



**Organization:** Administrative Office of Courts and Probation

**Division:** Juvenile Probation Services

**Project:** Nebraska Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) Validation Study

**Issue Date:** October 18, 2023

**Closing Date:** **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 @ 5 P.M. CST**

**Award Date:** Approximately January 1, 2024

**Contract Period:** An estimated 12 months

**Budget:** Up to \$100,000

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### **I. Request for Proposals**

The Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation (AOCP) seeks to contract with an evaluator or team to complete a validation study of the standardized juvenile detention screening instrument. The term of this contract would be 12 months.

### **II. Overview & Background**

Under Nebraska law, a peace officer may retain temporary custody of a juvenile and deliver the juvenile to a probation officer to determine the need for detention under Neb. Rev. Stat § 43-260.01. The probation officer utilizes a standardized juvenile detention screening instrument (per Neb. Rev. Stat § 43-260) to determine if detention of the juvenile is necessary and, if so, whether detention or an alternative to detention is indicated. As mandated by Neb. Rev. Stat § 43-251.01(5(b)) effective July 1, 2019, a juvenile shall not be detained unless the physical safety of persons in the community would be seriously threatened or detention is necessary to secure the presence of the juvenile at the next hearing, as evidenced by a demonstrable record of willful failure to appear at a scheduled court hearing within the last twelve months.

### **III. The RAI as Operationalized Currently**

The Nebraska Detention Screening Tool was last updated in 2013 with technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). Since the implementation of the detention screening tool Nebraska has not been able to validate this tool. The Nebraska tool was evaluated by the Juvenile Justice Institute, University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2016 but was unable to be validated at that time.

### **IV. Scope of Assignment**

#### **1. General Evaluation**

The selected evaluator or team will examine the detention screening instrument for its ability to accurately distinguish juveniles meeting the criteria for secure or staff secure detention as established by statute, from other juveniles that can be released to an alternative to detention or released to their parent(s) without restrictions. The sample to be studied may include all juveniles taken into temporary custody by law enforcement that were screened for detention within selected counties beginning 2019 through 2022.

#### **2. Assessing Overrides of Recommended Outcomes**

The selected evaluator or team will complete a comprehensive examination to assess overrides by quantifying indicators including differences across counties/geographic locations, racial and ethnic identities, and gender; determination of the percentage of juveniles not detained that subsequently committed new violations within the fixed detention screening instrument time window between the instant offense and corresponding court appearance and the percentage of the same group that fails to appear in court.

**V. Research Question(s)**

- 1) Does the presumptive risk level match the screening decision? In other words, are low-risk youth released, are moderate-risk youth placed in a non-secure option and are high-risk youth securely detained? If not, how are departures from the decision indicated by the scored risk level explained?
- 2) What percentage of youth who are released outright/placed in a non-secure option commit a new law violation while they are pending court resulting in a new adjudication.
- 3) What percentage of youth fail to appear in court as required, leading to a warrant for their arrest?

**VI. Deliverables**

1. Quarterly progress reports submitted and discussed with Program Manager at a routinely scheduled meeting.
2. Written draft report submitted to Program Manager at least 3 months prior to the contract end date.
3. Study results should be followed by a set of recommendations to enhance the detention screening process in Nebraska.
4. Final report shall be delivered to and reviewed by Program Manager for acceptance and accuracy. Once accepted the evaluator will present their findings to the leadership team.

**VII. Proposal Requirements**

Email submittal documents to [nsc.contractingopportunities@NEJudicial.gov](mailto:nsc.contractingopportunities@NEJudicial.gov). The written technical proposal should include the following content typewritten on a standard size 8" x 11" sheet in a font no smaller than 11 points. Applications must not exceed 20 pages not including a single cover page. Cover Page should include respondents name, legal entity name, mailing address, email, and phone.

1. Team Lead(s) Identity & Evaluation Team – Identify individuals in key roles and describe their expertise. (Up to 5 points)
2. Description of Objective & Evaluation Questions. – Explain understanding of objectives. (Up to 10 Points)
3. Description of Approach & Method – Highlight the problem being addressed and describe the technical approach (Up to 20 points)
4. Workplan, Timeline & Deliverables – Propose the primary activities, describing their content, duration, and how they are consistent with the methodology and assignment objectives. (Up to 15 Points)
5. Integration of Findings for Detention Screening Instrument Improvement – Describe your evaluation team’s ability to facilitate discussion about findings and recommendations to Probation leadership, and internal and external stakeholders. (Up to 15)
6. Budget - Provide a line-item budget aligning with milestones and deliverables. No specific format is required. (Up to 10 points)
7. Total possible points equal 75 per scorer times 5 reviewers equals a maximum raw score of 375 points.

## VIII. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

1. Responses will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in Article VII. Proposal Requirements and scored accordingly. The top three applicants may be invited to meet with AOCPC and a panel of Stakeholders comprising the scoring committee to discuss their submitted responses. The top candidate will be selected by the scoring committee.
2. A contract may be entered into with the selected evaluator or team taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth herein. AOCPC reserves the right to consider other sources of information to determine evaluation scores. AOCPC may reject any or all responses or parts thereof and/or cancel this RFP and re-solicit if such action is in AOCPC's best interest. AOCPC may waive informalities and minor irregularities in responses received. This RFP does not commit AOCPC to award any contract or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of responses.

## IX. General Submission Timeline & Requirements

1. Processing Timeline  
Submissions are due no later than **5:00 P.M. Central Standard Time, Wednesday, November 15, 2023**. The selected evaluator or team will be notified, and the resulting contract is expected to begin on or around January 1, 2024.
2. Subcontractors  
All direct service rights or obligations that will be assigned, delegated, or subcontracted in whole or in part, must be identified during the RFP application process.
3. Provider Certification  
By submission of a response, the applicant certifies that they have neither paid nor agreed to pay any person, other than a bona fide employee, a fee or a brokerage resulting from the award of the contract.
4. Preparation of the Response  
Applicants are expected to examine all Service Definitions, rules, documents, forms, specifications, standard provisions, and instructions, and review responses for accuracy before submitting. Failure to do so may result in lower scores or be grounds for disqualification.
5. Preparation Fee  
By submission of a response, the evaluator certifies that they were neither paid nor agreed to pay any person, other than a bona fide employee, a fee or a brokerage resulting from the award of the contract.
6. Publishing Contract to State Database  
All procurement records and associated contracts are considered public records and may be released to third parties upon appropriately submitted public records request(s) and/or published to the Nebraska State Database.
7. Access to RFQ Records. Once this competitive procurement process is complete, all records and associated contracts are considered public records and may be released to third parties upon appropriately submitted public records request(s).
8. Questions  
This RFP announcement sufficiently explains everything necessary for respondents to determine the roles and responsibilities associated with the service request, sufficient to formulate a response. Therefore, no questions or comments will be accepted.