Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

RFI NUMBER: 27-RFI-BH-200

Issue Date: November 16, 2026

27-RFI-BH-200
Residential Treatment Center at Garrett Children's Center

RFI KEY INFORMATION SUMMARY SHEET

Request for Information:	**Residential Treatment Center at Garrett Children's Center**
Solicitation Number:	**27-RFI-BH-200**
Solicitation Type:	**Request for Information**
RFI Issue Date:	**November 16, 2026**
RFI Issuing Office:	**Maryland Department of Juvenile Services**
Procurement Officer:	**Ronald Colbert** **217 E. Redwood St.** **Baltimore, MD 21202** **(443)-540-0929**
Closing Date and Time:	**December 16, 2026 5:00PM Eastern**

Responses are to be submitted online only at eMarylandMarketplace Advantage emma.maryland.gov

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Attachment 2	Scheduled Site Visit

SECTION A

GENERAL INFORMATION

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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A. OBJECTIVE:

1) The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to conduct market research and identify capable and qualified parties interested in a planned procurement for Residential Treatment Center (RTC) program at the Garrett Children's Center (GCC), with an emphasis on promoting socioeconomic inclusion. The GCC is a facility overseen by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (Department). This RFI is not a solicitation for goods or services.

2) The requirements described in this RFI may differ from those ultimately included in any subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP), Invitation for Bid (IFB), Purchase Order RFP, Task Order RFP, or other procurement vehicle. This RFI does not constitute a commitment to issue a solicitation or award a contract. The State will not reimburse any costs associated with response to this request.

3) Information received in response to this RFI will assist the Department in gathering insights that may inform a future solicitation. Responding to this RFI does **not** guarantee inclusion in any subsequent procurement, and choosing **not** to respond will **not** exclude any vendor from future procurement opportunities. The Department may schedule information sessions as it determines necessary. The purpose of these sessions is strictly for information gathering. This is not a procurement activity and will not result in an evaluation or a purchase.

4) The contract(s) awarded could allow the Department to designate one or more portions of a forthcoming solicitation as a Small Business Reserve (SBR) and maximize Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Veteran Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) utilization at both the prime and subcontracting levels. The Department has not made a final decision on contract awards or these designations. Through this RFI, the Department is seeking input on subcontracting opportunities, the geographic distribution of relevant businesses, and the capacity of MBEs/VSBEs to perform these services.

B. BACKGROUND

As is further described below, it is contemplated through this RFI that a fixed price indefinite quantity contract would issue for a RTC program at the GCC located at Lonaconing (Allegany County), Maryland.

The Department, in coordination with the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), is issuing this RFI to seek information

from qualified entities regarding the development and operation of this RTC for youth at the GCC. The GCC is a state juvenile residential facility operated by DJS that is temporarily closed. An RTC program is needed to increase in-State residential treatment capacity for youth with significant behavioral health, clinical, developmental, and behavioral needs who cannot be appropriately served in existing placements and for youth with high-acuity and complex needs for whom appropriate placements are difficult to secure. As child-placing agencies, DJS and DHS anticipate placing eligible youth in the program.

Through this RFI, the State aims to better understand provider interest and experience; feasible program and service models; populations that could be safely and effectively served; experience obtaining and maintaining RTC licensure and accreditation; coordination across departments; staffing and workforce needs; implementation timelines; program operations; and other issues that should inform a potential future procurement. The State welcomes responses from vendors on how to implement this program on an accelerated timeline.

The population under consideration includes youth between the ages of 13 and 18 with significant clinical, behavioral, and developmental needs, including youth who may exhibit frequent or significant aggression, assaultive behavior, severe emotional or behavioral dysregulation, and other behaviors that require a highly structured therapeutic environment and staff with specialized clinical and behavioral expertise. This may include youth who remain in hospitals after they are clinically ready for discharge because an appropriate placement is unavailable, as well as adjudicated delinquent youth who require residential treatment as part of their care. The State is also exploring specialized capacity for youth on the autism spectrum and youth with other complex or co-occurring needs.

