

**Open Enrollment Request for Applications (RFA)**  
**Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver Services**

**Questions & Answers**

**Updated: February 17, 2010**

1. **Question:** What is the Center for Health Care Services' role in the YES Waiver Program in Bexar County?

**Answer:** The Center for Health Care Services (Center) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to act as the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) in Bexar County for YES Waiver program services. As the LMHA, the Center will be responsible for certain duties (e.g. assessing Waiver participant eligibility, maintaining the Waiver participant interest list, providing Targeted Case Management, etc...) that are distinct from those responsibilities expected of Waiver service providers. The Center has also entered into discussions with DSHS to become one of potentially several YES Waiver service providers. As a Waiver provider, the Center will be responsible for providing the full array of Waiver services, either directly or through arrangement with subcontractors. Providers responding to the Center's Open Enrollment RFA are seeking to become subcontractors of the Center in its role as Waiver provider; they will have no contractual relationship with DSHS nor be considered a Waiver provider in DSHS terminology.

2. **Question:** The Center's YES Waiver Provider RFA states that services need to begin April 1, 2010. Is there a deadline for RFA submission? If so, how soon after application review will a potential provider be notified of acceptance or denial?

**Answer:** **\*\*REVISED 02/17/10\*\*** The Center requests that providers who are ready and able to provide services beginning April 1, 2010 submit their applications by close of business **February 26, 2010**. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial by the first week of March, with successful Applicants being awarded contracts shortly thereafter. The RFA will be left open for the remainder of calendar year 2010 to accommodate interested providers who are not ready or able to provide services at the present time.

3. **Question:** What are the time frames for respite care under the YES Waiver program? If it's long term respite, what educational services are expected if any?

**Answer:** Respite is limited to 30 days or 720 hours (consecutive or cumulative) per service plan year. The Waiver participant's education

requirements must be considered by the Treatment Team when identifying the need for services that would require additional coordination. If it is in the Waiver participant's best interest to remain at their current school, then the Treatment Team and Respite provider will need to coordinate with the school to work out details such as available transportation and take into consideration child and family safety, available education services, and disruption of classroom instruction. Youth in the last years of high school are afforded special considerations in remaining with his/her "home" school for high school completion. Each school district may have different policies in place for these particular situations.

4. **Question:** We currently have a residential respite provider contract with the Center. Can we place any YES waiver respite referrals using that contract?

**Answer:** No. The YES waiver is a separate program and fund source. As such, any children already placed with the organization will have to be assessed for YES Waiver eligibility and be placed via a separate YES services subcontract.

5. **Question:** What safeguards are in place to protect the respite subcontractors should the legal parents refuse to pick up their children?

**Answer:** The legislative directive of the YES Waiver program is to prevent custody relinquishment. Some of the goals of the Waiver program are to: prevent/reduce inpatient psychiatric admissions; prevent entry/recidivism into the foster care system; and reduce out-of-home placements. When selecting to participate in the YES Waiver program, the Waiver participant and the participant's Legally Authorized Representative (LAR) acknowledge that their expectation of residential services is minimal. If this situation (refusal to pick up child) occurs despite the goals and agreements, the next step is to attempt to contact the LAR as well as inform the Targeted Case Manager (who would likely also try to get in touch with the LAR) of the situation. If this doesn't result in the LAR coming to pick up their child, then steps would have to be taken to notify the appropriate authorities of the abandonment of the child.

6. **\*Rate Change\***. Upon receiving further clarification from DSHS, the Center has revised the subcontractor rates for Transitional Services and Professional Services. All other rates remain the same as published in the original RFA. The revised rate schedule (effective 02/17/10) is:

Community Living Supports (Bachelor's Degree) - per 15-minutes	\$ 6.43
Community Living Supports (Master's Degree) - per 15-minutes	\$ 9.18
Family Supports - per 15-minutes	\$ 3.34
Non-Medical Transportation - per mile*	\$ 0.55

Paraprofessional Services - per 15-minutes*	\$ 3.66
<b>Transitional Services †</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Professional Services*</b>	
Art Therapy - ceiling per 15-minutes	\$ 19.36
Music Therapy - ceiling per 15-minutes	\$ 19.36
Animal-assisted Therapy - ceiling per 15-minutes	\$ 19.36
Recreational Therapy - ceiling per 15-minutes	\$ 19.36
Licensed Nutritional Counseling - per 15-minutes	\$ 13.82
Supportive Family-based Alternatives - per day	
Supportive Family-based Alternatives - Family - per day	\$ 62.33
Supportive Family-based Alternatives - Child Placing Agency - per day	\$ 61.18
Adaptive Aids and Supports*	Cost
Minor Home Modifications*	Cost
In-Home Respite - per hour	\$ 8.95
Out-of-Home Respite - DFPS Residential Child Care - per day	
Mandated Family Rate - per day	\$ 79.76
Child Placing Agency - per day	\$ 61.18
Residential Care Facility - per day	\$ 195.97
Out-of-Home Respite - Camp - ceiling per hour	\$ 8.86
Out-of-Home Respite - Licensed Child Care Center	
Preschool (ages 3 - 5) - per hour	\$ 4.79
School Age (ages 6 and older) - per hour	\$ 4.65
Out-of-Home Respite - Licensed Child Care Center - Texas Rising Star Provider (TRSP) Certified	
Preschool (ages 3 - 5) - per hour	\$ 5.05
School Age (ages 6 and older) - per hour	\$ 4.99
Out-of-Home Respite - Licensed Child Care Home	
Preschool (ages 3 - 5) - per hour	\$ 4.41
School Age (ages 6 and older) - per hour	\$ 4.37
Out-of-Home Respite - Licensed Child Care Home - TRSP Certified	
Preschool (ages 3 - 5) - per hour	\$ 4.65
School Age (ages 6 and older) - per hour	\$ 5.06
Out-of-Home Respite - Registered Child Care Home	
Preschool (ages 3 - 5) - per hour	\$ 4.28
School Age (ages 6 and older) - per hour	\$ 3.45
Out-of-Home Respite - Registered Child Care Home - TRSP Certified	
Preschool (ages 3 - 5) - per hour	\$ 4.49
School Age (ages 6 and older) - per hour	\$ 3.67

*\*Minor Home Modifications, Adaptive Aids and Supports, Paraprofessional Services, Professional Services and Non-Medical Transportation have a collective limit of \$5,000 annually. Room and board, normal household expenses and items not related to amelioration of the Waiver participant's disability are not included.*

*† Transition assistance is limited to \$2,500 dollars per Waiver participant.*

**7. Question:** Can our agency apply to be a subcontractor of the Center and also apply to DSHS to be a Waiver provider ourselves?

**Answer:** Yes. There is no prohibition against a service provider being both a Waiver provider and a subcontractor of another Waiver provider. As a Waiver provider, the agency will be contracted by DSHS to provide the full array of YES Waiver services. As a subcontractor, the agency will be contracted by the Center (or other Waiver provider) to provide one or more services on its behalf.