

**Mifflin Juniata Human Services Department**  
**Request for Proposal Instructions**  
**Human Services Development Fund (HSDF)**  
**Fiscal Year 2025-26**

## **SECTION ONE- Introduction and Instructions**

### **1.1 Purpose of Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The County of Mifflin and the County of Juniata (hereinafter “County”), Pennsylvania is soliciting competitive proposals from organizations that are interested in and capable of providing eligible services that fall under the scope of the Human Services Development Fund, as set forth by the Office of Social Programs, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and administered by the Human Services Department on behalf of the County of Mifflin or the County of Juniata.

Eligible services under the HSDF fall into one of seven categories. These categories include: Adult Services (for low income adults), Aging, Children and Youth, Drug and Alcohol, Homeless Assistance, Community Based Mental Health and Intellectual Development programs. The specific eligible services under each category are listed, in full, in section 4.3 of this RFP. Additional eligible services falling under the Human Services Development Fund include Generic Services, Service Coordination and Specialized Services. Generic Services are services designed to meet the needs of two or more client populations from the categorical areas described above. Service Coordination consists of planning and management activities designed to improve the effectiveness of county human services. Specialized Services are defined as new services or a combination of services designed to meet the unique needs of a client population that are unmet by the current categorical programs. Specialized Services must be approved by the County of Mifflin or the County of Juniata and the Department of Human Services Office of Social Programs.

### **1.2 Submission of Proposal**

**Proposals shall be submitted** to: [mstewart@mifflincountypa.gov](mailto:mstewart@mifflincountypa.gov) via email OR Mifflin Juniata Human Services, 20 N. Wayne St. Lewistown, PA 17044. Paper proposals must be enclosed in a sealed envelope with the words “Proposal - Human Services-HSDF” and the County name clearly printed on the outside. Emailed proposals should have the preceding words and county name in the subject line.

### **1.3 Due/Opening Dates**

The cutoff time for receipt of Proposals is 4:00pm , local prevailing time, **Monday, April 14, 2025. Proposals received after the deadline noted will not be considered.**

### **1.4 Preparation of Proposals**

In order for a proposal to be considered, proposals must be typewritten and applicants must follow all instructions contained in this RFP in the preparation of their proposal. The County is not responsible and shall not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any proposal.

### **1.5 Amendments to Proposals**

Amendments to or withdrawals of proposals will only be allowed, if acceptable requests are received prior to the deadline set for receipt of proposals. No amendments or withdrawals will be accepted after the deadline unless they are in response to the County’s request.

## **1.6 Required Review**

Defects: Applicants shall carefully review this RFP for defects and questionable or objectionable matter. Comments concerning such matter must be made in writing and directed to Melissa Stewart, Mifflin Juniata Human Services, 20 N. Wayne St. Lewistown, PA 17044; via email at [mstewart@mifflincountypa.gov](mailto:mstewart@mifflincountypa.gov) at least 10 business days prior to the due date of the proposal. This will allow for the issuance of any necessary amendments.

General: All questions must be directed to Melissa Stewart, Human Services Director. These questions may be made via telephone to 717-242-5452. *If an amendment is issued, it will be provided to all parties who were provided a copy of the Request for Proposal, by the County's Human Service Department.*

## **1.7 Disclosure of Proposal Contents**

All proposals and other material submitted become the property of the County and may be returned only at the County's option. Under Pennsylvania's "Right to Know" laws (65 P.L. 390 § 66.1, 66.3, 21 June 1957) public records are required to be open to reasonable inspection. All proposal information will be held in confidence during the evaluation process and prior to the time a Notice of Award is issued. Thereafter, proposals will become public information.

## **1.8 Subcontractors**

Subcontractors will not be allowed unless previously discussed with the County prior to submission of proposal.