The State aims to develop additional clinically appropriate residential settings that provide intensive treatment while supporting education, family engagement, skill development, recreation, transition planning, and meaningful developmental opportunities.

C. INSTRUCTIONS

1) This information is for internal planning purposes only. Responses will be used for informational purposes and will not be used to evaluate firms.

2) In order to facilitate an expedited review and response period, the Department is requesting that vendors structure their responses to match the order and number sequence provided below. Wherever possible, please duplicate the tables shown. Responses in Microsoft Word, 11pt font, Times New Roman are preferred. Responses to this RFI should not exceed fifteen (15) pages.

3) **Do not include any proprietary information in response to this RFI.** If a respondent chooses to include such information, it should give specific attention to the identification of those portions of its response which it considers confidential, proprietary, commercial information, or trade secrets, and provide justification for why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the State under the Public Information Act, Title 4 of the General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Respondents are advised that such

identification does not guarantee that the information will be withheld from disclosure. Upon request for this information from a third party, the Procurement Officer will be required to make an independent determination regarding whether the information may be disclosed.

4) Responses are to be submitted via eMaryland Marketplace Advantage no later than **December 16, 2026 at 5:00PM** Eastern Time. While this date is the cutoff for submissions, an earlier submission will be highly appreciated.

D. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Department seeks additional information on:

- Considerations that would help the state evaluate the feasibility and design of residential treatment services at GCC.
- Barriers and regulatory or logistical concerns.
- Innovative approaches or alternative program models.
- Risks, Constraints & Resource Needs - real or perceived obstacles for implementation.
- Socioeconomic Information

E. GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. **Provider Experience and Interest**

- What specific products or services do you offer relevant to this RFI?
- What experience does your organization have developing and/or operating RTCs for children and adolescents, particularly youth with high clinical or behavioral acuity?
- What lessons from that experience should inform the State's consideration of an RTC at GCC?

2. **Population to Be Served**

- What youth populations could an RTC at this location safely and effectively serve, and what factors should guide the State in defining the target population? Please consider age range, diagnoses, clinical acuity, behavioral characteristics, developmental needs, and potential admission and exclusionary criteria.
- What capabilities and resources would be needed to serve youth who exhibit aggression, assaultive behavior, severe emotional or behavioral dysregulation, or other high-acuity behaviors?
- What circumstances could require transfer or a higher level of care?

3. **Autism and Other Complex Needs**

- What opportunities and challenges should the State consider regarding serving youth with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual or developmental disabilities, or other complex or co-occurring needs within an RTC?
- Would a specialized treatment track be appropriate, and under what conditions?
- What clinical expertise, staffing, behavioral supports, sensory accommodations, and other resources would be needed?

4. **Program Model and Services**

- What residential treatment models other than RTCs should the State consider for this location, and why?
- What services and supports would be essential to each model? Please consider areas such as psychiatric and psychological services, nursing and medical care, individual and group therapy, family therapy and engagement, behavioral supports, trauma-informed care, medication management, recreation, life and independent living skills, education coordination, community and developmental activities, transition planning, and discharge and aftercare supports.

5. **Program Capacity and Configuration**

- Given the facility's capacity of up to 24 beds, what program capacity and configuration would be clinically appropriate and operationally feasible?
- What are the benefits, limitations, and resource implications of serving different populations through separate programs or treatment tracks at the same facility?
- What limits on unit size, census, or population mix should the State consider?

6. **RTC Licensure and Accreditation Experience**

- Based on your organization's experience, what licensure and accreditation requirements and processes should inform the State's planning for this program?
- What programmatic or operational challenges could affect obtaining and maintaining the required approvals?
- Please exclude construction and physical plant modifications from your response; the State will be responsible for ensuring the building meets applicable physical plant requirements.

7. **Workforce and Staffing**

- What staffing models would support the treatment models and populations identified in your response? Please address clinical, psychiatric, medical, nursing, direct-care, behavioral, educational coordination, supervisory, administrative, and other staffing needs.
- What recruitment and retention challenges could arise in a rural location such as Allegany County, and what strategies could help address them?

