

SIL COMMENT AND QUESTIONS RECEIVED

8-24-2026 - Final

Quest. #	Page #	Sub Section	Draft Solicitation Language	Question	SCDSS Response
1	9	1.1	It is the intent of the SC Department of Social Services, (SCDSS), to establish a Qualified Providers List able to provide Supervised Independent Living (SIL).	How many providers will be on the provider list?	There is no established limit of contractors that will be awarded. Reference Section 6., Award Criteria, Provision 6.1, Award Criteria—Fixed Price Bidding. Also reference, Section 5., Qualifications, provision 5.1, Qualifications of Offeror.
2	9	1.1	It is the intent of the SC Department of Social Services, (SCDSS), to establish a Qualified Providers List able to provide Supervised Independent Living (SIL).	Specify what county or area/location is this needed?	This SIL solicitation is for community-based housing throughout the state of South Carolina. Reference Section 1., Scope of Solicitation/Specifications, Provision 1.1, Acquire Services.
3	10	1.3	Start date: XX/XX/2026 End date: XX/XX/20XX . Dates provided are estimates only. Any resulting contract will begin on the date specified in the notice of award. See clause entitled "Term of Contract - Effective Date/Initial Contract Period". [01-1040-1]	Will this start date be the same dates young adults will be referred, or is it just throughout the entire year?	No, this date refers to the estimated initial effective date of awarded contracts and does not apply to referral dates. Reference Section 1., Scope of Solicitation/Specifications, Provision 1.3, Maximum Contract Period. "Dates provided are estimates only."
4	25	3.1 C	g. Commits a crime or is involved in ongoing dangerous/illegal activities; h. Assessment of mental health issues or alcohol/drug problems that require additional level of care; or i. Assessment of impairments and needs to be involved with the Adult Development disabilities system.	Is the contractor supposed to perform random drug tests?	No, the contractor shall inform the DSS case manager with concerns. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, provision 3.5, SIL Service Components, Item a. vi., Case Management Services.
5	26	3.2 B	a. Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), b. CANS Independent Living Module, c. Transition Plan Meeting, or self-identified transition goals, and if applicable, school enrollment status and employment schedule, d. If applicable, Young Adult Transition Teaming (YATT),	Will SCDSS provide this prior to enrollment?	As part of the referral process, see Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.2, Admission Process, Section B. Unclear what is meant by "enrollment."
6	27	3.3 C	b. Contractor must have security cameras around the outside of the property linked to the office.	Will the contractor be allowed to have security cameras in the common areas, kitchen, living room and hallway? (Not bedroom or Bathroom)	No, this is an SIL. Refer to Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, C, (b). Security cameras are clearly required ONLY for the "outside of the property." Please note Refer to Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4, Item A., (e).
7	28	3.4 A. g.	g. Young adults must each have their own bedroom, and at minimum one (1) full bathroom per two (2) young adults. In apartments with more than one (1) bedroom, young adults may share common space including kitchen.	Clarify if the contractor needs to separate female and male apartments or if the males would need a separate apartment?	Females and males may not share one housing unit, reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4, SIL Setting - Apartment, Item i.
8	30	3.5 iii. 3.	3. The activities must consist of at least one of the support services identified in the 14 categories by the National Young Adult Transition Database (NYTD). Please refer to Exhibit C: National Young Adult Transition Database (NYTD) Booklet;	Will booklet links or pdf files be shared to contractors from SCDSS for the Booklet?	Yes. Manual was provided during the public comment period and will be included as an attachment to the solicitation when published.
9	30	3.5 iv. 3.	The Contractor must assist with identifying needed Chafee/ETV-funded services and helping the young adult provide all required documentation to SCDSS case manager to submit Chafee/ETV funding requests. <i>See exhibit 30258 Chafee guidelines booklet.</i>	Will instructions be provided from SCDSS to contractors on how to complete this?	Yes. See response to question 7 above. Also, review manual for specific instructions.
10	30	3.5 iii. 5	5. Contractor must record the monthly received transition services (funded and non-funded) documented on the <i>DSS Monthly NYTD Tracking Form (DSS Form 30254)</i> . The completed form must be placed in the young adult's file and provided to the SCDSS Case Manager monthly;	Will the contractor be provided instructions from SCDSS on how to complete this?	Yes. See response to question 7 above. Also, review manual for specific instructions.

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11	34	4.1 F. j.	All Providers must include in the personnel file a copy of all employees’ state (SLED) and FBI fingerprint based criminal record checks, Central Registry check, South Carolina AND Federal Sex Offender Registry checks and verification of no findings that would preclude employment with young adult.	If some staff positions are still vacant, may the contractor submit their current team now and provide updates once the remaining personnel are hired?	Yes. See reference Section 4., Information for Offerors to Submit, Provision 4.1, (c). “Submit job descriptions for any intended staff positions.”
12	44	7.27 4	(4) Abuse or Molestation Insurance on an "occurrence" basis, with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence. This contract shall be considered to be an "insured contract" as defined in the policy.	Clarify if SCDSS Will accept a standard Commercial General Liability policy with a \$1,000,000 limit satisfy this requirement, or is the agency requiring a separate, specialized policy because standard general liability typically excludes abuse and molestation?	The policy must meet the requirements as listed in Section 7B Terms and Conditions, Provision 7.27 (4). Bidder should review requirements with their insurer to ensure that their policy is compliant with the requirements.
