

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

And

FLORENCE CRITTENTON PROGRAMS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CONTRACT NUMBER 4400030395

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into as of July 1, 2022, by and between the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Post Office Box 1520, Columbia, South Carolina 29205-1520 hereafter referred to as "SCDSS", and Florence Crittenton, 19 St. Margaret Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29403, hereafter referred to as "Contractor".

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the FY 2022-23 Appropriations Act, Proviso 118.19 (B)(87) appropriates \$500,000 to Florence Crittenton; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor provides programs and services for providing residential services statewide for eligible young women under the age of 21 years during their pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the mission of SCDSS is to serve South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families; and

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this MOA, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and stipulations set forth herein, agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I
TERM OF THE AGREEMENT**

The Memorandum of Agreement shall take effect July 1, 2022 and shall continue in full force and effect until June 30, 2023.

**ARTICLE II
SCDSS RESPONSIBILITIES**

SCDSS agrees to provide the following:

- A. To pay the Contractor a sum of \$500,000

**ARTICLE III
CONTRACTORS RESPONSIBILITIES**

3.1 Program Description, Background, and Need

More than 3,000 SC teens give birth each year. South Carolina has the 11th highest teen birth rate in the nation. Young women who become pregnant in their teens and early 20s face obstacles that impact their ability to earn a livable wage. Research suggests that less than 50% of teen mothers finish high school. Without a high school diploma or equivalent, teen mothers are faced with financial insecurity, lack of employment and career growth, lack of access to quality child care, and homelessness or inadequate and unstable housing.

Children born to young mothers are more likely to be premature or have a low birthweight, have lower educational performance, and are less likely to graduate. They are more likely to suffer from child abuse, live in poverty, and are three times more likely to be homeless or be removed from parental care. They are more likely to become teen parents themselves, and male children are more likely to be incarcerated. Teen parenting is part of the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Pregnant and parenting youth need a special combination of services to support their journey toward becoming self-sufficient parents that cannot be met in a conventional homeless shelter. Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina (FCP) has a 125-year history of providing safe shelter and comprehensive services to homeless pregnant and parenting youth. These services include meeting the youth's basic needs for food and clothing; case management; medical and behavioral health care; educational and employment support; life skills training; parenting education; linkages to other community support systems; and where possible, family reunification.

3.2 Scope of Work

Under this award, the Contractor agrees to provide the following:

Shelter and comprehensive services free-of-charge to homeless pregnant and parenting teens and young women, and their infants. The Contractor will offer two options for safe shelter: congregate care in its residential facility and/or rental assistance.

A. Safe, Stable, and Appropriate Congregate Shelter

Contractor shall:

- Screen all referrals for eligibility, need for, and willingness/ability to participate in program services. A pre-admission interview will obtain the youth's educational status, medical concerns, and reason for referral; and screen for preliminary eligibility for the program, including:
 - 1) Pregnancy or Parenting Status: must be able to provide proof of pregnancy or have physical custody of a child under the age of 2;
 - 2) Age: must be between the ages of 15-21, infant must be under two years of age;
 - 3) Gender: only female youth (infants of any gender); and
 - 4) not in the custody of the SC Departments of Social Services or Juvenile Justice.
- Work with partner agencies to connect the youth to appropriate services, in the event the contractor cannot appropriately serve a prospective resident.

- Provide shelter in a congregate setting for approximately 5 young women ages 15-21 and 5 infants of either gender, from birth to two years of age.
- Provide each young woman her own room equipped with a twin bed, dresser, night table, and closet, as well as a new crib and car seat for her infant.
- Provide for all basic needs of the young woman and her infant, including three meals and three snacks per day; linens, towels, baby bathtubs, and personal hygiene equipment/care products for themselves and their infants; and diapers, baby formula and food, baby clothing, and other infant essentials.
- Maintain adequate staffing 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to oversee the safety and security of all residents in its care.

