

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)
Request for Applications
Solicitation #1
Texas Child Centered Care (T3C) Readiness Grants
FY 2026 funding

Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) seeks proposals for funding to support organizational readiness associated with the transition to delivery of services under the Department of Family and Protective Services' (DFPS) Texas Child Centered Care (T3C) system model.

DFPS describes T3C as follows:

Texas Child-Centered Care, or T3C, represents a complete transformation of the foster care system. It is the result of a multi-year effort directed by the Texas Legislature, supported by DFPS in collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and guided by countless residential childcare providers and other child welfare stakeholders. T3C replaces the Service Level System, with a universal child assessment tool and placement process, twenty-four clearly defined Service Packages and three Add-On Services, new fully funded rate methodology, and new opportunities to claim federal funds for foster care services. DFPS anticipates beginning to transition children and services to T3C in January 2025 with full transition of the system completed by September 2027.¹

OCOK is tasked with disbursing funds appropriated during the 89th Texas Legislative Session for Fiscal Year 2026 to support providers in their transition to T3C. DFPS anticipates that **residential child-care providers will incur new costs related to the following tasks as they transition to and implement the T3C model:**

- Changes to policies and procedures consistent with selected primary models and targeted service package(s) the provider will be delivering.
- New targeted and upfront training for intake, case managers, directors, foster parents (if applicable), direct delivery staff (if applicable), etc. on primary models/service packages and CANS 3.0 assessment tool and process.
- IT changes to support operating under the new service array.

¹ https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Texas_Child_Centered_Care/default.asp#what_is_t3c

- Data collection, tracking, and reporting changes.
- Changes to cost collection to populate a more robust cost report.

OCOK invites applications to address provider needs related to the transition to the T3C model in accordance with the specifications contained in this Request for Applications (RFA). Persons or organizations receiving funds must be residential child-care providers (child placing agencies or general residential operations) licensed in the state of Texas and currently contracting with either DFPS and/or a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC).² Please see minimum requirements below.

Background

The shift to T3C will require substantial changes to provider operations in Texas. Through Community Based Care (CBC), the SSCCs have historically worked closely with providers to build much needed capacity for Texas' children. Given both the opportunities and challenges in moving to T3C, the SSCCs proposed to DFPS that the SSCCs administer the FY24 & FY25 grants in both SSCC catchments and legacy areas to support provider transition to T3C. For ease of administration, the SSCCs agreed for funding to be awarded to one SSCC. OCOK agreed to be the lead SSCC for the project and entered into a contract with the state to administer the FY 2024 & FY 2025 funds. OCOK has now entered into a contract with DFPS to administer the FY 2026 transition grant funds. All SSCCs will provide support to the implementation and grant award process.

As during the previous grant cycles, 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.

OCOK has provided a continuum of services for children in the Texas foster care system of the Metroplex West since 2014. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, OCOK is contracted with Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) as a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) to deliver Community-Based Care (CBC) in the Region, which includes 10 counties in north Texas. OCOK is a lead agency overseeing a network of subcontractors and is legally authorized to operate as the lead agency. Please visit [our website](#) for more information.

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

² Daycare centers are not eligible for this grant opportunity, regardless of the hours of operation.

quality support services to children and families in Texas. Please visit [their website](#) for more information.

Minimum Qualifications for Applicants

Organizations applying must meet these qualifications:

1. Eligible applicants for funding must be a licensed 24-Hour Residential Child Care operation (child placing agency or general residential operation) with an active contract with DFPS and/or at least one SSCC.
2. Application aligns with the objectives stated below.
3. The amount requested may be up to \$150,000 depending on eligibility as per instructions below. **If you received a T3C Readiness award in FY 24 and/or FY 25 please read the following Project Objectives/Funding Opportunity section carefully.**
4. Qualified applicants must not be under a placement hold, on probation, or pending revocation of permit(s) or licensing suspension.
5. Organizations must attest that the RFA awards will not be spent on any items other than those in the proposed project described in the grant application.
6. Must be able to provide a complete copy of your most recently filed Form 990 or other federal tax return (i.e., 1120 or 990-PF), the most recent audited financial statements (if available) and the most recent unaudited or internally prepared financial statements to include a balance sheet and a statement of net revenues and expenditures.