13	58	8.2 SIL Apartment Style Living Setting	Maximum SIL Apartment Style Living Daily Rate \$137.00	Does the daily rate include supportive services such as case management, transportation assistance, life skills training, educational support, and employment readiness services?	Yes, rates are inclusive of all requirements. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.5, SIL Service Components, Item A.
14	58	8.2 SIL Apartment Style Living Setting	Maximum SIL Apartment Style Living Daily Rate \$137.00	May providers offer specialized housing programs focused on survivors of domestic violence and youth aging out of foster care?	Yes, provided the young adult meets the requirements of eligibility for SIL. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.1, Eligibility Specifications.
15	58	8.2 SIL Apartment Style Living Setting	Maximum SIL Apartment Style Living Daily Rate \$137.00	Will contractors be permitted to provide transportation services for residents to attend work, school, counseling appointments, and other supportive services?	Yes, reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.5, SIL Service Components, Item (b) vi.
16	18	2.16 Duty to Inquire	Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly...	Will newly established nonprofit organizations be eligible to compete if their leadership team possesses significant management and human services experience?	Reference Section 4., Information for Offerors to Submit, Provision 4.1, F (b).
17	18	2.13 Conflicts of Interest	The State may consider efforts to avoid or mitigate such concerns...	Will partnerships with community organizations, technical colleges, domestic violence agencies, and workforce development programs be encouraged	Yes, reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.5, b, (iv).
18	57	7.51 Safety Precautions	Provider is expected to take necessary steps to insure or protect itself and its personnel.	Are there minimum security, staffing, or facility requirements for transitional housing providers serving vulnerable populations?	No. As stated in Section 7C., Miscellaneous Terms, Provision 7.51 “Provider is expected...”
19	General	Program Requirements	N/A	Will providers be allowed to offer trauma-informed services specifically designed for women who have experienced domestic violence?	Yes.
20	General	Program		Will providers be permitted to offer mentoring, financial literacy, parenting classes, and life skills education as part of the transitional living program?	Yes. Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.5, SIL Service Components, Item (b), Life Skills Planning and Development.
21	General	Program Requirements		Will educational partnerships with technical colleges, community colleges, and workforce training programs be considered an enhancement to the proposal?	Yes, however, please note this is a Fixed Price Bid not a Request for Proposal.
22	General	Housing Requirements		Is there a minimum or maximum number of residents that a transitional housing provider must serve under the program?	No
23	General	Funding		May providers utilize grant funding, private donations, and community partnerships to supplement services provided under the contract?	Yes
24	General	Evaluation Criteria		Will evaluation criteria consider an organization’s ability to provide long-term supportive services and successful transition outcomes rather than solely prior contract experience?	This is a Fixed Price Bid not a Request for Proposal. Reference Section 6., Award Criteria, Provision 6.1, Award Criteria—Fixed Price Bidding. Also reference, Section 5., Qualifications, provision 5.1, Qualifications of Offeror.
25	General	Performance Measures		What performance measures will be used to evaluate contractor success, including housing stability, educational attainment, employment placement, and independent living outcomes?	Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.6, Financial Reporting Requirements, Item B., (c) (d).

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26	General	Service Model		Would the State consider innovative transitional housing models that combine safe housing, case management, education, employment services, transportation, and mentoring for vulnerable women and youth populations?	Yes, provided the young adult meets the requirements of eligibility for SIL. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.1, Eligibility Specifications, and all other requirements listed in Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications.
27	25	3.1.D Eligibility Specifications	"Reference the SIL Reference Manual (add link) for actions to be taken to minimize unplanned discharge."	Question: The solicitation references the SIL Reference Manual; however, the link has not yet been provided. Will the SIL Reference Manual be released prior to the final solicitation, and will compliance with requirements contained only in the manual be mandatory for contract performance?	Yes. Manual was provided during the public comment period and will be included as an attachment to the solicitation when published.
28	25	3.1.C.f Discharge Criteria	"Provider submits ten (10) business day notice requesting client to be removed from SIL program."	Question: Please clarify the process and approval requirements following a provider's submission of a ten (10) business day removal notice. Is SCDSS approval required before discharge, and what responsibilities remain with the provider during the notice period?	Please refer back to Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.1 (c). Care is still provided until another placement is found by the 10 th day. Approval IS REQUIRED before discharge of young adult
29	26-27	3.3.B-C SIL Supervision	"Staff shall adjust their eight and one half (8.5) hours to youth's schedule for weekly check ins" and "Contractor staff shall be available by phone and respond on site (if needed) within 30 minutes."	Comment/Question: Additional clarification is requested regarding staffing expectations. Does the 30-minute on-site response requirement apply 24/7, including weekends and holidays? If so, may providers utilize an on-call rotation system to meet this requirement?	Yes to all.
