

Our Community Our Kids
Request for Applications (RFA)
Residential Child Care Accreditation funding

Background

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) seeks applications for funding to provide assistance to certain General Residential Operations (GRO) for costs of obtaining or maintaining Accreditation that complies with The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and provides that as a residential facility the GRO meets acceptable national standards of care.

This grant is intended for GROs providing Treatment Services or Residential Treatment Centers that are licensed by Health and Human Services Commission (HHS) Child Care Regulation (CCR), and that have achieved, are maintaining, or are actively pursuing accreditation. These grant funds will be made as reimbursements to apply to expenditures made between October 1, 2019, and July 15, 2025.

The Family First Prevention Services Act was passed under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. DFPS has contracted with OCOK to distribute federal Family First Transition Act (FFTA) funds to support providers that have achieved, are maintaining, or are actively pursuing accreditation. These funds are to further the goal of increasing the number of accredited residential child care providers in order to provide more placement options for children who are in DFPS conservatorship. OCOK is partnering with The Texas Center for Child and Family Studies (The Center) at the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services (TACFS) to administer the grants.

Our Community Our Kids is the Single Source Continuum Contractor for the Metroplex West area of north Texas. The agency is organized as a not-for-profit corporation in accordance with IRS regulation 501(c)(3) and is based in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Center is a 501(c)3 and a supporting organization of TACFS. The Center strives to support and initiate the development of high-quality child welfare services to ensure appropriate care for all Texas children. The mission is to provide education, research, and training to strengthen the capacity of organizations and systems of care to deliver high quality support services to children and families in Texas. Please visit [their website](#) for more information.

Program Objectives

To receive the funding for this RFA, the applicant can apply for funds associated with:

1. **Completed & Maintaining Accreditation:** Applicants who have completed accreditation and will use these grant funds for reimbursement of allowed costs incurred after October 1, 2019, and before July 15, 2025, to complete and/or maintain their accreditation.
2. **Actively Pursuing Accreditation:** Applicants who are actively pursuing accreditation and have incurred expenses in pursuit of accreditation for reimbursement of allowed costs incurred after October 1, 2019, and before July 15, 2025.

Accreditation is the process by which an approved federal Accreditation Entity certifies that a residential facility meets acceptable standards of care. Accreditation Entity for the purposes of this funding opportunity includes the following three entities:

- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) at <http://carf.org>
- The Council on Accreditation (COA) at <https://coanet.org/>
- The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) at <https://www.jointcommission.org/>

OCOK seeks to award grants across the continuum of care, particularly for organizations serving children with the highest needs.

Minimum Qualifications for Applicants

Organizations eligible for these funds must be:

A community-based nonprofit, *or*

A privately owned entity that has an organizational mission focused on child welfare services and that meets all other qualifications of this RFA.

Additionally, all applicants must:

1. Be licensed by HHS Child Care Regulation (CCR) as a GRO providing Treatment Services or Residential Treatment Center.
2. HHS license must be in good standing with HHS CCR.
3. Qualified applicants must not be under a placement hold, on probation, or pending revocation of permit(s) or licensing suspension.

4. The amount requested may be up to \$100,000 to reimburse previous expenditures as listed below that have not been funded by other grant opportunities.
5. Applicants must agree that they intend to provide placement and services for children involved with HHS, DFPS or Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and do not have to be a Single Source Continuum or DFPS contractor.

Applicants for these grants are not required to be currently contracted with OCOK.

Funding Opportunity

OCOK expects to award grants in amounts up to \$100,000 per provider and not to exceed a total distribution of \$505,800. All funds are for reimbursement of allowed expenses associated with achieving, maintaining, or actively pursuing accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting body as indicated above. All expenses must have been incurred after October 1, 2019, and before July 15, 2025. Grant Funds must be distributed by September 30, 2025.

Costs for which your organization has already received, or are in the process of receiving funding issued by DFPS for the same purpose are not eligible under this solicitation. If DFPS has already reimbursed eligible accreditation costs under a prior or current procurement, these expenses cannot be reimbursed again.

Provider organizations that function under multiple license/permit types and/or EINs may only apply for a grand total of \$100,000.