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

Project Objectives/Funding Opportunity

In this solicitation, OCOK expects to award grants in the amount up to \$150,000 per provider, not to exceed a total distribution of \$2,500,000.

T3C Readiness Grants are intended to support organizations in readiness activities that will advance their ability to meet the requirements to apply to be credentialed to serve in the T3C service array.

OCOK seeks to award grants across the continuum of care and service packages.

This funding opportunity is for organizations who have *not* received an interim or full credential (whether inactive or active) to date. Organizations *may* have a pending T3C

interim (not full) credentialing application submitted and pending. If your application is pending, you *are* eligible to apply for this grant if the interim T3C application has not yet been completely processed at the time of grant application.

OCOK will award T3C Transition Grants (under this solicitation) up to, and not to exceed, \$150,000 during FY 26. All grant funds must be obligated by the grantee by August 1, 2026. If funds are not obligated, then they are considered unspent. Any funding that is not expended or obligated for grant purposes must be returned to OCOK at that time.

Organizations are eligible for **up to \$150,000** in T3C grant funding across state fiscal years 2024, 2025 and 2026. For example, if an organization received a T3C readiness grant of \$150,000 in FY 2024, they are not eligible for a grant in this award cycle. If an organization received a T3C readiness grant of \$20,000 in FY 2024 and no award in FY 2025, they would be eligible for up to \$130,000 during this award cycle.

Provider organizations that function under multiple license/permit types and/or EINs may only apply for a grand total of \$150,000 across fiscal years.

Costs for which your organization has already received or are in the process of receiving grant funding issued by DFPS for the same exact purpose are not eligible under this solicitation.

Capital expenses exceeding \$4,999 for items such as transport vehicles or new buildings are not permitted.

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

- Changes to policies and procedures consistent with selected primary models and targeted service package(s) the provider will be delivering.
- New targeted and upfront training for intake, case managers, directors, foster parents (if applicable), direct delivery staff (if applicable), etc. on primary models/service packages and CANS 3.0 assessment tool and process.
- IT changes to support operating under the new service array.
- Data collection, tracking, and reporting changes.
- Changes to cost collection to populate a more robust cost report.

Examples of qualifying activities associated with the above objectives and that may be funded include, but are not limited to, the descriptions in the following table:

Policies and procedures consistent with selected primary models and targeted service package(s) the provider will be delivering.	
<i>Clinical models for GROs and CPAs</i>	Development and implementation of well-defined models for treating mental and behavioral health and/or an enhancement of their clinical model.
<i>Enhanced programming/treatment models</i>	Expanding program options, policies, and procedures to align with T3C requirements. (e.g., 24-hour intake, respite, and specialized respite, 24/7 crisis response, aftercare services, complex cross-system coordination, normalcy, readiness for adulthood, family finding, discharge planning, nursing, etc.) DFPS has a definition of treatment models that aligns closely with what Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) calls “program models.” Organizations may need support in developing a robust treatment model, policies, training, or support in implementing an existing treatment model. For organizations intending to credential in Tier 2 GRO T3C Service packages who are seeking accreditation with a national organization, costs associated with accreditation are acceptable.
<i>Quality assurance</i>	Systems, policies and procedures to evaluate and improve quality, demonstrate fidelity, predict results.
<i>Staffing</i>	Certain service packages have specific specialized staffing requirements that may warrant the hiring of new staff and associated policies and procedures. Grant funds could be used for salary. Providers would need to have a plan for sustainability until certification.
New targeted and upfront training for intake, case managers, directors, foster parents (if applicable), direct delivery staff (if applicable), etc. on new primary models/service packages and CANS 3.0 assessment tool and process.	
<i>Facility readiness</i>	Assessing ability of facilities to support delivery of service packages and supporting facilities improvements (e.g., supervision/line of sight, anti-ligature features, security, durability, etc.) under \$5,000 as per capital expense note above.

<i>Training development</i>	Development of training on model/service packages and CANS 3.0 assessment tool and processes to support organizational transition.
Information Technology (IT) systems to support operating under the new service array.	
<i>Quality assurance</i>	IT system changes needed to evaluate and improve quality, demonstrate fidelity, predict results.
<i>Billing</i>	IT systems needed to support billing and operating in new service array.
Data collection system to track and report changes.	
<i>Implementation, development, or refinement of new data systems</i>	Assessing current system against T3C requirements and implementing needed changes.
System to complete cost collection to populate a more robust cost report.	
<i>Changes to cost reporting</i>	T3C anticipates changes to cost reporting. Details have not been made available, but seeing requirements in T3C Blueprint may provide some key takeaways. HHSC also intends to have a mechanism (to be defined) to track foster home costs; this will be a new requirement that will need to be implemented by CPAs.

