



ERIE COUNTY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) TO PROVIDE

Work Experience, Workplace Literacy, High School Equivalency (HSE)
Preparation &
English as a Second Language (ESL) Training

to

Families in Receipt of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Safety Net Assistance from the
Erie County Department of Social Services

RFP # 1607VF

March 24, 2016

**Judith Kolmetz, Coordinator of Quality Assurance
Erie County Department of Social Services**

**EDWARD A. RATH COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
95 FRANKLIN STREET
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202**

COUNTY OF ERIE, NEW YORK
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFP”) # 1607VF

TO PROVIDE: Work Experience, Workplace Literacy, HSE Preparation and English as a Second Language (ESL) Training to Families in Receipt of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Safety Net Assistance

I. INTRODUCTION

The County of Erie, New York (the “County”) is currently seeking proposals from qualified agencies (“Proposer”) interested in providing the aforementioned service. Proposers interested in providing this service are invited to respond to this request.

It is the County's intent to select the Proposer(s) that provides the best solution for the County's needs.

The County reserves the right to amend this RFP, reject any or all of the proposals, or any part thereof, submitted in response to this RFP, and reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities, if such action is deemed to be in the best interest of the County. The County reserves the right to request additional information from any Proposer, and to award negotiated contracts to one or more Proposers.

This RFP is not intended and shall not be construed to commit the County to pay any costs incurred in connection with any proposal or to procure or contract with any firm.

The County will only contract with firms that do not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, citizenship status or any other status protected by New York State and Federal laws.

II. FUNDING AND BUDGET

A total of **\$236,600** is potentially available for the requested services for 2017.

The award is subject to annual contract renewal, contingent upon the Proposer’s successful performance of project objectives and the continued need and desire for such services as articulated by Erie County DSS. Initial award and renewals are subject to inclusion of funding in the County Executive Recommended Budget and as adopted by the Erie County Legislature, as well as, contingent upon availability of New York State funds appropriated for this purpose. All contract appropriations are subject to Legislative approval.

Future awards will be dependent on available funds and subject to the demonstrated fiscal and programmatic stability of the applicant agency, as well as their meeting all of the ECDSS requirements. More than one provider may be selected for funding for 2017.

Note: By Executive Order from the NYS Governor and the Erie County Executive, administrative costs may not exceed 15% of the requested funds. Lower Administrative costs will be favored when rating proposals. Erie County seeks to move in the direction initiated by New York State to keep administrative costs at this level or below.

III. PROPOSAL TIMEFRAMES

The following schedule is for informational purpose only. The County reserves the right to amend this schedule at any time.

Issue RFP:	March 24, 2016	
Bidder’s Conference:	April 8, 2016	from 10 am to 11 am 95 Franklin Street, room 805 Buffalo, NY 14202

Proposals Due: April 25, 2016
Selection Made: May, 2016
Contract Signed: Following all necessary County approvals.

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Each proposal shall be prepared simply and economically avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials beyond what is sufficient to provide a complete, accurate and reliable presentation. Specific instructions for the proposal format and content are outlined in Appendix A.
2. One (1) original and one PDF copy of the Technical Proposal and Organizational Support and Experience sections shall be submitted. Proposals MUST be signed using the attached Schedule A: Proposer Certification. Unsigned proposals will be rejected.
3. All Proposers submitting proposals must include one (1) original and one PDF copy of the Budget/Cost Proposal packet, separate from the Technical Proposal and Organizational Support and Experience sections. All Appendix B budget attachments must be completed and included in the cost proposal.
4. Submission of the proposals shall be directed to:

Judith Kolmetz, Coordinator of Quality Assurance
Erie County Department of Social Services
95 Franklin Street, Room 865
Buffalo, NY 14202
Judith.Kolmetz@erie.gov

All proposals must be delivered to the above office on or before April 25, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Proposals received after the above date and time will not be considered. The County is under no obligation to return proposals.

