



Highlights

Special Edition

Austin, Texas

January 1990

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CONSULTING SERVICES

In accordance with Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6252-11c, the Texas Health and Human Services Coordinating Council (HHSCC) invites proposals for consulting services. The HHSCC is participating in a joint project with the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program to establish a state Information and Referral (I&R) Task Force which will develop a plan to establish a state I&R system for health and human services and is seeking a qualified consultant to assist with development of the plan.

Project Activities

The consultant will be responsible for a variety of activities. These include soliciting input from the public and service providers, coordinating meetings, compiling information on existing I&R systems and developing a written plan.

Limitations

The contract period will be from March 15, 1990 to February 28, 1991. Funding, excluding travel expenses, will not exceed \$50,000.

Application Process

An application package may be obtained after February 1, 1990 from:

Carol Price, I&R Project Director
Texas Health and Human Services
Coordinating Council
P.O. Box 13065
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-2195

Evaluation and Selection

The HHSCC, Developmental Disabilities Program and ECI Program will jointly select a consultant(s) based on applicant qualifications, project proposal and budget as further detailed in the application materials. When other considerations are equal, preference will be given to a private consultant whose principal place of business is within Texas or who will manage the consulting agreement wholly from one of its offices in the state.

Application Deadline

Written proposals must be received by Carol Price, Texas Health and Human Services Coordinating Council, 311A E. 14th Street, Austin, on or before March 12, 1990. Funding of a project under this announcement is based on the availability of funds. The HHSCC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

This announcement was submitted for
posting in the January 22, 1990
Texas Register.

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Background Information on the Need for an Information and Referral System

"The most formidable barrier to access to the Texas system by parents and consumers of services is the lack of knowledge about what is available. Services unknown are services which are unavailable. Not only does a single focal point need to be established for information about service availability, but that focal point, in turn, needs to set up a system of periodic parental/consumer training to explain how and where to obtain services." – A parent from Arlington

- The Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities documented a need for a statewide Information and Referral (I&R) system when people with developmental disabilities and their families were interviewed as part of a 1990 Report consumer satisfaction survey. Subsequently, the Council developed, distributed for public comment and finalized a recommendation for the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to establish an I&R system across the state which includes all public and private services and which has an 800 number and resources for regional and/or local access. Public response to the need for a statewide I&R system has been consistently positive.
- The Health and Human Services Coordinating Council has mandates in Title 9, Chapter 131.004 of the Human Resources Code to "establish and maintain a comprehensive central data base covering public and private sector health and human services..." and to "provide a central information and referral source concerning health and human services...."
- The Early Childhood Intervention Program is developing a Central Directory that will integrate with a state information and referral system. The ECI Central Directory will meet the requirements specified in P.L. 99-457, Part H.



**Texas Planning Council
for Developmental Disabilities
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