



Request for Proposal: Federal Funding/Reimbursement Consultant

The Mockingbird Society™ (Mockingbird) is seeking proposals for a consultant to explore government funding models that could provide sustainable, long-term support for implementation of our MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ foster care model by agencies and organizations across the United States. Specifically, we are seeking a consultant with expertise and/or the ability to identify and create a plan to access federal funding for this population (such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, and Title IV funding). The consultant will also be able to educate our partners and potential partners on those funding opportunities as it relates to their state-based or county-based systems.

Preference will be given to those with experience in identifying federal funding avenues through Title IV-E and the new Family First Prevention Act, however, consultants with relevant, transferrable experience who have not previously worked specifically on these issues are also encouraged to respond.

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 FAMILY™

MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ is an innovative foster care model that reflects how children were raised for generations – in an extended family. Mockingbird consults throughout the United States and abroad with child placing agencies, state and local child welfare agencies, and others interested in adopting the model.

The model connects six to ten foster and/or kinship families in a micro-community, or “constellation,” around an experienced “Hub” home. Among other services, the Hub home maintains two open beds for young people, for regularly scheduled and emergency respite care. MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ has been shown to significantly increase foster placement stability and retain foster parents, two important steps in improving the outcomes for children in foster care.

In the unlicensed and licensed kinship setting – which is just beginning to be a possibility – the model holds the possibility of keeping kids in their home community, connected to family, and potentially preventing entry into the foster care system altogether.

The Consultant will help us continue to educate and partner with child welfare systems throughout the country as they learn to sustain the model through a mix of potentially available federal funding (e.g., Title IV-E, Family First, Medicaid). The expansion of MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ has the potential to transform outcomes for close to half a million young people who experience foster care each year in the United States, and millions more around the world. It can also help reduce trauma and increase supports so that young people have what they need to succeed and reach their potential.

Scope of Work

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

Desired Skills and Abilities

- Understanding of federal reimbursement models, particularly Title IV-E, Medicaid, and the Family First Prevention Act
- Understanding of child welfare systems in the United States.
- Understanding or experience in developing business models that rely on public and private partnership, or state and federal partnership.
- Proven ability to communicate effectively and simply about complex matters.
- Demonstrated consulting experience with history of increasing client capacity.
- Considered by past clients to be reliable, consistent, and on point.
- Ability to work on Pacific Standard Time.

Deliverables

- Conduct assessment for how Washington, California, and New York (including county-based agencies) would trigger federal funding/reimbursement to sustain implementation of MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™. Assessment should be sufficiently broad to enable application in other localities.
- Comprehensively document and create a road map – in a form usable to Mockingbird and its partners – that describes available federal reimbursements or other funding streams that are available to support state or local adoption of the model. E.g., identifying funding available, what activities qualify for federal reimbursement, and how to trigger the actual funding for qualifying activities.
- Develop or support the development of presentation materials for Mockingbird to utilize with current and prospective adoptees of MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™.
- Create or secure a handbook or other industry-appropriate media that contains the opportunities available to draw down funding through various federal reimbursement avenues for states and localities to have confidence in financially sustaining MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™.
- As appropriate, accompany or support meetings with Mockingbird's existing and prospective partners

Contract Term & Compensation

Contract term will be up to one-year, beginning in the Fall or Winter of 2020/2021. 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 and Resume/CV, highlighting capacity to perform the functions outlined in this RFP;
2. A statement – can be included with the Letter of Interest – around 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; and

3. Three examples of successes achieved in the past five years with current or former clients, or equivalent relevant work experience.
4. An outline of anticipated time and compensation for your work.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals should be submitted via email to Juli Forman, Mockingbird's Grants and Evaluation Manager, at juli@mockingbirdsociety.org. Submission deadline is November 25, 2020. Any questions about proposals should be directed to Ms. Forman at the above email address. Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis until a consultant is identified.