## **1.9 Conflict of Interest**

Each proposal shall include a statement indicating whether the organization or any individuals working on the proposed scope of service has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., themselves, spouse or child employed by the County of Mifflin or the County of Juniata) and, if so, the nature of that conflict. The County reserves the right to cancel the award if any interest disclosed from any source could either give the appearance of a conflict or cause speculation as to the objectivity of the project to be performed by the applicant. The County's determination regarding any question of conflict of interest shall be final. The County may exclude a prospective applicant from submitting a proposal, or may reject a prospective applicant's proposal, after making a written determination that the prospective applicant assisted in drafting the Request for Proposal, or gained substantial information regarding the Request for Proposal that was not available to the public.

## **SECTION 2- Standard Proposal Information**

### **2.1 Discussions with Applicants**

The County may elect to conduct discussions with responsible Applicants who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. The purpose of these discussions will be to clarify and assure Applicant's full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the solicitation requirements. Applicants reasonably susceptible of being selected for award shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals, and revision may be permitted after submissions and before award of the contract for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers. In conducting these discussions, the County may not disclose information derived from proposals submitted by competing Applicants.

## **2.2 Right to Negotiate**

After the County's completion of the evaluation process, including any discussions held with participating Applicants during the evaluation process, the County may elect to initiate contract negotiations. The option of whether or not to initiate contract negotiations rests solely with the County.

## **2.3 Failure to Negotiate**

If selected Proposer/s fail to provide the information required to begin negotiations in a timely manner; or if the Proposer/s fail/s to negotiate in good faith; or if the Proposer/s indicate/s they cannot perform the contract with the budgeted funds available; or if the Proposer/s and the County after a good faith effort, simply can not come to terms, the County may terminate negotiations with the Proposer/s.

## **2.4 Rejection of Proposals**

The County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any informalities, and to accept or reject any part of a proposal if, in its judgment, the best interests of the County are thereby served.

## **2.5 Award of Contract**

The County shall award a contract to the responsible and responsive Applicants whose proposals are determined to provide the best overall value to the County as to the most favorable in terms of apparent ability to perform effectively and efficiently the human services being procured through this RFP.

## **SECTION 3 - Standard Contract Information**

### **3.1 Standard Contract Provisions**

The County's standard contractual terms and conditions are set forth in General Conditions of Purchase which are available for review upon request. Reasons for objection to any part of the General Conditions of Purchase must be detailed in the proposal and proposed alternate language provided. Time is of the essence in the award of a contract. Hindrance of the award process due to the extent of a Proposer's proposed modifications may have a negative impact on the County's assessment of that Proposal.

### **3.2 Proposal as Part of the Contract**

Part or all of this Request for Proposal and the successful proposal may, at the discretion of the County, be incorporated into the contract.

### **3.3 Additional Terms and Conditions**

The County reserves the right to add terms and conditions during contract negotiations. These terms and conditions will be within the scope of the Request for Proposal and will not affect the proposal evaluations.

## **SECTION 4- Specifications**

### **4.1 Background**

The HSDF program is based on the HSDF Act and was created "for the purpose of encouraging county governments to provide locally identified services that will meet the human services needs of citizens in their counties." The funds "shall be used by the county solely to provide and administer county based social services and service coordination within the county."

The HSDF Act sets forth legal parameters of the HSDF program and establishes the responsibilities of both the Department of Human Services ("the department") and counties. The contents of this section further explain the parameters and responsibilities. The Human Services Development Fund

(HSDF) was implemented by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania beginning in Fiscal Year 1984-1985 in a response to requests by counties for funding that allows more discretion and flexibility to accommodate local needs and priorities within the categorical programs for which counties are responsible. These Categorical Programs include:

