
COUNTY OF KERN
MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

James A. Waterman, PhD, Director

July 20, 2011



*Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence*

**REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST TO
PROVIDE SERVICES TO TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH**

The County of Kern, through its Mental Health Department is seeking, through a competitive process, qualified agencies to provide services to Transitional Age Youth (TAY). Services will include housing at no cost to the individual, and basic case management services as defined below. The Department will enter into one or more agreements, in two different categories.

Basic services are as follows:

No cost housing to TAY individuals, between the ages of 18 and 25, for up to 90 days.

- Separate facilities for males and females.
- Up to a total of 14 beds (seven per gender).
- The facility or facilities will be located within metropolitan Bakersfield.
- Housing services will not be reimbursed through the Agreement with the County. Instead, the Department will fund staff positions dedicated to serving the TAY population.

Basic case management services will include:

- Life skills training, including, but not limited to, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry, financial management, etc.
- Vocational and educational training and assistance.
- Referral(s) to community assistance and resource programs as needed.
- Housing education (for discharge)

Other services will include:

- 24-hour supervision of facilities.
- Three meals per day, plus snacks for residents.
- Socialization activities for residents.
- Coordination of services between Department staff and residents.
- Collaboration with other related community agencies providing services to the TAY population.
- The encouragement of resident participation on an advisory committee.
- Basic outreach to at-risk TAY including but not limited to: Latino/Hispanic; African-American; and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender populations.
- Staff training to ensure TAY and at-risk groups (listed above) are comfortable and are provided with culturally competent services.
- Staff attendance at KCMH TAY staff meeting at a minimum of one (1) time per month
- Limited transportation of residents (i.e. Doctor appointments, community agencies, etc.) when necessary.

Facilities must be legally authorized to conduct business in the area in which they operate, and must provide conditional use permits and zoning permits if necessary.

Services should begin no later than July 2012.



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KCMH will retain all Letters of Interest, and select the most qualified applicants to interview from this group. If the Department receives a sufficient number of responses from qualified applicants, a Request for Proposal may be issued.

Kern County Mental Health Department has allocated approximately \$415,000.00 of Mental Health Services Act funds toward this project; however, the actual contract amount is a negotiable item.

Those submitting Letters of Interest must:

1. Demonstrate, in a clear and concise manner, the applicant's experience in providing and managing housing programs for this population.
2. If services to TAY cannot be demonstrated, then the Letter of Interest must demonstrate the program's ability to provide housing services, including successful outcomes.
3. Provide evidence and outcomes data from its programs, demonstrating the use of case management services and their relationship to improved treatment outcomes.
4. Demonstrate experience in providing skills building and support to individuals in recovery.
5. Demonstrate experience in working in collaboration, and in positive working relationships, with a variety of community agencies and resources that may assist in providing services to this population, and in achieving successful outcomes.
6. Demonstrate experience in providing a variety of wellness and recovery classes.
7. Demonstrate experience in developing a work plan that can be utilized in mental health system transformation.
8. Demonstrate experience in having developed outreach materials for the TAY population, and staff training materials.
9. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the values and goals of the Mental Health Services Act, specifically the Prevention and Early Intervention component.
10. Demonstrate knowledge and ability in monitoring outcomes.

Questions may be asked via e-mail only to Jewelle Scales, jcales@co.kern.ca.us, no later than Monday, August 15, 2011.

Letters of Interest must include all the criteria listed above, or the letter will be rejected. Qualified individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit a Letter of Interest of no more than five pages, no later than Wednesday, August 31, 2011 by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivery to:

Jewelle Scales, Contract System Supervisor
P.O. Box 1000
Bakersfield CA 93302-1000

Fax: 661.868.6661
E-mail: jcales@co.kern.ca.us
Telephone: 661.868.6776

Letters may be hand-delivered to Ms. Scales at:

3300 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 100
Bakersfield, California