



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Joette Katz
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

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Connecticut Releases Request For Proposals To Launch Social Impact Bond Initiative
Initiative Strives to Improve Outcomes for Families Involved in Child Protective Services and Impacted by Substance Use

HARTFORD – The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) today released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide cost-effective services for families involved or at risk of becoming involved in the child protection services system and who are impacted by substance use.

DCF will deliver services through a contract that employs a Social Impact Bond. In this model, a promising intervention is funded upfront with private sector and philanthropic capital. The government commits to paying back investors if outcome targets are achieved based on an independent evaluation. If targets are not met, then the investors do not get repaid.

DCF Commissioner Joette Katz said this funding mechanism is particularly promising as the need for effective, preventative services for families grows even as government resources remain under constraints.

"Social Impact Bonds enable government to expand services for families and children, while they also advances knowledge about how to best serve vulnerable populations," Commissioner Katz said. "Just as important in our current fiscal climate, they ensure that taxpayer dollars pay only for services that work."

This novel financing model was first implemented in 2010 in the United Kingdom. [New York](#) and [Massachusetts](#) state governments recently launched the first state-led Social Impact Bond projects in the United States.

Through this RFP, DCF seeks to partner with an intermediary organization to identify and implement promising interventions and to raise capital from investors to finance the project's operating costs. The intermediary also will manage the performance of the service provider(s) delivering the intervention during the course of the project.

A bidders' conference will take place on February 27, 2014 and responses to the RFP are due March 31, 2014.

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Previously, DCF issued a Request for Information (RFI) to gather suggestions for this initiative from families, intermediaries, investors, providers, and other interested persons or entities. As part of the RFI process, DCF hosted an information session on November 15, 2013. More than a dozen responses were received.

DCF is receiving pro bono technical assistance from the [Harvard Kennedy School Social Impact Bond Technical Assistance Lab \(SIB Lab\)](#) to support the Department in developing this project.

More information about DCF's efforts to develop a Social Impact Bond project, including the responses to the RFI, can be found here: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2534&Q=534038>.

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