8. **Implementation Plan and Timeline**

- What would be a realistic timeline for establishing an RTC at this location, assuming a contract award and facility availability?
- What milestones, dependencies, or challenges could affect licensure and accreditation, recruitment, staff training, program readiness, and admission of the first youth?
- The State will separately manage any building modifications necessary for physical plant compliance.

9. **Medicaid Reimbursement and Program Viability**

- What should the State understand about the feasibility of supporting treatment services through the applicable Medicaid reimbursement structure?
- What major cost drivers, startup needs, reimbursement considerations, or other factors

could affect program viability?
- What additional funding arrangements, if any, should the State explore?

10. **Performance, Quality, and Outcomes**
- What measures would best help the State assess the quality and outcomes of an RTC serving the populations identified in your response?
- What data collection or reporting considerations should inform the selection of those measures? Potential areas include access and admission timeliness, treatment engagement, family involvement, education participation, safety, restraint or seclusion, successful completion, discharge destination, hospital utilization, placement stability, and post-discharge outcomes.

11. **Socioeconomic Information**
- What part of this project do you believe could be subcontracted out to increase MBE/VSBE participation (and why)?
- What do you believe MBE/VSBE goals should be for this requirement, by Allegany County (and why)?
- As the prime, how would you go about subcontracting this work or breaking it up to achieve these goals?
- Are there any barriers to subcontracting or other items you believe the State should consider before finalizing the specifications and soliciting?

12. **Barriers and Regulatory or Logistical Concerns**
- What regulatory, legal or logistical barriers might impact delivery or service?
- Are there industry standards, certifications, or compliance requirements that must be met?
- What challenges do you foresee in working with a public-sector entity?
- What are the barriers, risks or constraints in implementing your solution?

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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ATTACHMENT 1 – RESPONSE TEMPLATE

A) Respondent's Contact Information:

Company Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Website Address	
Telephone Number	
Authorized Representative responsible for providing the requested information. (Name, Phone, and Email).	
Satellite/Branch Office Locations	

B) Respondent's Socioeconomic Information: MBE/VSBE/SBR:

MBE	
VSBE	
SBR	

C) Please provide a statement based on your firm's (including any anticipated team subcontractors) capabilities as instructed below. Not all vendors may have the organizational/staff capability to provide performance coverage; therefore, please indicate your geographic capabilities in Allegany County, Maryland.

1. Please provide tailored capability statements addressing the particulars of this effort, with appropriate documentation supporting claims of organizational and staff capability within the Allegany County. If there is a particular task or requirements regarding the development and operation of a RTC program for youth at the GCC that hinders you from being able to cover Allegany County, please provide this information in your statement.

2. Please fill in and submit the table below to provide prior experience on projects of similar scope and magnitude. Describe no more than three (3) projects relating to the work described in this RFI that have been completed within the past five (5) years.

Project Examples	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3
Project Title			
Firm(s) that performed the work			
Location			

Dollar Value of the Contract			
Contract Type			
Performance-based? (Yes or No)			
Name the business owner for whom the work was performed. Include a reference and the contact information of the business owner.			
Provide a general description of work to demonstrate relevance to the RFI.			
List the tasks that were self-performed.			
List the tasks that were subcontracted.			

D) Responses to RFI Questions:

Question # {please type in the question and response]

Vendor Response:

Question #

Vendor Response:
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[continue as necessary]

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ATTACHMENT 2 – SCHEDULED SITE VISIT

Scheduled Site Visit	November 23, 2026 at 10:00AM (Local Time) & December 2, 2026 at 10:00AM (Local Time) **Site Visit Location:** 164 Freedom Lane Lonaconing, MD 21539 (At the Gate House) **To attend the site visit on** November 23, 2026 **please contact the Procurement Officer via Email no later than** November 20, 2026 5:00PM local time. **To attend the site visit on** December 2, 2026 **please contact the Procurement Officer via Email no later than** December 1, 2026 5:00PM local time.

THIS IS THE END OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION