

Request for Information for Mental Health Consultation Services

Response Due Date/Time: August 25, 2025 5:00 PM

Background

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Louisiana Department of Education (sometimes referred to herein as LDOE) are committed to ensuring that federally-desired provision of infant and early childhood mental health consultation services directly to children, teachers, directors, and families are made available across Louisiana, in accordance with Louisiana's CCDF 2025-2027 State Plan and as part of other LDOE Early Childhood Key Endeavors to achieve the Department's Key Performance Indicator (KPI). These services are essential for developing children's interpersonal skills and achieving school readiness and shall be tailored to fit the needs of Louisiana's children and families.

In order to maintain its status as the CCDF (Child Care and Development Fund) Lead Agency for Louisiana and maintain the CCDF funding coming into our state, every three years the LDOE is required to submit to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) a three-year State Plan for the services to be provided in and procedures to be followed by the State.

LDOE is seeking information about organizations that are able to provide early childhood mental health consultation services, including **direct services** to children, families, and early learning site educators related to the following:

- Identify needs and refer children for treatment and/or to design behavior support plans for children in need of specific supports for addressing trauma that may affect the teacher, child, and/or family
- Support caregivers' ability to promote multiple levels of children's development, improving teacher-child interactions related to behavioral and interpersonal development, thus improving teachers' overall performance on the CLASS® tool over the academic school year
- Supporting the early identification and referral of children needing additional services to succeed in school and life
- Providing mental health crisis training as a requirement in emergency preparedness and response planning
- Reducing the risk of suspension or expulsion for children in early learning settings through training and coaching that helps sites address and reduce behaviors identified as challenging, dangerous, and/or disruptive
- Providing teacher wellness training, thereby decreasing teacher stress and burnout
- To support the mental health development of young children and build the relational and interpersonal skills of children and teachers at the site level by providing training to promote best practices of classroom management, healthy relationships, and behavior management
- Supporting program leaders' abilities to support quality improvement

Early childhood mental health consultation providers should be able to provide onsite consultation services to Type III child care centers and registered Family Child Care sites statewide. Respondent should be able to follow a model of mental health services, appropriate for Louisiana that has been published or evaluated in peer-reviewed scientific journals, establishing its effectiveness.

LDOE shall identify priorities for service delivery, based on accountability and assessment data needs and determine specific sites, designated as active coaching sites, where the Respondent shall be able to provide individualized mental health consultations for children enrolled at the sites, as well as refer them for treatment and/or design interventions when exhibiting challenging behaviors or mental health concerns. Furthermore, the Respondent should be able to support children through consultation with families and through observations of classrooms for early identification and intervention options for children, teachers, and families. In addition, support the behavioral and mental health of Louisiana's youngest children and their early childhood educators by providing mental health resources and

information for providers and families, training for child care providers focused on effective teacher-child interactions, preventing challenging behaviors, and support for families focused on finding treatment for specific mental health needs.

Respondent should be highly-familiar with all of the following:

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation model(s)
- Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K CLASS tool
- Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Louisiana's updated Early Learning and Development Standards
- Louisiana's Early Childhood Care and Education Community Networks
- Louisiana's Child Care Resource & Referral agencies.

The Respondent's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation personnel should possess all of the following minimum qualifications:

- Professionally-trained team of licensed mental health professionals, including Ph.D. or Master's degrees in clinical, counseling, school, or applied developmental psychology, clinical social work, or closely related disciplines, as well as appropriate licensure or eligibility for licensure and actively working toward licensure in Louisiana
 - There should be a range of 10-20 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants, and all consultants must have a Master's or Ph.D. degree in a mental health specialty
 - There should be a range of 5-10 mental health consultation supervisors, and all supervisors must have either a doctorate in psychology (Ph.D. or Psy.D.) or have a supervisory designation on their license (i.e., LCSW-BACS, LPC-S)
- Skilled expertise in promoting the well-being of young children, including at least two years of experience in a clinical setting working with children and adults (e.g., mental health clinic, private professional practice, etc.).
- Organizational capacity to provide a program to support staff in early learning sites across the state in promoting the well-being of young children.
- Knowledge of infant, toddler, and preschool child development; child care classroom practices; and the research basis underlying the importance and impact of early childhood mental health consultation.
- Understanding of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on children and adults in Louisiana communities

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to obtain general information from bona fide, qualified respondents who are interested in providing Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation services for the State of Louisiana and its early learning sites and family child care, as detailed in the Scope.