30	27	3.3.D Staffing Requirements	".5 FTE minimum per eight (8) young adults ratio"	Question: How will staffing ratios be calculated when census fluctuates throughout the contract period? Will ratios be based on average monthly census, maximum occupancy, or active placements at a given time?	Staffing ratios are set, see Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, SIL Supervision, Item D, (d).
31	26	3.2.A.e Admission Process	"Any records containing violent and/or sexual offenses may prevent approval to participate in SIL program."	Question: Will SCDSS provide specific eligibility criteria regarding criminal history, or will approval decisions be made on a case-by-case basis? Clarification would assist providers in evaluating referrals consistently.	This is a SIL community-based housing program, the contractor is required to submit a breakdown of the contractor's program methodology. This is dependent upon what the contractor's services allow. The contractor is responsible for accepting or declining clients.
32	33-34	4.1.F.a.i Information for Offerors to Submit	"Describe fundraising activities and grant awards the organization has utilized in the past and intends to utilize to cover expenses not reimbursed by the State."	Comment: Consider clarifying whether fundraising capacity will be evaluated as part of responsiveness or provider qualification scoring, as newer providers may have limited fundraising history despite possessing strong programmatic capabilities.	This is a Fixed Price Bid not a Request for Proposal, submissions are not scored against weighted evaluation criteria. Reference Section 6., Award Criteria, Provision 6.1, Award Criteria—Fixed Price Bidding. Also reference, Section 5., Qualifications, provision 5.1, Qualifications of Offeror.
33	26	3.3B	The Contractor's staff shall establish, at a minimum, monthly unannounced engagements with each young adult to ensure the young adult is conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the program's expectations.	Concerned about this requirement as I don't want to it encourage "gotcha" mentality. Additionally, it's unclear how this would be conducted. Entering the apartment without being let in, under a lease agreement, would be a violation. What constitutes an unannounced engagement? An impromptu conversation in the parking lot or a more in-depth, surprise meeting? The latter will be challenging to do.	SCDSS expects unannounced engagements to be conducted as outlined in the solicitation. Reference Section 3. Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, Item B
34	26	3.3C	Staff shall adjust their eight and one half (8.5) hours to youth's schedule for weekly check ins.	Need clarity. Is this stating that of a 40-hour work week, the staff person should allow up to 8.5 hours of flexibility to work with youth outside regular business hours?	Contractor is expected to adjust staff's schedules to meet requirements. Reference Section 3. Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, Item B.
35	27	3.3Dai	One half (.5) FTE minimum per eight (8) young adults ratio.	Can this be adjusted to 0.5 per 8-10 young adults? Growing Hope's Leaphart Place has 20 single unit apartments. Adjusting this to 8-10 would have enormous impact in our ability to staff appropriately.	Staffing ratios set per solicitation. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, Item D.
36	27	3.3Dbi	One half (.5) FTE minimum per eight (8) young adults ratio.	Can this be adjusted to 0.5 per 8-10 young adults? Growing Hope's Leaphart Place has 20 single unit apartments. Adjusting this to 8-10 would have enormous impact in our ability to staff appropriately.	Staffing ratios set per solicitation. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, Item D.
37	27	3.3Dci	One quarter (.25) FTE minimum for up to eight (8) young adults	Can this be adjusted to 0.25 per 8-10 young adults? Growing Hope's Leaphart Place has 20 single unit apartments. Adjusting this to 8-10 would have enormous impact in our ability to staff appropriately.	Staffing ratios set per solicitation. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, Item D.

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38	28	3.4Ad	Contractor must cover rental costs for unit. Contractor must cover basic utility expenses to include, but not limited to, landline, internet, water, gas, electricity, sewage, and trash.	Could the landline requirement only be if the young person doesn't have a cell phone? Paying for a landline for kids these days seems like it would just be throwing money down the drain.	No. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4, Item A, (d).
39	45	7.28 Contractor's Liability Insurance - Information Security and Privacy	<i>e) Coverage shall have limits no less than five million (\$5,000,000.00) dollars per occurrence and ten million (\$10,000,000.00) dollars aggregate</i>	These limits are quite high. Would DSS accept waivers for this coverage limit? Would DSS consider lowering the coverage amounts?	The policy must meet the requirements as listed in Section 7B Terms and Conditions, Provision 7.28. Bidder should review requirements with their insurer to ensure that their policy is compliant with the requirements.
40	45	7.28 Contractor's Liability Insurance - Information Security and Privacy	<i>(g) All terms of this clause shall survive termination of the contract and shall continue until thirty (30) days past the final completion of the work, including the performance of any warranty work. In addition, contractor shall maintain in force and effect any "claims-made" coverage for a minimum of two (2) years after final completion of all work or services to be provided hereunder. Contractor shall purchase an extended reporting period, or "tail coverage," if necessary to comply with the latter requirement.</i>	It is cost-prohibitive for us to obtain tail coverage. However, we can have the retroactive date added to our current COI. The retroactive date preserves coverage for incidents that occurred in the past but are reported later. For example, if an incident were to occur in 2026 and we did not receive notice of the claim until 2031, that claim would be covered under the 2031 policy, so long as we have continuously maintained the same retroactive date (which is our intent). Will this suffice?	SCDSS would not be able to guarantee this. It is possible that the bidder would still need to purchase the tail coverage. Bidder should review requirements as listed in Section 7B Terms and Conditions, Provision 7.28 with their insurer to ensure that their policy is compliant with the requirements.
