



Request for Proposal: Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Consultant

The Mockingbird Society™ (Mockingbird) is seeking proposals for a consultant to work with providers in the King County Youth Service Providers Collaborative (KCYSPC) and young people with lived experience to assess, evaluate, make recommendations, and design a strategy to enhance the service delivery and sustainability of the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) homelessness system within King County.

Preference will be given to those with experience in conducting landscape assessments through an equity lens, with a working knowledge of the King County political and funding landscape, and who is familiar with the issue of homelessness, particularly youth homelessness, in King County.

Cultivating a diverse and inclusive team is essential to the work that we do; applicants who identify as BIPOC, and applicants with lived experience in the child welfare/foster care system, and/or with lived experience of homelessness, are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal.

About The Mockingbird Society

Launched in 2000, The Mockingbird Society is a Seattle-based, statewide non-partisan advocacy organization focused on transforming foster care and ending youth homelessness. We do this by creating, supporting, and advocating for racially equitable, healthy environments that develop youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing foster care or homelessness. Our efforts are rooted in and guided by the voices of the communities we serve and those with lived experience in the systems we seek to change. We believe that every young person, regardless of race and individual experience, should reach adulthood with an equitable opportunity to thrive.

About Mockingbird's King County Youth Voice Project

Mockingbird's King County Youth Voice Project aims to authentically elevate the voices of youth in King County who have experienced homelessness, so they may effectively respond to proposals and present new ideas for how the county addresses youth homelessness. The Project team works collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders, including the King County Youth Service Providers Collaborative, to identify opportunities to elevate youth and young adults with lived expertise in county-wide initiatives related to homelessness, including the new King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). Over the course of approximately six months, the Consultant will work with The Mockingbird Society, providers, and youth and young adults with lived expertise to assess, evaluate, make recommendations, and design a strategy to enhance the service delivery and sustainability of the Youth and Young Adult (YYA) homelessness system within King County. These recommendations and strategies will both enhance existing service array, and lay the groundwork for effective advocacy to the KCRHA and other decision makers regarding the structure and funding of King County's youth and young adult homelessness system. The Consultant will pay particular attention to engaging providers from throughout King County, including those who are not currently participating in the KCYSP Collaborative.

Scope of Work

Consultant shall be able to provide services and expertise as described below:

Desired Skills and Abilities

- Understanding of role of racism in creating and perpetuating youth and young adult homelessness
- Professional experience utilizing a racial equity framework to conduct landscape analysis, work with coalitions, and develop recommendations.
- Understanding of King County political and funding landscape.
- Ability to engage diverse viewpoints, including young people with experience of homelessness, service providers ranging from small to large, and other stakeholders.
- Commitment to geographic diversity and engaging stakeholders based outside of Seattle.

Deliverables

- Develop robust landscape and data analysis, including (Early 2021):
 - Shelter & Housing resources in King County, including detailed cost analysis outlining program costs, funding sources, and stability of those funding sources
 - An education and employment program analysis: What type of investments are needed to ensure that young people get successfully reconnected to pathways of education and employment
 - Identify cross-systems needs from feeder systems that drain into homelessness (e.g. legal services)
- Develop a set of policy and budget recommendations based on the landscape analysis as well as interviews with KCYSPC members and YYA with lived experience. (Spring 2021)
- Develop a communication plan for disseminating the recommendations to decision makers, youth & young adults, providers, and other stakeholders (Spring 2021)
- Develop a strategy for influencing policy changes based on the recommendations. (Summer 2021)

Contract Term & Compensation

Contract term will begin in early 2021 and is anticipated to last approximately six months. Compensation will be competitive and based on the consultant's skills, experience, and the mutually agreed scope of engagement.

Proposals

All proposals should include the following:

1. Letter of Interest that addresses:
 - a. Your capacity to perform the functions outlined in this RFP
 - b. Your understanding of, and commitment to, principles of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion and how those principles are incorporated into and reflected by your work;
 - c. Three examples of successes achieved in the past five years with current or former clients, or equivalent relevant work experience; and
 - d. An outline of anticipated time and compensation for your work
2. Resume/CV, highlighting capacity to perform the functions outlined in this RFP.

Please keep proposals to a max of 5 pages, not including the Resume/CV.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals should be submitted via email to Liz Trautman, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, at liz@mockingbirdsociety.org. **Submission deadline is January 11, 2021.** Any questions about proposals should be directed to Ms. Trautman at the above email address. Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis until a consultant is identified.

We plan to conduct interviews on the following dates:

- Thursday January 14, 2021, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 15, 2021, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Please indicate your availability for a follow-up conversation during those times.