- Adult Services (Low Income Adults)
- Aging
- Children and Youth
- Drug and Alcohol
- Homeless Assistance
- Community Based Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Through the HSDF, counties are provided an annual, formula based appropriation. Counties are in turn responsible to plan the utilization of these resources within the Commonwealth's Guidelines according to their own community's needs. The HSDF was established under statute through the passage of the Act 1994-78, the Human Services Development Act. Section 5(8) of the Act requires the Department of Human Services to report annually to the General Assembly on the expenditures of the fund monies, how they were used, and the categories and numbers of clients served. Mifflin Juniata Human Services Department carries out the planning, allocation, monitoring and reporting on the resources it receives through the Human Services Development Fund on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

#### **4.2 Project Goals and Objectives**

The objectives for the use of Human Services Development Fund are the following:

- Target identified service gaps within existing county categorical programs
- Allocate resources outside of County Government based on community need
- Allocate resources internal and external to government so that maximum service impact for client populations can be achieved
- Coordinate with other community funding resources to avoid duplication of service
- Prioritize the use of services which promote client attainment of self sufficiency
- Prioritize the use of services which prevent long term problems through early intervention
- Quantify service impact
- Utilize data for continuous quality improvement of service and in planning decisions for future allocation of Human Service Development Funds

#### **4.3 Scope of Service**

The total amount of available HSDF funding through the County of Mifflin or the County of Juniata that is available for competitive bid is determined by state allocations and can be determined by contacting the county Human Service Department after June of each year. The only services that are eligible for funding under HDSF, as established by the Department of Human Services, Office of Social Programs are the following:

- **Categorical Services including these specified populations-** low-income adults, homeless persons, aging and aged persons, drug-addicted and alcohol-addicted persons, persons with mental health problems, persons with mental retardation and/or dependent and delinquent children
- **Service Coordination-** consists of planning and management activities designed to improve the effectiveness of county human services

- **Generic Services-** defined as meeting the needs of two or more client populations (those indicated above under categorical services)
- **Specialized Services-** new services or a combination of services designed to meet the unique needs of a client population that are unmet by the current categorical programs

Under **Categorical Services** there are certain allowable service/cost centers established by the Commonwealth, which are subject to change and updated on an annual basis. If you are proposing a service under a categorical program it must fall into a specified cost center. The current allowable and non-allowable cost centers under each categorical service are the following:

**Adult Services**

- Adult Day Care
- Adult Placement
- Chore
- Counseling
- Employment
- Home Delivered Meals
- Homemaker
- Housing
- Life Skills Education
- Protective
- Service Planning/Case Management
- Transportation

**Aging Services**

- Adult Day Care
- Assessments
- Attendant Care
- Care Management
- Congregate Meals
- Counseling
- Employment
- Home Delivered Meals
- Home Support
- Information and Referral
- Overnight Shelter/Supervision
- Personal Assistance Services
- Personal Care
- Protective-Intake/Investigative
- Soc./Rec./Educ./Health Promotion
- Transportation (Passenger)
- Volunteer Services

**Non Allowable Cost Centers**

- Administration
- Consumer Reimbursement
- Domiciliary Care
- Environmental Modifications
- Guardianship
- Home Health
- Legal Assistance
- Medical Equipment
- Supplies and Adaptive Devices
- Provider Certification
- Ombudsman
- Outreach

**Children and Youth Services**

- Adoption Services

- Counseling/Intervention
- Day Care
- Day Treatment
- Emergency Placement
- Foster Family Care
- Homemaker
- Information and Referral
- Life Skills Education
- Protective
- Service Planning

**Non-Allowable Cost Centers**

- Administration
- Adoption Assistance
- Alternative Treatment
- Community Residential
- Juvenile Detention
- Residential
- Secure Residential

**Drug and Alcohol Services**

- Assistance Programs
- Care Management
- Case Management
- Inpatient Hospital
- Inpatient Non-Hospital
- Other Interventions
- Outpatient
- Outpatient (Intensive)
- Partial Hospitalization
- Transitional Living

**Non-Allowable Cost Centers**

- Administration
- Alcohol Highway Safety
- Correctional
- Evaluation
- Occupational
- Research
- Support Services
- Training

**Homeless Assistance Services-** Any allocation of resources for Homeless Assistance under the HSDF occur in conjunction with resources allocated by the County through the Homeless Assistance Program and the Community Development Office.