B. Safe, Affordable Housing Assistance

The Contractor shall:

- Screen all referrals for eligibility, need for, and willingness/ability to participate in program services. A pre-admission interview will screen for preliminary eligibility for the program, including:
 - 1) Pregnancy or Parenting Status: must be able to provide proof of pregnancy or have physical custody of a child under the age of 2;
 - 2) Housing Status: must provide proof of homelessness and housing instability; and
 - 3) Income: must have a household less than 30% of the Area Median Income.
- Work with partner agencies to connect the youth to appropriate services, in the event the contractor cannot appropriately serve a prospective resident.
- Provide rental assistance to at least 5 pregnant or parenting young women.
- Assist each young woman in securing furniture, including a crib for their infant.
- Provide a monthly allotment of diapers, and will assist with baby formula and food, baby clothing, and other infant essentials, as needed.
- Provide comprehensive services via biweekly home visits.

C. Comprehensive Services

The Contractor shall:

- Ensure that the FCP Nurse will conduct a medical assessment, provide health and pregnancy education, and coordinate all medical (including prenatal, postpartum, and pediatric), dental, and vision appointments and prescriptions.
- Ensure that a FCP case manager will meet with residential clients a minimum of once per week, and affordable housing clients biweekly, to develop and work towards
 - 1) physical, emotional, and mental health goals,
 - 2) peer, family, and authority figure relationships,
 - 3) education and employment goals,
 - 4) independent living skills,
 - 5) parenting skills and
 - 6) stable housing or family reunification.

- Offer workforce development assistance, including helping youth obtain their birth certificate, Social Security and identification cards; completing job searches; preparing for interviews; and securing child care.
- Provide residential clients with transportation to/from medical appointments, school, work, childcare, and educational or social activities.
- Offer age-appropriate educational programming to develop independent living skills.

D. Goals and Performance Indicators

- GOAL: pregnant and parenting young women and their infants will have safe, stable, and appropriate shelter.
 - 5 homeless pregnant and parenting youth between the ages of 15-21, and their infants, will receive shelter and services.
 - 5 homeless young mothers will receive rental assistance and support services.
- GOAL: pregnant teens will carry their infants to term and receive the education needed to prevent accidents and child abuse.
 - 90% of youth demonstrate improvement in parenting skills on the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Index.
 - 90% of clients will deliver full-term infants.
 - 90% will deliver a healthy birth-weight infant.
- GOAL: pregnant and parenting young women will have the education, skills, and support needed to prepare for independence.
 - 85% will make educational improvements (passing grades in classes, completed the GED or graduated from high school, or pursued post-secondary education).
 - 90% of youth will participate in on-going workforce development workshops and opportunities

3.3 Reporting Requirements

Contractor shall submit a report to DSS that includes an accounting of how the Contractor spent the funds and a report with outcome measurements used to determine the success of the stated goals by June 30, 2023. See Attachment A for Proviso 117.21.

3.4 Amendment

Neither party may modify, amended, alter, or supplement this MOA except upon the execution and delivery of a written agreement executed by the parties hereto.

3.5 Safeguarding Information

The Contractor shall safeguard the use and disclosure of information about applicants and recipients of services in addition to restricting access to, use, and disclosure of such information in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.

3.6 Fines and Penalties

The Contractor is responsible for paying all fines and penalties incurred by the performance of services provided through this MOA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The SCDSS and Florence Crittenton, by their authorized agents, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions exchanged between them, have executed this agreement to be effective as of the first day of July 2022.

Susan Roben
SCDSS Chief Financial Officer

Date

Authorized Representative
Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina

Date

South Carolina General Assembly
124th Session, 2021-2022

H. 5150

General Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
Ratified Version

PART IB
OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

117.21. (GP: Organizations Receiving State Appropriations Report). Each state agency receiving funds that are a direct appropriation to a non-profit organization, prior to disbursing the funds, shall require from each recipient organization a plan of how the state funds will be spent and how the expenditures will provide a public benefit. The Executive Budget Office, Department of Administration shall provide each state agency with a standard form for collecting the information required. After receiving the funds, non-profit organizations shall provide quarterly spending updates to the respective state agency. After all state funds have been expended, each organization shall provide an accounting of how the funds were spent. State agencies receiving funds pursuant to this provision shall report the information collected to the Executive Budget Office, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee by June 30th. No funds in this act shall be disbursed to organizations or purposes which practice discrimination against persons by virtue of race, creed, color or national origin.