41	1	Cover Letter	<i>Your input will help ensure clarity and accuracy in the final solicitation to be published after the public comment period</i>	When will the final solicitation be posted?	It is anticipated that the Solicitation will be published in the third quarter of 2026.
42	9	1.1 Acquire Services	<i>It is the intent of the SC Department of Social Services, (SCDSS), to establish a Qualified Providers List able to provide Supervised Independent Living (SIL).</i>	Please confirm that DSS is looking for multiple providers.	Reference Section 6, AWARD CRITERIA, Provision 6.1, "Award will be made to all responsive and responsible Offerors."
43	10	1.3 Maximum Contract Period	<i>Start date: XX/XX/2026 End date: XX/XX/20XX. Dates provided are estimates only. Any resulting contract will begin on the date specified in the notice of award. See clause entitled "Term of Contract - Effective Date/Initial Contract Period". [01- 1040-1] It is anticipated that the initial term of the contract will be one (1) year with four (4) one-year options to renew resulting in a maximum contract term of five (5) years.</i>	Is the start date of the contract the date we can begin to accept youth into the program? Or is the start date when the identified youth needs to start their housing?	This date refers to the estimated initial effective date of awarded contracts and does not apply to referral dates. Also refer to Section 7A, Provision 7.18, Purchase Orders.
44	28	3.4 SIL Setting - Apartment	<i>A. The Contractor must offer realistic, safe and stable housing to young adults, with apartments clustered within a community (e.g. neighborhood/town) to support shared supports and programming. a. Apartments must be within reasonable proximity to basic amenities and local community resources such as higher education, employment opportunities, public transportation options, and groceries; readily accessible by either by public transportation or walkable. b. Contractor must own property and/or lease property.</i>	Does the property have to be an apartment? Could a provider lease a house with multiple bedrooms and bathrooms that meets the other requirements (laundry, security, etc.)?	Community house settings includes both apartments and homes . One young adult per bedroom and at minimum one (1) full bathroom per two young adults. Reference Section 1, Scope of Solicitation, Provision 1.2, and Section 3., Scope of Work/Specification, Provision 3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment, Item A, (g).

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45	30	3.5 SIL Service Components, A., b. Life Skills Planning and Development, v.	v. <i>The Contractor must provide food allotment for nutritional goods.</i> 1. <i>Contractor must provide food allotment card/stipends/vouchers in amount of \$150 every 30 days;</i> 2. <i>Contractor must ensure young adults have balanced grocery items, arrange bi-weekly grocery shopping trips, and access to food pantry for additional nutritional items;</i> 3. <i>Contractor must maintain a community pantry with a range of nutritious food staples as an additional resource for participants; and</i> 4. <i>Contractor must provide home management skill building opportunities such as budgeting, grocery shopping, cooking, food preparation and cleaning.</i>	When is it expected that the provider gives the stipend to a youth – beginning of the month or the end (for the next month)?	Every 30 days. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.5, SIL Service Components, Item A, (b), (v).
46	41	7.16 Payment and Interest	(a) <i>The State shall pay the Contractor, after the submission of proper invoices or vouchers, the prices stipulated in this contract for supplies delivered and accepted or services rendered and accepted, less any deductions provided in this contract. Unless otherwise specified herein, including the purchase order, payment shall not be made on partial deliveries accepted by the Government.</i> (b) <i>Unless otherwise provided herein, including the purchase order, payment will be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT). See clause titled " EFT Information."</i>	Is the payment process different than TFC? Is the expectation that providers submit an invoice and then receive payment? When are invoices due?	No, payment will be processed through CAPSS Child and Adult Protective Services System. Providers will not be required to submit invoices.
47	28	3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment	A. <i>The Contractor must offer realistic, safe and stable housing to young adults, with apartments clustered within a community (e.g. neighborhood/town) to support shared supports and programming.</i> a. <i>Apartments must be within reasonable proximity to basic amenities and local community resources such as higher education, employment opportunities, public transportation options, and groceries; readily accessible by either by public transportation or walkable.</i> b. <i>Contractor must own property and/or lease property.</i> c. <i>Contractor must be responsible to ensure general maintenance and repairs</i>	Comment and question - If you rent an apt you are at the mercy of the rental property as it relates to maintenance, fire and safety regulations (basing this off issues we have come across with licensing foster parents that live in apts.) Does DSS already have a list of apartment complexes or landlords that will work with providers and this population?	No.
48	28	3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment	e. <i>Apartments do not have to be licensed by SCDSS. Apartments must meet and follow local zoning, fire, sanitary, and safety regulations, and building codes. Routine maintenance must be performed as needed to ensure buildings and equipment are safe and in good working order.</i>	Some of the requirements (security cameras, building code, fire safety, etc.) may be based on the complex or landlord. While we will make reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with applicable standards, responsibility for certain aspects of building maintenance and infrastructure may rest with the property management entity when the property is leased. Please clarify the expectations for the provider’s role in addressing or escalating maintenance-related issues that fall under the control of the building management company.	All occupants must be named on the provider property agreement. Tenants shall not assign, transfer or sublet any part of the apartment or lease agreement.
