



**ITN-ECA-C6-FRS-FY22
Official Response to Written Questions**

These are the official answers to written questions submitted in accordance with the conditions of the ITN		
Questions		Answers
1	On page 15 of 17, under Outcome and Performance... #2, states the Annual Target is 384 families, but the contract measure states, Families served during the term of the subcontract. Is 384 the target for 12 months or for 16 months?	The target for 12-months is 384. The target for 16-months is 480 (6 teams * 8 caseload * 5 turnovers * 2 units = 480 target). The target is for Pasco and Pinellas Counties combined.
2	In the event in-person sessions cannot be performed due to COVID-19, will the option to use telehealth service be allowed?	Yes, telehealth options can be utilized after an assessment is completed to indicate that the safety of the child(ren) can be assured as well as the engagement of the parent(s).
3	What is the expected number of service hours per week and/or per month?	There is not a minimum number of hours per week or month. Face-to-face contacts with each family are to be made at the frequency determined necessary at the FRS staffing, typically twice per week, but no less than once per week.
4	ITN: Page 11: Provision of Services: Please provide clarification for an average length of services to be provided to each family. Specifically, in reference to a. Provision of Services 1) Serve each family for approximately ninety (90) to one hundred twenty (120) days, beginning as soon as thirty (30) days prior to reunification and 2) An additional sixty (60) to ninety (90) days of intensive services will be provided to the family after the child is returned home in order to ensure all needed supports are in place and the child can remain safely in the home.	The average length of service is 90 to 120 days. This would include 30 days prior to the child(ren) returning to the home of the parent/caregiver, and an additional 60 to 90 days following the reunification to assist with stabilization of the family unit as well as linkage to continued services in the community to ensure the child(ren) can remain safely in the home.
5	Will the provider serve all reunified families in the circuit or is there a criteria that needs to be met?	The selected Provider(s) will serve families based on criteria and a referral process to be determined during the Negotiation phase of this ITN. They will not serve all reunified families.

6	Are flex funds built into the cost of the budget or is there a separate pool of money?	The budget for this ITN will not include flex funds. All client related funds are allocated to the Case Management Organizations as they are the primary assigned to the families.
7	Will provider have access to conference rooms and office equipment?	The provider will have access to conference rooms and office equipment. The provider should plan to use virtual platforms to conduct staffings and meetings. We would recommend to include the cost of virtual platforms in the proposed budget.
8	Will any equipment be provided by Eckerd or will it need to be built into the budget?	All equipment, such as computers and cell phones, will need to be included in the budget submitted by the Respondent.
9	Should the budget submitted be for 12 months or the 16 month duration?	12 months
10	Does a separate budget need to be submitted for start-up costs or can it all be included in one budget?	One budget can be submitted, including the start-up costs.
11	Since the budget is based on the approval of funding for the pilot project will the total funding be guaranteed during the term of the 16 month contract, and what is the likelihood that the term of the contract and funding amount will continue beyond December 31, 2021?	The funding for this program is included as a part of the Legislative Appropriation for the Case Management Pilot Project. This is a 2 year pilot, and Eckerd Connects is waiting for approval of this funding as well as clarification from the Department of Children and Families on whether or not the funding will be recurring. The funding is dependent on performance according to the legislative language. Performance will be evaluated each quarter to determine continued funding. Quarterly performance metrics will need to be carefully crafted.
12	Will the funding be tied to a performance-based funding model? If so, what is the timeframe and triggers that would initiate any type of financial penalties?	The funding is based on quarterly performance reviews as part of the Case Management Pilot Project as described in SB 1326. SB 1326 as well as the appropriations bill has not been approved by the Governor as of this date. According to DCF we must establish quarterly performance metrics and each quarter funding will be dependent on meeting those measures.
13	Will a match be required? If so, what percentage will be in kind, what percentage will be required as cash?	There is the possibility. Engagement of community resources is highly encouraged and will be a consideration in the evaluation process.
14	In regard to the space being provided by Eckerd Connects for this program in Largo, Trinity, and Dade City, how much space is available and how many staff will be able to be in offices at any given time?	This information is unknown at this time but will be provided once the available space is identified. The provider should be aware that space will be limited and the provider should plan for staff to telecommute.

15	On page 14 of 17, under 1) Staffing Positions, b), it states "...ensure a ratio of 1:8 (one Family Reunification Specialist to six families). Is the correct ratio 1:8 or is it 1:6 families?"	The correct ratio for Family Reunification Specialist to families is 1:8.
16	Can you please clarify the funding amount? Is \$1,448,325 the total amount for an annual (12 month) period or for the entire 16 month period beginning September 1, 2020 and ending on December 31, 2021?	The funding amount of \$1,448,325 is for the entire 16 month term of the contract. Start-up cost can be incurred during the period July 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020.
17	What should we budget for in terms of occupancy costs (rent, utilities, cleaning, maintenance, office furniture like desks, chairs, file cabinets, etc.)?	The provider will share offices with Eckerd Connects and subcontracted providers. The offices are furnished and there will not be a need to purchase office equipment (excluding computers and peripherals).
18	Will providers be allowed to bill for providing monitoring services for program quality?	Quality can be direct charged to the program as long as a reasonable, appropriate, and necessary cost allocation plan is provided and approved.
19	<p>The ITN has the following under the programmatic proposal on page 10:</p> <p>Describe how the organization will provide evidence based, in-home services to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements that will meet the requirements outlined in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).</p> <p>Does a respondent need to choose a model currently listed on the FFPSA Evidenced Based Clearinghouse?</p>	Respondents will need to articulate how they will align with FFPSA and support the requirements and goals of this policy. This may include incorporating one of the EBPs listed on the Children's Bureau Clearinghouse web site.
20	<p>How is the breakout between the counties going to look both operationally and financially?</p> <p>For example, the 384 families to serve, what will be the breakdown of Pinellas families vs. Pasco families? Is it a split down the middle, 192 each?</p> <p>Same question as to the money, etc. as to splitting out the counties.</p>	Funding is for the circuit and not split by county.

21	Are the reunification specialists/supervisors required to have child welfare certification?	No, these positions do not require a child welfare certification.
22	ITN Section XI "Negotiation Process" on pages 7 & 8, which states that the provider is "...expected to make its executives and leadership personnel available for one day's time" to complete the six modules of OpX360. Please provide clarification as to which executive and leadership personnel should participate in the exercise.	Executive Leadership at a Vice President level and higher would be sufficient to participate in the OPX360 exercise.