Expectations of Grantees

To ensure the success of the proposed project, adherence to expectations outlined below will be required for grant awardees (organizations will be asked to agree to expectations on the RFA application):

1. Participate in a virtual one-hour T3C grant orientation meeting in January 2026.
2. Maintain and report on requirements and data as requested in the contract.
3. Participate in a pre- and post-grant survey and/or focus group to evaluate the impact of grant funding.
4. Submission of financial documents validating use of funds to proposed project.

5. Maintenance of financial records/documents/invoices & receipts associated with expenditure of grant funds for a period of four years from the grant award.

Components of the Application

Proposals must be submitted using the **online application form**. The online application form can be found at <https://tacfs.wufoo.com/forms/p88r87h04y78sw/> and will require the following information:

1. *Name of the organization and contact information.*
2. *DFPS regions/SSCC catchment areas your organization serves.*
3. *Description/documentation of minimum qualifications as outlined in the section above.*
4. *T3C service package(s) and add-on service package(s) your organization intends to deliver.*
5. *Whether or not you have a pending credentialing application submitted.*
6. *Project description:* Describe specifically how the proposed funds will be used. Be as specific as possible. The description must include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Summary project description.
 - b. Project activities (how you will use the funds, in detail).
 - c. Intended goals (how the proposed activities will advance readiness).
 - d. How the proposed project relates to the outlined objectives of the funding.
7. *Background, governance, and accreditation affiliations:*
 - a. Do you have a board of directors?
 - b. If yes, does your board meet at least quarterly each year?
 - c. Is your organization accredited?
 - d. If so, by whom?

8. *Services and programming*: Describe the residential child-care services your agency provides, including core programming and the populations you serve.

9. *Best practices*:

- a. Describe your agency's use of evidence-based or evidence-informed practices.
- b. What are the top three outcomes your program targets? (This should go beyond outputs such as number of clients served; outcomes are the client changes you are aiming for.)
- c. How do you track and measure whether you are reaching your intended outcomes?

10. *T3C orientation and readiness*: A description/narrative of how your organization is situated as to the requirements to apply to be credentialed to serve in the T3C service array in the specific package(s) in which you plan to serve. By what method did you make this assessment?

11. *Feasibility and financial position*: Organizations must upload a complete copy of your most recently filed Form 990 or other federal tax return (i.e. 1120 or 990-PF), the most recent audited financial statements (if available) and the most recent unaudited or internally prepared financial statements to include a balance sheet and a statement of net revenues and expenditures.

12. *Cost proposal*: Organizations must specify the amount of direct funding requested by line-item categories. Please use [this document](#) to complete the budget. All items in the cost proposal should be reflected in the project description. A budget narrative and justification should be provided for each budgeted line item. Indirect costs are allowed but may not exceed 10% of total direct project expenses.

Application Scoring

OCOK will coordinate with The Center for the application evaluations and will use a systematic scoring process by a panel of reviewers to include persons from all SSCCs, DFPS, the Center and other relevant stakeholders to select applicants for awards. Applications that do not include all required forms and sections, or that do not meet the minimum qualifications, will be immediately disqualified and will not be scored. The reviewers will score the applications using a standardized rubric based on the project plan components and application items noted above.

Timeline

Timeline	
RFA Release Date	September 3, 2025
Applicant Questions Due (No Later than 5 PM Central Time)	September 24, 2025
Applications Due (no later than 5 PM Central Time)	October 1, 2025
Tentative Award Announcements	October 30-31, 2025
Anticipated Contract Start Date	November 3, 2025
Anticipated Contract End Date	August 31, 2026

RFA Submission and Contact

Please access the online application form at

<https://tacfs.wufoo.com/forms/p88r87h04y78sw/>

Applications are due by 5:00 pm Central Time on October 1, 2025.

Direct any questions to info@t3cready.org. Please reference that the question is related to Solicitation #1. We will not respond to questions received after 5:00 PM Central Time on September 24, 2025.