Applications for grant funds must apply to activities within the following objectives:

Grantees will receive financial support to reimburse costs associated with obtaining or maintaining Accreditation as allowable under federal guidelines in the Family First Transition Act funds. This may include accreditation related costs listed below:

- A. Fees to the Accreditation Entity; (to include costs associated with applications or renewals/reaccreditation during the designated timeframe)
- B. Providing technical assistance needed to plan for new program requirements due to accreditation;
- C. Paying staff and/or consultant costs tied directly to accreditation process, that includes salary, travel, fringe benefits, and preparing standard-compliant policies, procedures, and protocols;
- D. Costs of supplies, controlled assets, equipment, and software; and
- E. Incidentals which are directly associated with the cost of accreditation.

Equipment and other capital expenditures (in amounts above \$4,999) such as capital improvements, property losses and expenses, real estate purchases, mortgage payments, remodeling, the acquisition or construction of facilities is not permissible under the terms of this grant.

Grant recipients may not be funded in the full amount of the Applicant's requested budget to ensure grant funds are available for the broadest array of organizations.

Expectations of Grantees

To ensure the success of the proposed project, adherence to expectations outlined below will be required for grant awardees and as a part of the grant agreement to be signed at the time of the award. (Organizations will be asked to agree to these expectations on the RFA application.)

1. Use the full amount of the award towards approved accreditation expenditures incurred between October 1, 2019, and July 15, 2025.
2. Timely submit documents as requested upon receipt of notice of grant award.
3. Maintenance of financial records/documents/invoices and receipts associated with expenditure of grant funds for a period of seven years from the grant award.

Components of the Application

Proposals must be submitted using the online application form that will require the following information:

1. Name of the organization and contact information.
2. DFPS regions/SSCC catchment areas your organization serves.
3. Location of physical site of GRO program(s).
4. Services and programming: Describe the residential child-care services your agency provides, including core programming and the populations you serve.
5. Number of children served in the GRO accredited program during the organization's most recently completed fiscal year.
6. Whether your organization is currently accredited and if so, with which organization. Attach a copy of the accreditation certificate.
7. If the organization is accredited, the date of GRO's organization's original accreditation. (Not the renewal date.)

8. If not currently accredited, with which entity you are seeking accreditation and documentation from that entity regarding your pursuit or application status.
9. Description/documentation of minimum qualifications: Describe qualifications as outlined in the minimum qualifications section above.
10. T3C service package(s) and add-on service package(s) your organization is currently credentialed to serve and/or intends to apply for a credential to serve.
11. Cost reimbursement description: Describe specifically how the funds have been expended and how this relates to achieving, maintaining, or pursuing accreditation. Be as specific as possible. The description must include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Summary description.
 - b. Activities (how you used the funds, in detail).
 - c. How each activity/cost relates to an accreditation requirement or accreditation fee.
12. Submit budget form and associated documents validating expenses. (Documents to validate expenses may include receipts, payroll, invoices, etc.) Applicant should highlight the amount associated with the request on submitted documentation. All documents validating expenses should be scanned into a single PDF file with the naming convention of Your Organization's Name, Expense Validation. The PDF will be uploaded in the grant application platform.
13. If you have previously received a grant from DFPS for the same purpose and if so, what year was that award, and what was the amount and timeframe covered by the prior reimbursement grant.

Application Evaluation

OCOK will coordinate with The Center to evaluate applications and select applicants for awards. Applications that do not include all required forms and sections, or that do not meet the minimum qualifications, may be disqualified at the discretion of the grant team. The grant team may reach out to applicants for additional information, as needed. Grant reviewers will use pre-determined screening criteria to prioritize applications based on their alignment with the intended purposes of the funding. Depending on the number of applications, organizations may not be funded in the full amount of their request.

Timeline

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RFA Release Date	July 23, 2025
Applicant Questions Due (no later than 5 PM Central Time)	August 5, 2025
Applications Due (no later than 5 PM Central Time)	August 13, 2025
Tentative Award Announcements	August 28, 2025
Anticipated Contract Start Date	September 1, 2025
Anticipated Contract End Date	September 30, 2025

RFA Submission and Contact

Please access the online application form: [Residential Child Care Accreditation Grant - TACFS](#)

Applications are due by 5:00 pm Central Time on August 13, 2025.

Direct any questions to accreditationgrants@tacfs.org

We will not respond to questions received after 5:00 PM Central Time on August 5, 2025.