

RFP # 11-001-JC

Answers to Questions

1. Where can we obtain a copy of the 2011 Florida Dependency Benchbook? The most recent one on your website is dated 2008.

Answer: The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) can email you an electronic copy of the 2011 Florida Dependency Benchbook.

2. Please clarify the difference between the primary logic model and the secondary logic model. The RFP scope states that the primary logic model relates to the protocol for family time (visitation) and activities/measures for the secondary logic model(s) are not yet determined.

Answer: All model court sites will be implementing the family time protocols, which are contained in the 2011 Dependency Benchbook. The primary logic model will address the relationship between implementation of the family time protocols and timely permanency in the selected sites. In addition to family time protocols, each of the model court sites will also be implementing another family-centered practice in the benchbook with the goal of more timely permanency. The secondary logic model will address the relationship between implementation of the other family-centered practice(s) and timely permanency in the selected sites.

3. Has the logic model already been developed for the family time protocols? What responsibility will the selected vendor have in revising/finalizing this logic model?

Answer: No, the logic model for the family time protocols has not been developed. A logic model will be submitted by the evaluator and reviewed by OSCA staff and the statewide advisory panel prior to finalization.

4. Will the secondary logic model address the different family-centered practices that each model court has selected?

Answer: Yes, the secondary logic model will address the different family-centered practices that three model court sites have selected.

5. Will multiple secondary logic models be required to address each of the three sites to be evaluated?

Answer: The answer to this question depends on the specific family-centered practices that will be implemented by the secondary sites. For example, if the selected secondary sites have all identified including children in court as their family-centered practice, then only one (1) secondary logic model would need to be submitted. If each secondary site has identified a different family-centered practice to implement (ex. children in court, placement stability, co-parenting), then three (3) unique secondary logic models would need to be submitted.

6. Have the various model courts already developed logic models for their secondary family-centered practice, or will this be the responsibility of the selected evaluator?

Answer: No, the development of the logic models will be the responsibility of the selected evaluator.

7. Are there a total of (10) sites to be evaluated at a minimum, or are the three (3) secondary sites a subset of the seven (7) primary sites?

Answer: There will be a total of seven (7) sites; the secondary sites are subsets of the seven primary sites.

8. Will the staff of the selected model court sites be responsible for collecting the evaluation data and transmitting it to the evaluator?

Answer: No, the evaluator and his/her team will be responsible for collecting the evaluation data.

9. What data systems do the courts utilize? What reporting capability do they have for individual case histories?

Answer: OSCA has developed the Florida Dependency Court Information System (FDCIS) specifically for dependency cases; however, its use in the

circuit courts is optional, not mandatory. Individual case histories can be generated from FDCIS. Many dependency courts throughout the state utilize local data systems, and other dependency courts utilize data from their community-based care agencies. Individual case reporting capabilities vary in these localities.

10. Will the evaluation also review the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) data on the selected cases? How will that data be obtained?

Answer: It is possible that the evaluator will be able to access DCF's FSFN data on the selected cases. OSCA has recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with DCF for data exchange of FSFN elements into OSCA's Dependency Court Information System. OSCA should be utilizing FSFN data by September 2011. OSCA also has access to DCF trend reports that are released quarterly.

11. In the quasi-experimental design, which courts will be used for comparative purposes? All or a selected subset? Or a control group of families in the selected courts where visitation was not recommended?

Answer: OSCA staff can discuss specific research design issues with the evaluator who is selected for the project.

12. Will court observations, case file reviews and /or interviews with key participants in the selected cases be required as part of the evaluation methodology?

Answer: OSCA has not set forth specific requirements for the evaluation methodology.

13. If youth are participating in the court process, may they be interviewed also?

Answer: Interviews with children should involve consideration of a number of factors, including but not limited to: the age, intelligence, and understanding of the child in question; the consent (or lack thereof) of the parents; the legal status of the child's case; the status of the child's placement; the opinions of DCF, CBC lead agency, child's GAL, and the child's attorney on the advisability of an interview; whether the interview

will delve into the merits of the child's case; and any existing court orders regarding interviews with the child.

14. How will the model court sites be selected?

Answer: The selected evaluator can confer with OSCA staff for assistance in selecting the model court sites.

15. Will the cost of the meeting site, food, equipment, etc. for the five regional conferences be borne by OSCA?

Answer: Yes, OSCA will fund the expenses of the meeting site, food, equipment, and travel reimbursement (hotel, airfare, mileage, meals, etc.) of the attendees of the five regional conferences.

16. Is the budget adequate for an evaluation that includes multiple site visits for up to 10 sites plus 5 regional conferences?

Answer: Yes, see answers to question 7 and question 15.

17. To what extent have the model courts protocols been implemented or are the changes just getting started now?

Answer: Dependency judges and magistrates have just received the 2011 Dependency Benchbook (which contains the family time protocols) in June 2011 and are receiving training on how to use the benchbook in June/July 2011.

18. May we have access to the 2011 Florida Dependency Benchbook (an earlier version is available on-line)?

Answer: Yes, the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) can email you an electronic copy of the 2011 Florida Dependency Benchbook.

19. What is the status of the Florida Court Improvement Program data exchange initiative?

Answer: Currently, Florida's Court Improvement Program receives data from the clerks' information system (CCIS) and DCF's Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children Office on a daily basis. Florida's Court Improvement Program has also entered into a memorandum of

understanding with DCF as well as with DJJ to begin exchanging data. Florida's Court Improvement Program should be utilizing FSFN data by September 2011.

20. Does the Florida Dependency Court Information System have a common identifier which can tie a case to AFCARS or FSFN?

Answer: No, but there are other elements that can be matched between the systems.

21. Does each participating circuit have a model court liaison?

Answer: Yes, each model court circuit has an assigned model court liaison from OSCA.

22. Is Florida following OJJDP/NCJFCJ Model Court Protocol?

Answer: Florida's model court protocol is similar; a copy can be emailed upon request.

23. Are each of the counties and dependency courts within the 17 participating circuits taking part in the model courts project?

Answer: It varies. In some model court circuits, all counties are participating in the project; in other model court circuits, only some counties are participating in the project.

24. To what extent are you able to randomly assign experimental and control groups, i.e. children impacted by 2011 Florida Dependency Benchbook family-time protocols versus children not impacted by protocols?"

Answer: OSCA staff can discuss the various possibilities of randomly assigned experimental and control groups with the evaluator who is selected for the project.

25. RE: Financial Information, specifically what Dun and Bradstreet report do you require?

Answer: If you have these available, please submit the following: D&B Credit Rating, PAYDEX Score, U.S. Commercial Credit Score, and U.S. Financial Stress Score.

26. We do not have audited financial statements or a Dun and Bradstreet number or equivalent as we are a smaller private research and evaluation firm. Can we still apply and what can we submit instead?

Answer: Yes, you can still apply. Please provide a type of documentation that you deem to be equivalent to a D&B report (ex. a credit report).