5. Requests for clarification of this RFP must be written and submitted to Judith Kolmetz at the above address, or at Judith.Kolmetz@erie.gov no later than 4:00 pm on April 5, 2016. A list of questions and answers will be posted on the County website by April 11, 2016. No communications of any kind will be binding against the county, except for the formal written responses to any request for clarification.
6. Proposers may be required to give an oral presentation to the County to clarify or elaborate on the written proposal. Those Proposers will be notified to arrange specific times.
7. No proposal will be accepted from nor any agreement awarded to any Proposer that is in arrears upon any debt or in default of any obligation owed to the County. Additionally, no agreement will be awarded to any Proposer that has failed to satisfactorily perform pursuant to any prior agreement with the County.
8. Information on the Standard Insurance Provisions required of agencies selected as a contractor of this service is included in this RFP. This document is for informational purposes only, and is not to be submitted by the Proposer for the purposes of this RFP.
9. All potential contract-holders with Erie County shall agree to comply with Executive Order 13 (2014), and the Agency shall make such records available, upon request, to the County's Division of Equal Employment Opportunity for review. All contract holders will be required to sign the Erie County Equal Pay Certification (attached). The County shall have the right, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, to inspect the books and records of the Agency, its offices and facilities, for the purpose of verifying information supplied in the Erie County Equal Pay Certification and for any other purpose reasonably related to confirming the Agency's compliance with Erie County Executive Order No. 13 (2014). Violation of the provisions of Executive Order 13 (2014), which is attached hereto and made a part hereto and made a part hereof, can constitute grounds for the

immediate termination of a contract, and may constitute grounds for determining that a bidder is not qualified to participate in future county contracts.

10. Certified Minority Business Enterprise/ Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) proposers should include the Erie County MBE/WBE Certification letter with their proposal.
11. Proposers who operate a Veteran-Owned Business should include the letter indicating their company is 51% or more veteran-owned with their proposal.
12. All proposers must disclose the name, title, and department of any employee or officer who was an employee or officer of Erie County within the 12 months immediately prior to the proposal.
13. All proposers must provide a list of at least 3 references from community partners and collaborators or an individual with knowledge of and experience with the specific services being offered.
14. All proposers must provide a list of all prime contractors and subcontractors that their agency does business with.

V. SCOPE OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED

A. Introduction:

The goal of the Erie County Department of Social Services (ECDSS) is to provide the citizens of Erie County with assistance needed to achieve self-sufficiency. To that end, ECDSS is committed to providing Employment and Training opportunities to its customers in receipt of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and Safety Net Family Assistance (SNF). ECDSS is required under TANF regulations to maintain a TANF All Families participation rate of 50%. All individuals determined to be employable are required to be engaged in a combination of work activities up to 40 hours per week.

B. Program Information:

Target Population:

The target population for this RFP is adults with minor children in receipt of TANF or SNF assistance. As such, this clientele has special needs particular to parents with children. Daycare and school issues, medical appointments, etc. need to be considered when dealing with this population. Services are to be provided to a minimum of 300 recipients per year.

Project Description:

The successful bidder, acting on behalf of the Erie County Department of Social Services, must provide the following services to those individuals referred to them by ECDSS:

These services include, but are not limited to, a minimum of 25-35 hours per week for each participant in:

1. **Assessment/ Career Exploration** - working with clients to identify their strengths and interests, work history, skills, aptitudes, and support needs, for the purpose of matching participants to suitable work experiences and exploring possible future careers.
2. **Workplace Literacy** - giving clients fundamental job skills they can use while in Work Experience and in future employment. This includes workplace literacy programs, so that participants understand language and terms specific to employment issues.
3. **Work Experience**- giving clients meaningful work to perform that develops positive work habits and gives them real experience "on the job." The successful proposer will enter into worksite agreements with agencies that have a proven, verifiable record of providing, safe,

supervised, structured work. The worksite requirement for each participant is a minimum of 25 hours per week.

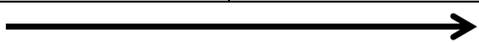
4. **Educational Opportunities** – High School Equivalency program on-site that will assist eligible clients in completing their high school diploma requirements. English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes must also be offered or arranged when appropriate and necessary for a participant to move forward with their goals of self-sufficiency.
5. **Job Placement** - Working with employers to assist successful program participants in obtaining meaningful employment in the community.