49		Offeror Eligibility / Experience Requirements	Qualifications of Offerors	Does the solicitation require prior experience operating a SCDSS-contracted program, or are newly established organizations eligible to apply as offerors provided all other licensing, staffing, and programmatic requirements are met at the time of proposal submission?	Reference Section 4., Information for Offerors to Submit, Provision 4.1, F (b).
50		Reimbursement / Payment Structure	Scope of Work / Services	What is the anticipated daily per-diem reimbursement rate per SIL participant? Does SCDSS intend to use a tiered rate structure based on participant acuity or needs level, and if so, how will those tiers be defined and assessed?	The rate is fixed. Reference Section 8., Bidding Schedule, Provision 8.2.

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51		Program Capacity	Housing Service Array / Offeror Requirements	Is there a minimum number of SIL beds or participants a provider must be prepared to serve in order to be eligible to submit a proposal? Is there also a maximum capacity per housing site, and does SCDSS place any limits on the total number of participants per provider organization?	There is no set minimum. All requirements as noted in the solicitation apply.
52		Contract Award / Implementation Timeline	Post-Award Requirements	Following contract award, what is the expected timeframe within which a provider must be fully operational and ready to accept participant referrals from SCDSS? Will SCDSS provide a provisional or phased start period for newly contracted providers?	Immediately upon award, however, reference Section 7A, Terms and Conditions, Provision 7.18. If a bidder does not meet all qualifications, then bidder is not qualified to bid on the solicitation.
53		Offeror Eligibility	Organizational Requirements	Are both nonprofit and for-profit organizations eligible to submit proposals under this solicitation? Does SCDSS give preference to either entity type, or to minority-owned, women-owned, or faith-based organizations?	Reference Section 5, QUALIFICATIONS There is no requirement for a provider to be non-profit. There are no preferences applied to Offerors.
54		Referral Process	Participant Placement / Case Management	What is the referral process by which SCDSS will place SIL-eligible participants with contracted providers? Will providers be selected by the participant, assigned by a case manager, or determined through some other method, and how will providers be notified of available referrals?	SIL community-base housing program is voluntary. Selection is completed through a teaming process with client and DSS to ensure maximum compatibility.
55		Contract Structure	Contracting Terms	Will SCDSS award contracts to multiple providers across the state, or will awards be limited to a set number of providers per region? Is there a geographic service area requirement, and may a provider limit their service area to specific counties?	Yes. Multiple providers statewide. There is no set number of providers. Refer to Section 6., Award Criteria, Provision 6.1.
56	25	3.1 (A) & 3.1 (B)	Eligibility Requirements	If both parents of an infant meet SIL eligibility requirements as outlines in 3.1 A & B, would both parents be able to reside together and receive services under Sil?	Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specification, Provision 3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment, Item A, (i).
57	25	3.1 (D)	Reference the SIL Reference Manual (add link) for actions to be taken to minimize unplanned discharge.	Can providers review and provide feedback on the SIL Reference Manual before it is released? Will the manual be released before contracts are finalized?	No. SCDSS is not requesting feedback. Yes, the manual was provided during the public comment period and will be included as an attachment to the solicitation when published.
58	26	3.2 (A)(c)	Contractor must arrange same day interview request for cases of homelessness, at risk of homelessness, and pregnant, parenting young adults in need of housing stability.	Is there a reasonably expected timeframe to house youth in these circumstances? While support services can be implemented pretty quickly, even if interviews take place same-day, placement delays may exist due to lack of rooms or scattered-site apartments available.	If the Contractor is not available at the time the need is established, then SCDSS will move to the next available contractor.
59	26	3.3(A)	By nature of the programming model in SIL settings, staff supervision is minimal and driven by the individual needs of the young adult.	Are security cameras permitted in common	No
60	29	3.4 (A)(j)	Young adults must have access to laundry facilities on site at no cost.	Many apartments do not have laundry in each unit but may have a laundromat on property or nearby. For such instances, could a monthly laundry stipend or prepaid laundry card meet this requirement?	Yes, Contractor may provide pre-paid laundry cards or direct funds to young adult for laundry expenses. This requirement is already calculated in the SIL rate and no reimbursement will be issued to the Contractor for any stipend paid to the young adult.
61	31	3.5(A)(b)(v)	The Contractor must provide food allotment for nutritional goods.	Is the allotment the same for pregnant and/or parenting youth? Is the allotment for the whole family or each individual in the family?	Yes. Refer to Section 8., Bidding Schedule, Provision 8.2
62	32	3.5(A)(a*)(iii) - *incorrectly numbered in document – should be 3.5(A)(c)(iii)	When applicable, the Contractor must offer services tailored for pregnant and parenting young adults that support the acclimation to parenting and promote long-term, economic independence to ensure the well-being of the young adult and their child(ren).	Prior sections list specific furnishings each youth should receive upon admissions. What items are required for infants? (Recommendation: NEW car seat, age/weight appropriate bassinet/crib should be required to ensure the safety of the infant. All others items, Contractor can assist young adults with securing). Based on recommendation for new car seat and crib to ensure safety, we also recommend a one time stipend of \$500 to purchase these mandated items.	No, SCDSS case manager is able to submit request for Dependent Bundle for EFC client under the Chafee Program.