II. Scope

This Request for Information (RFI) issued by the LDOE is for the purpose of gathering information to determine what organizations are capable of providing delivery of infant and early childhood mental health consultation services, through a research-based type of model(s), to Louisiana children, families, and educators identified by the LDOE as high-priority for service delivery

The Respondent should be able to provide services to both center- and home-based early learning sites, including registered Family Child Care sites, especially those new to Academic Approval. Additionally, the Respondent should be able to provide services to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies and

Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs), including providing information to inform and improve their work in training, coaching, and supporting early learning sites.

The Respondent should be able to deliver services to early learning sites using a model that is program-centered:

- Designed to support all staff who work with children at an early learning site, including staff who work with children at the classroom level
- Designed to assess, make recommendations, refer for treatment, and/or design interventions for young children exhibiting challenging behaviors or mental health concerns

Program-centered services shall include mental health consultants providing foundational learning opportunities for child care staff at a center or home on topics such as behavior management, age-appropriate expectations, and creating supportive environments. These services shall also include supporting child care directors in their child care practices or policies related to a mentally-healthy climate at their early learning site.

Child-centered services shall include the following services by mental health consultants, including but not limited to the following:

- Conducting child observations to determine a need for more in-depth evaluation, referring for treatment, and/or designing interventions for young children exhibiting challenging behaviors or mental health concerns
- Interviewing teachers/directors and/or families to gather information about individual children who exhibit at-risk behaviors or mental health concerns
- Administering developmental screening measures
- Making referrals to appropriate service providers

Classroom-centered services shall entail mental health consultants providing the following types of support:

- Coaching early learning sites and Family Child Care educators
- Including job-embedded technical assistance in implementing practical management skills
- Modeling interpersonal skills for children throughout the day
- Supporting educators' abilities to create and implement behavior support plans for children in their classrooms

Services for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies and Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs) shall entail collaborative planning and support sessions with CCR&R and CNLA staff. This may include training and reflective supervision focused on topics such as behavior management, age-appropriate expectations, creating supportive environments and relationships that are supportive for all children, and other topics as requested by the Louisiana Department of Education. These sessions shall be designed so that the content presented also focuses on how the agencies and networks can use the information to inform and improve their work in training, coaching, and supporting early learning sites, including Family Child Care.

Mental health crisis training shall be provided to respite care providers annually as a requirement in emergency preparedness and response planning.

The Respondent should be able to provide the state with extensive monthly, biannual, and annual reporting, in templates provided by the state.

III. RFI Requirements

This RFI is issued as a means of technical discovery and information gathering. This RFI is for planning purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation, nor should it be construed as an obligation on the part of the LDOE or any other agency of Louisiana state agency to make any purchases or enter into any agreement. The LDOE may utilize the results of this RFI in drafting a competitive solicitation through a request for proposal (RFP) for similar services/products/deliverables.

- 1. Responding respondents should include the following:
 - A. Company Bio - Name, Business Address, email address, phone number, primary contact regarding this submission, title/role of primary contact
 - B. List of Qualifications - Respondents should include references, company history, all relevant expertise, and proof of experience as such pertains to the project..
- 2. Inquiries and Final Responses to this RFI should be submitted via e-mail to brandi.crowell@la.gov.
 - A. Subject Line of all e-mails pertaining to this RFI should be: Response to Mental Health Consultation Services RFI
 - B. Final Response should be longer than 7 pages, and should be single-spaced, in 12-point font. Responses that do not meet these specifications may be rejected. Any submitted addenda shall not be counted in the page limit.