C. Projected Outcomes

Performance Measures that will be used to capture information related to program success include:

1. **Grade Level Gains**- participants will advance their education toward the goal of a GED by showing gains in their maximum grade level completed.
2. **ESL Proficiency Gains**- participants whose native language is other than English will demonstrate improved proficiency in the English language, including but not limited to workplace literacy terms that will assist them in obtaining and maintaining employment.
3. **HSE Attainment**- participants who are on track to complete their HSE will receive the supportive services and classes needed to do so.
4. **Work Experience**- all participants will engage in meaningful, appropriate work experiences that will build their skill base, self- confidence, and build habits of responsibility and self-sufficiency.

ECDSS is committed to establishing a system of Outcomes Based Contracting. The following Benchmark Matrix explains the methodology of reimbursement according to achievement of various outcomes:

PHASE #	PHASE DESCRIPTION	COST PER PARTICIPANT	MAXIMUM # PARTICIPANTS	MAXIMUM PHASE ALLOCATION
1	Referral	\$100	300	\$30,000
2	Assessment/Pre-Test/ Orientation	\$150	240	\$36,000
3	Work Experience/HSE/Workplace Literacy/ ESL- After 30 Days	\$250	184	\$46,000
4	Work Experience/HSE/Workplace Literacy/ ESL- After 60 Days	\$300	154	\$46,200
5	Work Experience/HSE/Workplace Literacy/ ESL- After 90 Days	\$350	124	\$43,400
6	Grade Level Gains/ HSE Certificate OR ESL/NRS Level 6 Completion	\$350	100	\$35,000
TOTAL ALLOCATION for 2017 				\$236,600

It is understood that although a number of factors may relate to a defined outcome, ECDSS is requiring that indicators for identified goals be included in the design of the service.

D. Agency Experience and Qualifications

The successful proposer must be able to meet and explain how they will meet the following requirements:

1. **Accessibility:** The successful proposer must be available and accessible to the clients they serve, with hours of operation that must include regular business hours of Monday-Friday, 9 am – 5 pm, with a location convenient to individuals utilizing public transportation. They must also be accessible to the staff of ECDSS via telephone, FAX, and email, so that information can be easily exchanged.
2. **Qualified, Trained Staff:** The successful proposer will have trained staff members that possess the ability to train TANF and SNF clients in job readiness skills, and to supervise them in Work Experience Settings. The HSE and ESL components of the program must be staffed by qualified education professionals with the necessary credentials. The successful proposer will have a plan in place for monitoring the quality of the service provided by staff, and for making improvements in quality when necessary.
3. **Facilities, tools, equipment, and resources** to carry out the tasks required. This includes classrooms, meeting rooms, computer labs, textbooks, on-the-job training areas, and any other resource needed to implement the programs required by this RFP.
4. **Network of Community Resources:** The successful proposer must have a working relationship with an array of local employers that have agreed to offer qualified TANF and Safety Net Family Assistance recipients opportunities for employment.
5. **Accountability:** The successful proposer must keep accurate records of client attendance and participation. Each separate worksite is required to submit monthly reports of client attendance to the Erie County Department of Social Services Comprehensive Employment Division, 290 Main Street, 10th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202 **no later than the 5th of the following month**, according to the needs and requirements of ECDSS. In addition to the individual client attendance reports, a monthly update/summary of **all** client involvement should be sent to the same address above. The successful proposer **must adhere to a 70% participation rate for all enrollees.**
6. **Supervision:** The successful proposer must provide adequate supervision to all ECDSS recipients participating in their programs.
7. **Reliability:** The successful proposer must be able to assure ECDSS that the services will be delivered as agreed, in a professional and prompt manner.
8. **Cultural Sensitivity:** The successful proposer must have a plan in place for training of staff in the area of cultural sensitivity. Customers of ECDSS are from all over the world, with different cultures, languages, religions, and values. **The successful proposer must also have a plan in place for communicating with clients who do not speak English.**
9. **Confidentiality:** The successful proposer must be able to assure ECDSS that any and all information obtained while providing services will be used only to assist customers in meeting their needs, and for no other purpose. This information can and must be shared with the Erie County Department of Social Services, however, as the successful proposer will be acting *on behalf of* ECDSS. In any other context, the information must remain strictly confidential, in accordance with current state, federal, and local laws and regulations.