63	57	8.2	Maximum SIL Apartment Style Living Daily Rate	Given the added staff time to coordinate access to pregnant and parenting services and expenses to support an infant in the household, will there be a separate rate for pregnant and parenting young adults?	No.

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64	5		COACH - lists Friend as a role of the adolescent worker	Identifying "friend" as a role of the provider (or any professional worker in the youth life) blurs essential professional boundaries and minimizes the inherent power imbalance between staff and youth. While youth are legally adults, providers hold positions of authority, influence access to services, and make decisions that directly affect youths' lives. Effective helping relationships should be grounded in trust, empathy, and genuine care while maintaining appropriate professional boundaries that protect both the youth and the provider. Describing the relationship as a "trusted professional ally" or "supportive advocate" more accurately reflects trauma-informed, ethical practice.	SCDSS appreciates and will consider your input.
65	7-8		Types of SIL settings	This section is more inclusive of the various models that will be offered by providers. The FPB should be revised to include this language, either as a definition or holistically throughout the FPB. In the manual the setting definitions are inclusive of a variety of settings, including apartments, homes, dorm-like settings, and dorm settings. Thus, there is a conflict between the manual and the contract. The manual acknowledges that settings can differ and still provide the components of the supervised living program.	This solicitation focuses purely on community-based housing arrangements (i.e. apartments and single-family homes). Refer to section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4.
66	8		Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment - "Any buildings used to serve SIL participants must meet sanitation inspection and comply with zoning compliance and building codes."	As these will be unlicensed facilities, host homes, or scattered site properties, what will the process be for making these determinations and what remedies will be in place to ensure that bureaucratic processes do not delay housing for youth?	Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment, Item A(e). Contractors must "follow local zoning, fire, sanitary, and safety regulations, and building codes." This is a contractor responsibility no a SCDSS responsibility.
67	8		Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment - "If the SIL program is located in another facility outside the area of pre-approved fire inspection..."	What does this mean? How does one go about getting a pre-approved fire inspection? Charleston County was without a fire marshal for 6 months. State and local fire marshals regularly disagree on the interpretation of codes. What remedies will be in place to ensure that bureaucratic processes do not delay housing for youth?	Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment, Item A(e). Contractors must "follow local zoning, fire, sanitary, and safety regulations, and building codes." This is a contractor responsibility no a SCDSS responsibility.
68	8		Payment Mechanisms - "1. Young adults may be able to receive an Extension of Foster Care Stipend directly if they reside in a dorm, shared housing situation, non-college dorm and apartment setting. Extension of Foster Care Stipend can be paid as a per diem based on the level of care responsibility per month to the young adult. There is no expectation for the contracted provider to pay an Extension of Foster Care Stipend."	Does this mean that in apartment, dorm, shared housing settings, etc. a youth can be made responsible for a portion of the housing cost and that DSS will provide them with a stipend to offset that cost? If that is the case, there needs to be guidance for providers for determining the level of responsibility.	Contractors do not determine responsibility level for stipends. It is a fixed rate per placement setting. <u>Contractors are not allowed to charge clients additional amounts for housing or services.</u>
69	9	1.2	"This includes placement services such as SCDSS or contract agency foster homes or facilities, contracted independent living IL programs or community-based housing arrangements."	Can this program utilize foster homes for placement services?	For this solicitation it is for community-based housing arrangements such as apartments.
70	10		Comprehensive application must include behavioral patterns, performance for 6 months prior, additional relevant behavior incidents of earlier months if needed to better assess supportive needs and resources.	This is listed twice.	Noted.
71	11		Discharge	Include "Commits a serious threat or act of violence against another resident."	Yes. Reference section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.1, Eligibility Specifications, Item C, (h).

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72	25	3.1	Eligibility Specifications (generally)	Can you estimate the number of young adults this program will serve, i.e., by county?	No. This is a new program that is voluntary. Reference Section 7B, Terms and Conditions, Provision 7.32, Estimated Quantity-Unknown
73	25	3.1 (A) and 3.1 (B)		If both parents of an infant meet SIL eligibility requirements as outlines in 3.1 A & B, would both parents be able to reside together and receive services under SIL?	Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specification, Provision 3.4 SIL Setting – Apartment , Item A, (i).
74	25	3.1	D. Reference the SIL Reference Manual (add link) for actions to be taken to minimize unplanned discharge	Do we have access to the SIL Reference Manual? Can providers review and provide feedback for the SIL Reference Manual before it is released? Will the manual be released before contracts are finalized?	Yes, the manual was provided during the public comment period and will be included as an attachment to the solicitation when published.
75	26	3.2 (A)(c)	Contractor must arrange same day interview request for cases of homelessness, at risk of homelessness, and pregnant, parenting young adults in need of housing stability.	What is the reasonably expected timeframe to house youth in these circumstances?	If the Contractor is not available at the time the need is established, then SCDSS will move to the next available contractor.
