program design and development, including developing logic models and/or theories of change, planning for implementation, engaging in basic program data monitoring, and participating in quality improvement activities.

TARGET POPULATION

To participate in the program, both parents/caregivers must be eligible for prevention services and must agree to participate in services in which the primary focus is intimate partner violence and the impact of intimate partner violence on children.

The target population for services include families that meet all of the following criteria:

- Intimate partner violence is the primary concern, such that there are risks to child safety and well-being;
- Both parents/caregivers agree to attend SWF services in order to address intimate partner violence;
- At least one parent/caregiver lives within the awarded catchment area, and both parents/caregivers live within the five boroughs of New York City; and
- Court-ordered supervision is in place, or for whom there is significant risk of court-ordered supervision being sought.

Contractors must accept all eligible ACS referrals for SWF services, unless the program is 100 percent utilized or the program received written approval from ACS to temporarily close intake. Referrals should be prioritized based on children’s risk of placement in foster care and families’ status on court-ordered supervision, with priority given to those families already on court-ordered supervision and those with significant histories of intimate partner violence.

Services must be provided in both English and Spanish, with the capacity to provide services in Arabic and Bengali recommended in the Bronx and Staten Island and French recommended in the Bronx.

APPLICATIONS

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Program Plan (30 points)
- Experience and Results (20 points)
- Resources and Capacity (25 points)
- Family Voice and Choice (25 points)

Awards will be determined based on the above criteria and a consideration of which proposals are deemed most advantageous to the City.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by April 19th. Questions must be submitted to SWF-RFP@acs.nyc.gov by April 12th.