10. **Experience:** The successful proposer must demonstrate experience in providing this or similar services, currently or in the past. Names and contact information for representatives of other organizations for whom this type of service has been provided must be included.
11. **Financial Accountability and Transparency:** The successful proposer must agree to bill ECDSS **no less than monthly**, with an invoice that clearly identifies the services rendered, the names of the clients involved, and the cost per unit of service. Please note that payments are based on services rendered, as well as the performance of participants.

VI. STATEMENT OF RIGHTS

UNDERSTANDINGS

Please take notice, by submission of a proposal in response to this request for proposals, the Proposer agrees to and understands:

- that any proposal, attachments, additional information, etc. submitted pursuant to this Request for Proposals constitute merely a suggestion to negotiate with the County and is not a bid under Section 103 of the New York State General Municipal Law;
- submission of a proposal, attachments, and additional information shall not entitle the Proposer to enter into an agreement with the County for the required services;
- by submitting a proposal, the Proposer agrees and understands that the County is not obligated to respond to the proposal, nor is it legally bound in any manner whatsoever by submission of same;
- that any and all counter-proposals, negotiations or any communications received by a proposing entity, its officers, employees or agents from the County, its elected officials, officers, employees or agents, shall not be binding against the County, its elected officials, officers, employees or agents unless and until a formal written agreement for the services sought by this RFP is duly executed by both parties and approved by the Erie County Legislature and the Office of the Erie County Attorney.

In addition to the foregoing, by submitting a proposal, the Proposer also understands and agrees that the County reserves the right, and may at its sole discretion exercise, the following rights and options with respect to this Request for Proposals:

- To reject any or all proposals;
- To issue amendments to this RFP;
- To issue additional solicitations for proposals
- To waive any irregularities or informalities in proposals received after notification to Proposers affected;
- To select any proposal as the basis for negotiations of a contract, and to negotiate with one or more of the Proposers for amendments or other modifications to their proposals;
- To conduct investigations with respect to the qualifications of each Proposer;
- To exercise its discretion and apply its judgment with respect to any aspect of this RFP, the evaluation of proposals, and the negotiations and award of any contract;
- To enter into an agreement for only portions (or not to enter into an agreement for any) of the services contemplated by the proposals with one or more of the Proposers;
- To select the proposal that best satisfies the interests of the County and not necessarily on the basis of price or any other single factor;

- To interview the Proposer(s);
- To request or obtain additional information the County deems necessary to determine the ability of the Proposer;
- To modify dates;
- All proposals prepared in response to this RFP are at the sole expense of the Proposer, and with the express understanding that there will be no claim, whatsoever, for reimbursement from the County for the expenses of preparation. The County assumes no responsibility or liability of any kind for costs incurred in the preparation or submission of any proposal;
- While this is a RFP and not a bid, the County reserves the right to apply the case law under General Municipal Law § 103 regarding bidder responsibility in determining whether a Proposer is a responsible vendor for the purpose of this RFP process;
- The County is not responsible for any internal or external delivery delays which may cause any proposal to arrive beyond the stated deadline. To be considered, proposals MUST arrive at the place specified herein and be time stamped prior to the deadline

EVALUATION

The following criteria, not necessarily listed in order of importance, will be used to review the proposals. The County reserves the right to weigh its evaluation criteria in any manner it deems appropriate:

- The Proposer’s demonstrated capability to provide the services.
- Evaluation of the professional qualifications, personal background and resume(s) of individuals involved in providing services.
- The Proposer’s experience in performing the proposed services.
- The Proposer’s financial ability to provide the services.
- Evaluation of the Proposer’s fee submission. It should be noted that while price is not the only consideration, it is an important one.
- A determination that the Proposer has submitted a complete and responsive proposal as required by this RFP.
- An evaluation of the Proposer’s projected approach and plans to meet the requirements of this RFP.
- The Proposer’s presentation at and the overall results of any interview conducted with the Proposer.
- Proposers MUST sign the Proposal Certification attached hereto as Schedule “A”. Unsigned proposals will be rejected.
- Proposers may be required to give an oral presentation to the County to clarify or elaborate on the written proposal.
- No proposal will be accepted from nor any agreement awarded to any Proposer that is in arrears upon any debt or in default of any obligation owed to the County. Additionally, no agreement will be awarded to any Proposer that has failed to satisfactorily perform pursuant to any prior agreement with the County.