76	26	3.3 (A)	By nature of the programming model in SIL settings, staff supervision is minimal and driven by the individual needs of the young adult.	Are security cameras permitted in common areas the property being used by SIL?	No
77	27	3.3 D	Contractor program staff must include at minimum:	Can the SIL Program Manager and Coordinator be combined into 1 fulltime position or is 2 layers of supervision required?	Refer to section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, SIL Supervision, Item D.
Footnote to question number 14 The original proposal included two SIL Settings: Transitional Programs and Apartment settings. The transitional setting has been excluded from this proposed fixed-price bid. It read: Transitional programs must provide realistic living experience in which the young adults can take responsibility for themselves based on their level of self-sufficiency. Realistic living experience includes but is not limited to access to laundry facility, access to kitchen facility, access to internet, and access to shared living entertainment space. Transitional Programs are often arranged in a dorm-style setting. Room arrangements can be designed as cluster of shared space, private, or semi-private bedrooms. It is recommended that young adults has his/her own room, but no more than two young adults, 18 or older (or near the same) age. Many young adults are ready for less supervision than a moderate care contract requires, but do not have the skills needed for complete independence in an apartment setting. The transitional setting provides exactly what it says, an opportunity to successfully transition into an independent living setting while maintaining a community feel. It mimics the setting of those going to college, a typical and “normal” transition to independence. The lowered supervision level, combined with a built-in community and support system, is perfectly aligned with the mission of DSS to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and young adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families. Additionally, it provides a living arrangement that aligns with the definition of the required type of housing mentioned in the fixed-priced bid: “less restrictive, non-traditional living setting.”					
78	27	3.3 D	Contractor program staff must include at minimum:	Is it correct that this requires 1.25 FTE per 8 residents?	Refer to section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.3, SIL Supervision, Item D.
79	27	3.3 D	Contractor program staff must include at minimum:	Is there a number of years’ experience with a non-qualifying bachelor’s degree that would qualify an individual for these positions? (example: We have staff with 26 years’ social work and case management experience with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, but according to this contract, they would not be qualified) With most of our SOW and for even for DSS staff there is an allowable combination of degree plus experience. The position requirements are very specific and may exclude qualified people (and/or current employees.) Recommendation: Could mirror the language included in the TSS contract (allowing for a certain degree of experience in lieu of specific education requirements.)	A combination of experience with a non-qualifying degree is acceptable.
80	27	3.3.D.C	Contractor program staff...” may be divided between more than one position and/or function”	We believe this to mean that as long as the minimum FTE requirements are met, staff support more than one program, correct?	Yes.

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81	28	3.4	A. The contractor must offer realistic, safe and stable housing to young adults, with apartments clustered within a community to support shared supports and programming	Is there a separate contract for Transitional Programs (non-apartment style)?	Not at this time.
82	28	3.4	Young adults must each have their own bedroom, and at minimum one full bathroom per two young adults. In apartments with more than one-bedroom, young adults may share common space including kitchen.	Are providers allowed to convert an existing cottage into shared housing? Example: sharing a kitchen and laundry but having individual bedrooms and bathrooms with “living room” space inside the bedroom. The term “apartment” throughout the document is limiting by the term and does not allow for/ or is inclusive of other structures (i.e. house)? In addition, we are assuming If a building is on the campus of a larger residential grounds this would not be a barrier to being included in this scope of work.	Yes to all questions. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications, Provision 3.4, SIL Setting-Apartment.
83	28	3.4	SIL Setting-Apartment	Why is the term “Supervised Independent Living” used to describe apartments and other independent living settings that are not supervised by staff 24/7? Recommendation: A more comprehensive and accurate description of supervised living be used. Independent Living.	This is the federal definition. Only focusing on community-based housing arrangements. Also, reference Section 1., Scope of Solicitation, Provisions 1.1 and 1.2
84	9/28	1.2/3.4	“Less restrictive, non-traditional living setting”/ “Apartment”	There are a variety of living settings that meet the definition provided on page 9, such as a dorm-like setting. Page 28, however, is very specific to an apartment. However, in the requirements listed, those can be met in a dorm-like setting -individual bedrooms, no more than 2 who share a bathroom, shared kitchen. The previous draft included such options. Is the word “apartment” used in a strict definition, or is it being used to differentiate between group homes and independent living? Recommendation: Use language from previous draft of the SIL contract (to include other settings besides just apartment-style.) Refer to full footnote at the end of the document.	This solicitation is for community-based housing arrangements such as apartments.
85	29	3.4(A)(j)	Young adults must have access to laundry facilities on site at no cost.	Many apartments do not have laundry in each unit but may have a laundromat on property or nearby. For such instances, could a monthly laundry stipend or prepaid laundry card meet this requirement?	Yes. Provider may provide stipend for laundry cards or laundry expenses; however, laundry is calculated and included in the established rate and no reimbursement will be issued to the provider for any supplemental support or funds paid to the young adult.
86	30	3.5 v	Food Allotment (“The Contractor must provide food allotment for nutritional goods.”)	In addition to the food allotment, is there funding from DSS in this contract for other basic needs? Is the allotment the same for pregnant and/or parenting youth? Is the allotment for the whole family or each individual in the family?	No. The rate accounts for all listed services and needs outlined in Section 3., Scope of Work/Specifications.