IV. Schedule of Events

RFI posted to LaPac	August 11, 2025
Inquiry Period	August 11, 2025 - August18, 2025
Deadline for Receipt of RFI Final Responses	August 25, 2025

NOTE: The LDOE reserves the right to revise this schedule. Revisions, if any, before the Response Submission Deadline will be formalized by the issuance of an addendum to the RFI which will be posted at: <https://wwwcfprd.doe.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubmain.cfm>

Written responses to all inquiries received during the inquiry period will be posted at the end of the inquiry period as an addendum to this RFI at <https://wwwcfprd.doe.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubmain.cfm>.

V. Additional Information

1. Liabilities of Agency

This RFI is only a request for information about potential products/services and no obligation on behalf of the LDOE or any other Louisiana state agency whatsoever shall arise from the RFI process.

This RFI does not commit the Louisiana Department of Education or any other Louisiana state agency to pay any cost incurred in the preparation or submission of any response to the RFI.

2. Confidentiality and RFI Ownership

All materials submitted in response to this RFI shall become the property of the LDOE and will not be returned. Selection or rejection of a response shall not affect this right.

3. Confidential Information, Trade Secrets, and Proprietary Information

Only information which is in the nature of legitimate trade secrets or non-published financial data shall be deemed proprietary or confidential. Any material within a response identified as such must be clearly marked in the response and will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, R.S. 44: 1-44 and applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety shall be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

VI. Qualification of Respondent

1. Is your organization able to provide on-site consultation services to Type III child care centers and registered Family Child Care sites statewide?
2. Does your organization have a model of infant and early childhood mental health consultation services, appropriate for Louisiana that has been published or evaluated in peer-reviewed scientific journals, establishing its effectiveness?
3. Is your organization able to provide individualized infant and early childhood mental health consultation services for children enrolled at the sites, as well as refer them for treatment and/or design interventions when exhibiting challenging behaviors or mental health concerns?
4. Is your organization able to support children through consultation with families, as well as through observations of classrooms, for early identification and intervention options for children, teachers, and families?
 - a. Can your organization support the behavioral and mental health of Louisiana's youngest children and their early childhood educators by providing mental health resources and information for providers and families, training for child care providers focused on effective teacher-child interactions, preventing challenging behaviors, and support for families focused on finding treatment for specific mental health needs?
5. If yes, provide details of how your organization can accomplish the deliverables.
6. Has your organization handled similar projects in a timely and effective manner?
7. Explain your organization's familiarity with each of the following:
 - a. Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K CLASS tool
 - b. Teaching Strategies GOLD
 - c. Louisiana's updated Early Learning and Development Standards
 - d. Louisiana's Early Childhood Care and Education Community Networks
 - e. Louisiana's Child Care Resource & Referral agencies.
8. Does your organization have a professionally-trained team of licensed mental health professionals, including a Ph.D. or Master's degree in clinical, counseling, school, or applied

developmental psychology, clinical social work, or closely related disciplines, appropriate licensure or eligibility for licensure, and actively working toward licensure in Louisiana?

9. Does your organization have Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants with a Master's or Ph.D. degree in a mental health specialty?
 - a. If yes, how many?
10. Does your organization have mental health consultation supervisors?
 - a. If yes, how many?
11. Does your organization have skilled expertise in promoting the well-being of young children, in a clinical setting working with children and adults (e.g., mental health clinic, private professional practice, etc.)?
 - a. If yes, how many years of experience?
12. Does your organization have the organizational capacity to provide a program to support staff in early learning sites across the state in promoting the well-being of young children?
13. Does your organization have knowledge of infant, toddler, and preschool child development; child care classroom practices; and the research basis underlying the importance and impact of infant and early childhood mental health consultation?
14. Does your organization have an understanding of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on children and adults in Louisiana communities?
15. Can your organization provide the state with extensive monthly, biannual, and annual reporting, in templates provided by the state?