CONTRACT

After selection of the successful Proposer, a formal written contract will be prepared by the County and will not be binding until signed by both parties and, if necessary, approved by the Erie County Legislature, the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority and the Office of the County Attorney. **NO RIGHTS SHALL ACCRUE TO ANY PROPOSER BY THE FACT THAT A PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE COUNTY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND/OR IF NECESSARY THE ERIE COUNTY FISCAL STABILITY AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL. THE APPROVAL OF SAID LEGISLATURE AND/OR AUTHORITY MAY BE NECESSARY BEFORE A VALID AND BINDING CONTRACT MAY BE EXECUTED BY THE COUNTY.**

The award period will be for a one-year term, with the option to renew for four additional one-year terms, subject to annual contract renewal, contingent upon the Proposer's successful implementation of the program, data collection, monitoring, goal attainment, and compliance with required reporting. Initial award and renewals are subject to inclusion of funding in the County Executive Recommended Budget and as adopted by the Erie County Legislature, as well as, contingent upon availability of New York State funds appropriated for this purpose.

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

The Proposer accepts and agrees that language in substantially the following form will be included in the contract between the Proposer and the County:

“In addition to, and not in limitation of the insurance requirements contained herein the Proposer agrees:

(a) that except for the amount, if any, of damage contributed to, caused by or resulting from the negligence of the County, the Proposer shall indemnify and hold harmless the County, its officers, employees and agents from and against any and all liability, damage, claims, demands, costs, judgments, fees, attorneys' fees or loss arising directly or indirectly out of the acts or omissions hereunder by the Proposer or third parties under the direction or control of the Proposer; and

(b) to provide defense for and defend, at its sole expense, any and all claims, demands or causes of action directly or indirectly arising out of this Agreement and to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto.

Upon execution of any contract between the Proposer and the County, the Proposer will be required to provide proof of the applicable insurance coverage.

Insurance coverage in amount and form shall not be deemed acceptable until approved by the County Attorney.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Proposer accepts and agrees that language in substantially the following form will be included in the contract between the Proposer and the County:

All deliverables created under this Agreement by the Proposer are to be considered “works made for hire”. If any of the deliverables do not qualify as “works made for hire”, the Proposer hereby assigns to the County all right, title and interest (including ownership of copyright) in such deliverables and such assignment allows the County to obtain in its name copyrights, registrations and similar protections which may be available. The Proposer agrees to assist the County, if required, in perfecting these rights. The Proposer shall provide the County with at least one copy of each deliverable.

The Proposer agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County for all damages, liabilities, losses and expenses arising out of any claim that a deliverable infringes upon an intellectual property right of a third party. If such a claim is made, or appears likely to be made, the Proposer agrees to enable the County's continued use of the deliverable, or to modify or replace it. If the County determines that none of these alternatives is reasonably available, the deliverable will be returned.

All records compiled by the Proposer in completing the work described in this Agreement, including but not limited to written reports, source codes, studies, drawings, blueprints, negatives of photographs, computer printouts, graphs, charts, plans, specifications and all other similar recorded data, shall become and remain the property of the County. The Proposer may retain copies of such records for its own use.]

NOTE: All contracts executed by the Erie County Department of Social Services will be posted electronically on the Department's website.

NON-COLLUSION

The Proposer, by signing the proposal, does hereby warrant and represent that any ensuing agreement has not been solicited, secured or prepared directly or indirectly, in a manner contrary to the laws of the State of New York and the County of Erie, and that said laws have not been violated and shall not be violated as they relate to the procurement or the performance of the agreement by any conduct, including the paying or the giving of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or consideration of any kind, directly or indirectly, to any County employee, officer or official.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All Proposers must disclose with their proposals the name of any officer, director or agent who is also an employee of the County. Further, all Proposers must disclose the name of any County employee who owns, directly or indirectly, an interest of ten percent (10%) or more in the firm or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates.

There shall be no conflicts in existence during the term of any contract with the County. The existence of a conflict shall be grounds for termination of a contract.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

By submitting a proposal, the Proposer represents and warrants that it is familiar with all federal, state and local laws and regulations and will conform to said laws and regulations. The preparation of proposals, selection of Proposers and the award of contracts are subject to provisions of all Federal, State and County laws, rules and regulations.

CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL

The New York State Freedom of Information Law as set forth in Public Officers Law, Article 6, Sections 84 et seq., mandates public access to government records. However, proposals submitted in response to this RFP may contain technical, financial background or other data, public disclosure of which could cause substantial injury to the Proposer's competitive position or constitute a trade secret. Proposers who have a good faith belief that information submitted in their proposals is protected from disclosure under the New York Freedom of Information Law shall:

- a) insert the following notice in the front of its proposal:

“NOTICE

The data on pages ___ of this proposal identified by an asterisk (*) contains technical or financial information constituting trade secrets or information the disclosure of which would result in substantial injury to the Proposer’s competitive position.

The Proposer requests that such information be used only for the evaluation of the proposal, but understands that any disclosure will be limited to the extent that the County considers proper under the law. If the County enters into an agreement with this Proposer, the County shall have the right to use or disclose such information as provided in the agreement, unless otherwise obligated by law.”

and

- b) clearly identify the pages of the proposals containing such information by typing in bold face on the top of each page " *** THE PROPOSER BELIEVES THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE STATE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW.**"

The County assumes no liability for disclosure of information so identified, provided that the County has made a good faith legal determination that the information is not protected from disclosure under applicable law or where disclosure is required to comply with an order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The contents of the proposal which is accepted by the County, except portions "Protected from Disclosure", may become part of any agreement resulting from this RFP.

EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF PROPOSALS

All proposals must state the period for which the proposal shall remain in effect (i.e. how much time does the County have to accept or reject the proposal under the terms proposed). Such period shall not be less than one hundred eighty (180) days from the proposal date.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

In order for Proposers to be considered for an award, the terms, conditions and instructions contained in this RFP and attachments must be met. Any proposals which do not meet these criteria may be considered non-responsive. Your proposal should include 2 sections (A & B) and should be submitted in separate envelopes.

A: TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATION

Technical Proposal: This section shall describe the approach and plans for accomplishing the work outlined in the Scope of The Service section. All proposals must be **limited to fifteen pages**.

1. RFP Coversheet
2. Clearly define how the mission of your agency encourages the delivery of the proposed services.
3. Describe your agency's organizational capacity to maintain a successful operation that is consistent with the outcomes of this RFP.
4. Clearly identify the staff associated with the project: job titles, number of staff in each title, education, training, and experience requirements for each position title. Specify their role in providing the services and supervision protocols.
5. Describe your agency's ability to implement and staff the program in a timely manner, including provision of services, effective January 1, 2017.
6. Provide an overview of the service delivery plan, including but not limited to:
 - target population and geographic areas to be served
 - specialized services and resources
 - plans to meet the needs outlined in the RFP
 - days and hours of service availability
 - time frames for intake and engagement
 - termination protocols
 - capacity for service
 - accommodation of those with special needs, including language translation and cultural differences
 - location(s) of service
7. Describe your proposed approach to program evaluation and reporting to ECDSS. Clearly define how this project will meet the performance targets associated with this RFP, including follow-up, as well as how you will monitor compliance, outcome based performance and implement a plan for quality improvement. Specify how poor performance will be addressed when requested by ECDSS or when the outcomes of the program fail to be achieved.
8. Describe how your agency monitors and verifies the accuracy and sufficiency of its billing system to assure all claims made are proper and that adjustment is sought when issues are identified.
9. Provide any other information that you feel would distinguish your organization's approach to the delivery of the requested services, including any prior experiences and successes.

10. Include the signed **Schedule A Proposer Certification**.
11. Include the signed **Erie County Equal Pay Certification** form.

Organizational Support and Experience: This section shall contain all pertinent information relating to your organization, personnel and experience that would substantiate your qualifications and capabilities to perform the services required by the scope of the RFP.

1. A brief history and description of your organization. Provide a copy of your organization's most recent organizational chart.
2. Give the name and title of person(s) authorized to bind the Proposer, e-mail address, the main office address, and the telephone number (including area code).
3. Provide resumes for all program staff, including administrators, program supervisors, direct service staff and aides.
4. If applicable, period of time your organization has been providing services/ programs in the County community.
5. Provide references or letters of testimony from other agencies for whom you have provided this or a similar service, with contact information.
6. Provide any additional information that would distinguish your organization in its service to Erie County.