- Case Management
- Emergency Shelter

**Non-Allowable Cost Centers**

- Bridge Housing
- Rental Assistance
- PENNFREE Bridge Housing
- Innovative Supportive Housing Services

**Mental Health Services**

- Adult Developmental Training
- Community Employment Services
- Community Residential Services
- Community Services
- Community Treatment Teams
- Facility Based Vocational Rehabilitation
- Family Support Services
- Intensive Case Management
- MH Crisis Intervention Services
- Outpatient
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation

- Resource Coordination
- Social Rehabilitation Services

**Non-Allowable Cost Center**

- Administrator’s Office
- Administrative Management
- Emergency Services
- Partial Hospitalization
- Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitalization

**Mental Retardation Services**

- Adult Developmental Training
- Case Management
- Community Employment Services
- Community Residential Services-CLA
- Community Services
- Early Intervention
- Facility Based Vocational Rehabilitation

**Non-Allowable Cost Center**

- Administrator’s Office
- Community Residential Services
- Family Support Services

**Service Coordination** is defined as planning and management activities designed to improve the effectiveness of county human services.

Under “**Generic Services**” which is defined as services to meet the needs of two or more client populations as defined by the previously listed categorical programs, eligible services include:

- Adult Day Care
- Adult Placement
- Chore/Home Support
- Counseling
- Employment
- Homemaker
- Information and Referral
- Life Skills Education
- Service Planning/Case Management
- Transportation

**Specialized Service** is defined as a new service or a combination of services designed to meet the unique needs of a client population that are unmet by a current categorical program. Any proposed specialized service must be approved by the County and the Department of Human Services Office of Social Services.

**4.4 Client Eligibility**

If the County chooses to use HSDF dollars for any of the allowable services identified above for categorical programs, the following rules apply:

- The client served must meet the eligibility requirements established by the Categorical Program

under which the service is provided; and

- The HSDF funded service activities provided must conform to the service definition established by the categorical program for that service. For services to low-income adults, client eligibility must be determined, documented and retained by each contracted provider agency. The specific eligibility requirements can be found in 55 Pa Code, Chapter 2050- Eligibility for Adult Services Funded through the Adult Services Block Grant.

**4.5 Prohibitions**

The use of HSDF funds under the categorical programs described above are subject to the same prohibitions applied to the specific categorical program. The Human Service Development Fund also prohibits the use of funds for the following:

- The purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building or facility
- The provision of payments to any clients for costs of subsistence or for the provision of room and board
- The provision of payment to clients as a service
- The provision of medical care unless it is an integral but subordinate part of an allowable social service
- Social services provided in and by employees of any hospital, nursing facility or correctional facility to any individual living in such facilities
- The provision of any educational/instructional service which the state/ and or local school districts make generally available to residents without cost and without regard to their incomes unless provided as a normal part of one of the categorical programs listed above
- Any program or service, which, under state or federal law or regulation requires license(s) or certification(s) and is operating without such license(s) or certification(s) being valid, current and in effect

Programs and services listed below are also prohibited for HSDF funding:

- Statewide Human Service Programs which the Department of Human Services operates directly by contract (Blindness and Visual Services, Child Day Care, Community Services Programs for Persons with Physical Disabilities, Domestic Violence, Family Planning, Alternatives to Abortion, Legal Services, Rape Crisis, Refuge Services and Attendant Care
- Statewide programs operated by other Pennsylvania Departments (Community Services Block Grant; Womens, Infants and Children's Programs)
- Directly funded federal programs (Head Start, etc.)

Staff travel expenditures included in the cost plan cannot exceed either the actual cost for public transportation or the State mileage reimbursement rate set by DHS for HSDF related travel in personal vehicles (typically the IRS rate.)