87	31	2	Transportation Cost (“Direct transportation services may be directly provided either by a staff member or contractor driving the youth, or by providing a rideshare voucher. These costs have been factored into the maximum daily rate, and no additional compensation will be provided;”)	Can the cost for rideshare to and from employment be added in the form of additional stipend funds?	Yes. Contractor may provide pre-paid transportation cards or direct funds to the young adult for transportation expenses; however, no reimbursement will be issued to the provider for any supplemental support or funds paid to the young adult.
88	31	3.5	Health And Well-Being Coordination pregnant and parenting young adults.	Is the contractor required to accept pregnant and parenting young adults, or is this stating that if you serve them, then you must provide the stated services? Recommendation: change this statement to allow providers the option of serving youth who may be p/p. Providers need discretionary decision making.	Contractors have the decision-making authority based on their program milieu.

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89	32	3.5 (A)(a*)(iii) -incorrectly numbered in document – should be 3.5(A)(c)(iii)	When applicable, the Contractor must offer services tailored for pregnant and parenting young adults that support the acclimation to parenting and promote long-term, economic independence to ensure the well-being of the young adult and their child(ren).	Prior sections list specific furnishing each youth should received upon admissions. What items are required for infants? (Recommendation: car seat, age/weight appropriate bassinet/crib should be required to ensure the safety of the infant. All others items, Contractor can assist young adults with securing).	Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/ Specifications, Provision 3.5 SIL Service Components, Item c. Health and Well-Being Coordination, iii, 1 a,b,c.
90	32		“Contractor must submit a financial report quarterly using the template provided by DSS. Financial reports are due 45 calendar days following the end of each calendar quarter.”	When will DSS provide the template for the quarterly financial report? Will DSS consider extending the due date of quarterly financial reports to 90 days?	The due date of the quarterly financial report is extended to 60 days. Reference Section 3., Scope of Work/ Specifications, Provision 3.6, Financial Reporting Requirements, Item A.
91	45	(e)	“(e) Coverage shall have limits no less than five million (\$5,000,000.00) dollars per occurrence and ten million (\$10,000,000.00) dollars aggregate.”	This is a very high limit for this form of coverage that will be expensive to attain. Can this limit be reduced to \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million aggregate, or some other lower threshold?	The policy must meet the requirements as listed in Section 7B Terms and Conditions, Provision 7.28. Bidder should review requirements with their insurer to ensure that their policy is compliant with the requirements.
92	57	8.2	Maximum SIL Apartment Style Living Daily Rate	Given the added staff time and expenses to support a youth and infant, will there be a separate rate for pregnant and parenting young adults?	No. Rate is the same.
93			Location of young adults	Are there requirements surrounding the eligibility of youth based on location (esp. regarding in county placements.)?	No.
94			Daily Rate	Our understanding is the proposed daily rate for this service is \$137.00. Is there any room for negotiation or improvement on this rate? It does not appear to cover the cost of this service.	No.
95				It doesn't make sense to have both a contract and a reference manual. The reference manual makes sense for explaining to providers the internal DSS process for the new TSS division, Chafee, EFC, etc. But the reference manual should not include requirements for providers. Requirements for providers should go through the contract process only.	SCDSS appreciates your input.
96				I noticed that the request for public comment for Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Fixed Price Bid has been extended to July 22nd. Is the following link where the bid will be posted with the answers to my questions? Do you know when the bid will be posted? https://dss.sc.gov/about/procurement/	It is anticipated that the Solicitation will be published in the third quarter of 2026.

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97				I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out regarding a zoning issue that has come up for Erica's Bridge, our Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program for young adults aging out of foster care, and I'm hoping to get your guidance and any relevant precedent from the TSS Division. We recently submitted a zoning verification request to the City of Orangeburg Building Inspection/Code Enforcement office for a property at 1848 Broughton St. The property is zoned A-1 Single Unit Residential. Code enforcement determined that the NAICS code I originally provided (624229) did not represent a recognized use, and based on the description I submitted, they classified our program under NAICS 623990, Other Residential Care Facilities. That classification is not permitted in the A-1 zoning district, which effectively blocks us from using this property. I want to make sure our program description accurately reflects how SIL actually operates, since 623990 describes congregate care facilities with direct, continuous supervision and personal care - more consistent with a group home model - rather than the more independent, case-management-supported living arrangement that defines SIL for youth transitioning out of foster care. A few questions I'm hoping you or someone on the TSS team can help with: 1. Have other SIL providers in South Carolina run into this same zoning classification issue, and if so, how was it resolved? 2. Does SCDSS have any standard documentation, program description language, or a letter of support that helps clarify how SIL differs from a licensed group home or residential care facility for zoning purposes? 3. Is there a preferred or more accurate NAICS classification that SCDSS has seen SIL programs use successfully with local zoning authorities? I want to resolve this correctly and want to make sure our documentation is consistent with how SCDSS defines and licenses SIL so we don't create conflicting records. Any guidance, precedent, or connections to programs that have navigated this before would be enormously helpful.	1. We do not have this info as this is a new solicitation 2. No 3. This program is new.