B: BUDGET/COST PROPOSAL

This section shall contain all information related to the project costs. All Proposers must use forms provided and **submit in a separate envelope**.

1. All Budget forms in this RFP.
 - a. The amount of funding requested from ECDSS for this proposed service.
 - b. The proposed number of service units. For this service, the billable unit of service is defined as one individual client that goes through the program.
 - c. A clear distinction of administrative costs from direct service program costs. Include a description of in-kind goods or services dedicated to the goals and deliverables.¹
2. A single copy of the most current information, as noted below. *Note: these materials cannot be returned.*
 - Most recent Audit report prepared by an independent CPA, including agency management letter
 - Listing of Officers and Board of Directors
 - Evidence of current IRS determination as a 501(c)(3) organization, if applicable

¹ Administrative overhead may not exceed 15% of the total annual budget. Agencies that offer administrative overhead at a lower rate will have their proposals scored accordingly based on the criteria used above for awarding these contracts.

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES RFP COVERSHEET

RFP#1607VF : Work Experience, Vocational Training, GED Preparation and English as a Second Language (ESL) Training to Families in Receipt of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Safety Net Assistance

Name of Organization:	
Organizational Mailing Address:	
Executive Director:	
Executive Director's Phone Number:	
Executive Director's Email:	
Agency Contact Person:	
Contact Person's Phone Number:	
Contact Person's Email:	
Agency Website:	
Federal Employer ID# (FEIN):	
Is agency debarred/suspended from receiving funds/doing business with the Federal government?	
Please provide DUNS #, if available:	
Is agency a non-profit or unit of government?	
If non-profit, please provide 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entity ID # and date established as such:	
If non-profit, please provide roster of agency's volunteer board:	Please provide attachment
Copy of agency's most recent annual audit:	Please provide attachment
Is agency a Certified Minority Business Enterprise/ Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE)?	Please provide the Erie County MBE/WBE Certification letter as attachment
Is agency a Veteran-Owned Business?	Please provide the letter indicating their company is 51% or more veteran-owned as attachment
Name, title, and department of any employee or officer who was an employee or officer of Erie County within the 12 months immediately prior to the proposal:	
List of all prime and subcontractors that your agency does business with:	Please provide attachment if more space needed
Unit of Service for this proposal (eg: hour):	
Cost per unit of service for this proposal:	

SCHEDULE "A"

PROPOSER CERTIFICATION

The undersigned agrees and understands that this proposal and all attachments, additional information, etc. submitted herewith constitute merely an offer to negotiate with the County of Erie (the "County") and is NOT A BID. Submission of this proposal, attachments, and additional information shall not obligate or entitle the proposing entity to enter into a service agreement with the County for the required services. The undersigned agrees and understands that the County is not obligated to respond to this proposal nor is it legally bound in any manner whatsoever by the submission of same. Further, the undersigned agrees and understands that any and all proposals and negotiations shall not be binding or valid against the County, its directors, officers, employees or agents unless an agreement is signed by a duly authorized County officer and, if necessary, approved by the Erie County Legislature, the Office of the County Attorney and/or the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority.

It is understood and agreed that the County reserves the right to reject consideration of any and all proposals including, but not limited to, proposals which are conditional or incomplete. It is further understood and agreed that the County reserves all rights specified in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

It is understood and agreed that the undersigned, prior to entering into an agreement with Erie County, will properly execute the County of Erie Standard Insurance Certificate (example on pp. [] of this RFP), and that it will be complete and acceptable to Erie County.

It is represented and warranted by those submitting this proposal that except as disclosed in the proposal, no officer or employee of the County is directly or indirectly a party to or in any other manner interested in this proposal or any subsequent service agreement that may be entered into.

Proposer Agency Name

By: _____
Name and Title

(For Informational Purposes Only)

Erie County Equal Pay Certification

In order to comply with Executive Order 13 dated November 6, 2014, we hereby certify that we are in compliance with federal law, including the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Federal Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965 and New York State Labor Law Section 194 (together “ Equal Pay Law”). The average compensation for female employees is not consistently below the average compensation for male employees, taking into account mitigating factors. We understand that this certification is a material component of this contract. Violation of the provisions of Executive Order 13, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, can constitute grounds for the immediate termination of this contract and may constitute grounds for determining that a bidder is not qualified to participate in future county contracts.

