

**Sole Source
Written Determination**

Agency Identification: South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS)

Description of the agency need that this procurement fulfills:

Description of the Agency need that this procurement meets: Youth Villages is the purveyor of the Intercept Model that provides intensive stabilization work with families who have a youth at-risk of an out-of-home placement due to serious family conflict, child welfare involvement, mental health issues or serious behaviors (including substance abuse, defiance, runaway, truancy, etc.). The program also provides reunification support for youth who recently have been placed outside the home. The Intercept program can prevent a child from entering a foster care or residential placement that are often costly and unnecessary. The work is done through intensive in-home parenting skills and mental health services for children (birth to their 18th birthday) and their families to address serious emotional and behavioral problems, including trauma and abuse/neglect. The comprehensive treatment approach includes in-home family-based therapy, mental health interventions, positive peer development and extensive support connecting families to community resources.

Describe the Market Based on Research Performed: *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

Youth Villages is the developer and sole provider of the proprietary integrated, intensive in-home parenting skills program, Intercept®. Agency performed an internet search and reviewed documentation from that provider that states The Intercept model is the property of Youth Villages, and Youth Villages is the exclusive purveyor of the Intercept model. The program model and contents of the online clinical portal known as Guide Tree® (which is central to the case conceptualization process utilized for every case throughout the duration of treatment) are proprietary. Youth Villages claims copyright, trademark, and trade secret rights to these materials.

Sole Source Vendor Name: Youth Villages

Based upon the following determination, Agency proposes to acquire the supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services described herein from the vendor named above per SC Code Ann § 11-35-1560 and SC Regulation 19-445.2105, Sole Source Procurement.

Description of supplies, construction, information technology, and/or services vendor will provide under the contract: *(See instructions on last page for guidance.)*

Intercept®, developed by Contractor, is an integrated, intensive in-home parenting skills program used to safely prevent children from entering out-of-home care or to reunify them with family as quickly as possible if a period of out-of-home care is necessary (this includes, but is not limited to, foster care, residential treatment, or group home settings). Intercept®, is appropriate for children ranging in age from birth to their 18th birthday, with services lasting four (4) to nine (9) months depending on referral type. The Intercept®, model uses an integrative process combining evidenced-based clinical content and consultation with a program expert to address referral issues and presenting concerns for children and families. Intercept Model provides intensive stabilization work with families who have a youth at-risk of an out-of-home placement due to serious family conflict, child welfare involvement, mental health issues or serious behaviors (including substance abuse, defiance, runaway, truancy, etc.). The program also provides reunification support for youth who recently have been placed outside the home. The Intercept program can prevent a child from

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entering a foster care or residential placement that are often costly and unnecessary. The work is done through intensive in-home parenting skills and mental health services for children (birth to their 18th birthday) and their families to address serious emotional and behavioral problems, including trauma and abuse/neglect. The comprehensive treatment approach includes in-home family-based therapy, mental health interventions, positive peer development and extensive support connecting families to community resources. Interventions delivered through the Intercept model are tailored to each case through a unique tool and process called GuideTree™, 24-hour crisis intervention. Intensity – Intercept Specialists hold an average of 3 sessions per week per family. Emphasis on Safety & Supervision Planning – including providing safety equipment, as clinically indicated – safety equipment (i.e. fire/smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, lock boxes, trigger locks, door and window alarms, and car steering wheel locks); Specialists will support families with safety assessments and sweeps, as necessary, and will develop, update and review individualized safety plans. Home/Community based –ALL services are provided in the family’s home or at a community-based setting (e.g. school, doctor’s office, place of employment, etc.). Families are never asked to come to an office for a session/appointment. Individualized, culturally relevant and family driven services - Intercept is designed to address the needs of a broad spectrum of families in diverse communities. Families drive services through their input into service plans and goal development. Interventions can be adapted to the unique cultural context of each family. Staff receive ongoing training and supervision to support their ability to provide culturally and linguistically responsive services to families. Services for youth with severe mental health needs – Services will include parent training that focuses on learning how to better manage the child’s mental health issues. The Intercept Specialist connects youth and family with psychiatry and other mental health services, as clinically indicated. In addition to providing 24/7 on-call services for crises, the Intercept Specialist completes safety plans with the parent/caregiver to teach skills that can help prevent crisis situations.

Explain why the described solution is the only solution that meets the agency’s need and how no other identified solutions were sufficient. *(See instructions on last page for guidance)*

The Intercept model is the property of Youth Villages, and Youth Villages is the exclusive purveyor of the Intercept model. The program model and contents of the online clinical portal known as Guide Tree® (which is central to the case conceptualization process utilized for every case throughout the duration of treatment) are proprietary. Youth Villages claims copyright, trademark, and trade secret rights to these materials.

***Note:** Determination is not complete without required signatures and dates*

Required Signatures:

Prepared by: Rebecca O’Brien

Date: 10/14/2025

Printed Name: Enter Name of Preparer

Title: Enter Title of Preparer

Approved by: _____

Approval Date: ____/____/____