#### **4.6 Encumbrances**

Funds encumbered out of a current year grant must have invoices attached which are dated in the current fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). Items ordered but not received by June 30 must have evidence of having been initiated by June 30 and delivered within 30 days after the close of the fiscal year.

#### **4.7 Cost Sharing**

The sharing of service costs between clients and county HSDF funded agencies is allowable through the collection of either donations or fees. Fees are considered to be established payments, which are required from all clients who receive service. These payments are derived from an established fee schedule, which is applied uniformly.

When donations and fees are received from HSDF funded clients receiving allowable services within the Aging, Children and Youth, Drug and Alcohol, Homeless Assistance, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Program, the prevailing laws, regulations or policies of those categorical program shall apply to the collection and use of fees. Donations or fees received from HSDF

funded clients receiving services to Low Income Adults or Generic Services must meet the requirements established in 55 Pa Code, Chapter 2050, Section 22, Financial Eligibility.

#### **4.8 Required Reporting**

All awardees are required to submit, at a minimum, quarterly information on units of service provided, number of clients served and cost of service for the period. This information is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> day following the end of the previous quarter. This required information is subject to amendment in accordance with any changes implemented by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Office of Social Programs. In addition, all Applicants are asked to identify service outcomes and indicators that will be used for measurement of service impact throughout the fiscal year. Awardees must submit outcomes information, at a minimum, on an annual basis. The collection dates for this information will be 30 days following the completions of the fourth quarter.

### **SECTION 5- Proposal Format and Content**

#### **5.1 Proposal Format and Content**

The County discourages overly lengthy and costly proposals; however, in order for the County to evaluate proposals fairly and competently, Applicants should follow the format set out herein and provide all the information requested.

Proposals by individuals must be signed personally, with name typed below signature. A complete address and trade name must be provided. Proposals by partnerships must include the typed names and business address of all partners and the trade name of the company. The proposal must be signed by at least one general partner. Proposals by corporations must include the typed name of the corporation, the State of incorporation, and the principal officer of the corporation. The proposal must be signed by the President or Vice-President (or by an officer or agent duly authorized to bind the corporation to a contract, proof of whose corporate authority shall be attached), attested by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or Treasurer of the corporation.

#### **5.2 See attached RFP**

#### **5.3 Standard Required Documents**

A list of the **Current Board of Directors or other governing body** of the organization must be submitted. The list must include the name, telephone number, address, occupation, or affiliation of each member and must identify the principal officers of the governing body. **A Financial Statement and the most recent independent audit** must also be submitted.

#### **5.4 Insurance**

Applicants must provide with their proposal a certificate of insurance.

#### **5.5 Tax ID**

A valid Tax ID must be submitted.

### **SECTION 6- Evaluation Criteria and Process**

All proposals will be reviewed to determine if they are responsive. A review committee consisting of the HSDF Advisory Council will evaluate all responsive proposals based on the following criteria.

A. Need for Proposed Service in County- must correspond to the priority area set forth by committee

B. Technical Criteria

This includes:

- Project Description
- Goals and Objectives/Logic Model
  - Ability of the Program/Service to Assist Clients in Achieving Self Sufficiency
  - Service Collaboration
  - Program/Service Focus on Prevention of Long Term Problems Through Early Intervention
  - Accessibility and Outreach to the Underserved
- Evaluation

C. Proposed Cost of Service

D. Contractual Criteria

Each responsive Proposal will be evaluated taking into account basic business competency. Those items included under the Technical Criteria will be scored by reviewers and applied to varied factors assigned to each criteria. The review team will also numerically prioritize (highest to lowest) all of the proposals according to recognized need for this service in the County. The proposed cost of service will be compared to the fair market cost for other similar types of human services to determine if the requested funding amount is reasonable. Proposed costs will also take into consideration the total available funding through HSDF and the number of services selected for funding. No proposals will be disqualified based on cost alone. The proposed cost for service may require negotiation should the service be selected for funding.