We have evaluated wages and benefits to ensure compliance with the Federal Equal Pay Law.

Signature

Verification

STATE OF _____)
COUNTY OF _____) SS:

A)
_____, being duly sworn, states he or she is the owner of (or a partner in) _____, and is making the foregoing Certification and that the statements and representations made in the Certification are true to his or her own knowledge.

B)
_____, being duly sworn, states that he or she is the Name of Corporate Officer _____ of _____, Title of Corporate Officer Name of Corporation the enterprise making the foregoing Certification, that he or she has read the Certification and knows its contents, that the statements and representations made in the Certification are true to his or her own knowledge, and that the Certification is made at the direction of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Sworn to before me this _____
Day of _____, 20__

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COUNTY OF ERIE STANDARD INSURANCE CERTIFICATE

- I. Insurance shall be procured and certificates delivered before commencement of work or delivery or merchandise or equipment.
- II. **CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE**
 - A. Shall be made to the "County of Erie, 95 Franklin St, Buffalo NY, 14202."
 - B. Coverage must comply with all specifications of the contract.
 - C. Must be executed by an insurance company, agency or broker, which is licensed by the Insurance Department of the State of New York. If executed by a broker, notarized copy of authorization to bind or certify coverage must be attached.
- III. Forward the completed certificate to: County of Erie, (Department or Division) responsible for entering into the agreement for construction, purchase, lease or service.
- IV. Minimum coverage with limits are as follows:

Vendor Classification	A Construction and Maintenance	B Purchase or Lease of Merchandise or Equipment	C Professional Services	D Property Leased To Others Or Use Of Facilities Or Grounds	E Concession-Aires Services	F Livery Services	G All Purposes Public Entity Contracts
Commercial Gen. Liab.	\$1,000,000 per occ.	\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 CSL
General Aggregate	\$2,000,000						
Products Comp. Ops.	\$2,000,000						
Blanket Broad Form	Not Excluded or Limited		INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE
Contractual Liability							
Broad Form P.D.							
X.C.U.							
Liquor Law				INCLUDE			
Auto Liab.	\$1,000,000 CSL		\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000 CSL	\$1,000,000 CSL
Owned	INCLUDE		INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE
Hired	INCLUDE		INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE
Non-Owned	INCLUDE		INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE
Excess/Umbrella Liab.	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000
Worker's Compensation & Employer's Liability	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY
Disability Benefits	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY	STATUTORY
Professional Liability			\$5,000,000				
Erie County To Be Named Add'l Insd.	Gen. Liab., Auto Liab., & Excess	Broad Form Vendors May Be Required	Gen. Liab., Auto Liab., & Excess	Gen. Liab., Auto Liab., & Excess	Gen. Liab., Auto Liab., & Excess	Gen. Liab., Auto Liab., & Excess	Gen. Liab., Auto Liab., & Excess

- V. Construction contracts require excess Umbrella Liability limits of \$5,000,000.
- VI. Coverage must be provided on a primary-non contributory bases.
- VII. Designated Construction Project General Aggregate Limit Per Location Endorsement CG 25 03 is Required.
- VIII. In the event the concessionaire is required to have a N.Y.S. license to dispense alcoholic beverages an endorsement for liquor liability is required.
- IX. Transportation of people in buses, vans or station wagons requires \$5,000,000 excess liability.
- X. Workers Compensation: State Workers' Compensation Board form DB-155 is required for proof of compliance with the New York State Disability Benefits Law.
Locations of operation shall be "All locations in Erie County, New York."

For those entities who request permits, licenses, or contracts are required to provide either an Affidavit of Exemption (BP-1) or Certificate of Insurance 105.2, Certificate of Self Insurance SI-12, DB-155, or a Certificate of Attestation CE-200 to evidence exemption of coverage by statute. It will be necessary to require alternate coverage and limits which will be defined in the bid specifications, contract, lease or agreement. The alternative specifications should be evidenced on the certificate in lieu of the standards printed above.
- XI. The "ACORD" form certificate may be used in place of the County of Erie Standard Insurance Certificate, provided that all of the above referenced requirements are incorporated into the "ACORD" form certificate.