



Family, Youth & Children's Services Division
**Accepting Applications to provide
Therapeutic Services for Child Welfare Families**

I. Introduction

The Sonoma County Human Services Department (HSD) Family, Youth & Children's Services Division (FY&C) is accepting applications from individuals and organizations with the experience, qualifications, and capacity to provide culturally relevant therapeutic services to individuals, parents, families, and in groups, for families who are involved in the child welfare system.

All existing therapeutic service contracts will expire on June 30, 2025 or sooner, and all **currently contracted providers must submit a new application and all required forms** in order to continue to provide therapeutic services to child welfare clients after expiration of their current contract.

Therapeutic Services being procured through this application process include psychotherapy, psychological evaluations, neuropsychological evaluations, domestic violence services for victims, batterer intervention services for perpetrators, therapeutic visitation services, specialized therapy services and alternative therapeutic services. Refer to **Section V.** below for a description of these services.

This process will also be used to procure therapy services for children who are engaged in Redwood Children's Center (RCC) services. Please note that the application process for RCC therapeutic services is on a different time line than all other therapeutic services. See Section II below for information regarding therapeutic services referred through RCC.

II. Redwood Children's Center Therapy Services

The Redwood Children's Center (RCC) is an accredited Child Advocacy Center that provides trauma-informed support to minor victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, severe physical abuse and minors who witness violent crimes. RCC Social Workers refer children/youth to therapeutic services as part of the support provided after the child/youth has been interviewed at RCC, and to those who identify as victims of sexual abuse.

RCC staff use evidence-based screening tools and will refer children/youth only to evidence-based intervention models, practiced to fidelity, that specifically address the trauma of abuse, and meet the criteria of RCC accreditation standards.

New contracts for RCC Therapy Services will begin on **April 1, 2025** and therefore, applications must be received by **February 14, 2025**. Applicants must use Form A-1 *RCC Application* to apply for a contract to provide RCC therapy services.

III. All Other Therapeutic Services

FY&C offers child protection and family stabilization services to residents of Sonoma County, referred to as 'child welfare' in this document. Most families and children that are involved with child welfare services are able to access therapeutic services through other means, including MediCal (Beacon/Carelon Behavioral Health) and private insurance. When therapeutic services are required as part of the child welfare case plan or identified as a client need, and there is no

other means available to pay for these services, FY&C contracts with agencies and individual therapists through this application process to provide these services.

FY&C is seeking therapists and agencies with knowledge and experience with families who are involved with the child welfare system and **who have been trained to provide short-term, solution-focused treatment models to address the child protection issues** that the referred families face. Typically, FY&C will authorize 12-16 sessions per individual and/or couple or family to address the child protection issue.

FY&C is particularly interested in expanding **therapeutic options in the following priority Practice Areas:**

- Culturally relevant services for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities
- Group Therapy options
- Bilingual/Bicultural Spanish Speaking providers
- Therapeutic services for victims of sexual abuse
- Therapeutic services for youth with high risk behaviors
- Attachment Therapy for foster children, parents and those going through the adoption process
- Evidence-Based therapeutic practices for child welfare families
- Therapeutic services for youth on the autism spectrum
- Therapeutic services for families in outlying areas of the County

FY&C intends to create a pool of approximately 50 to 80 therapeutic providers (individuals and organizations) in an effort to offer a wide array of therapy modalities, language, and locations to meet the needs of child welfare families.

Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis. However, for contracts that will start on July 1, 2025, applications must be received no later than **May 1, 2025** in order to allow adequate processing time. Applications received after May 1, 2025 will be processed and contracts developed on a flow basis.

Child Welfare social workers may begin referring families to a service provider only after an application is received and a contract is signed by both the applicant and the County. Submitting an application does not guarantee a contract with the County. Applicants who contract with County are not guaranteed a minimum number of referrals from FY&C social workers.

IV. Information on Applying for a Contract

A. Qualifications

All applicants (both individuals and agencies) must be appropriately licensed or certified at the time of application. Interns must be supervised by appropriately licensed individuals. Those providing Psychological Evaluations must be a qualified Psychologist or Psychiatrist. Those applying to provide Domestic Violence Services or Batterer Intervention Services should be certified in those areas. All contracted providers will be required to maintain County-required insurance as described in the sample contract included with this document.

B. Session Rates

Compensation is on a per-session, fee-for-service basis. FY&C defines a session as a minimum of 45 minutes. Time and expense for documentation, phone calls, etc., are considered as part of the per session charge.

Please see **Attachment 1** for the therapeutic rates that are effective as of July 1, 2024. FY&C reviews the rates on an annual basis during the County budget process and may authorize increases as appropriate. If a change in rate occurs, all contracted providers will be notified in writing. Rates may vary for some therapeutic services, including those designated as alternative therapeutic services at the discretion of the County.

Please note that no co-payment can be charged or collected from the client or family when services are paid for by FY&C.

C. Questions & Answers

Questions regarding the application and contracting process can be directed to fytherapyinfo@schsd.org.

D. How to Submit an Application

All materials and forms needed to apply to be a contracted provider are only available electronically from fytherapyinfo@schsd.org or can be downloaded from the [HSD website](#).

The Application Packet is comprised of the items listed below. All items must be submitted by the applicant before a contract can be initiated.

1. Complete and sign the appropriate Application (Form A-1 for RCC Therapy, Form A-2 for Agencies and Form A-3 for Individuals). Include a written response to the questions on separate page(s).
2. For agencies, along with the completed and signed application and response to questions, also include:
 - a. a copy of the Supervising Clinician's license
 - b. a copy of agency's current insurance certificate
3. For individuals, along with the completed and signed application and response to questions, also include:
 - a. resume(s) detailing your professional qualifications (limit of 4 pages)
 - b. a copy of your therapeutic license/certification
 - c. a copy of your current insurance certificate

E. Insurance Requirements and Standard Contract

A sample contract has been included as **Attachment 2**. Applicants must be willing to abide and accept the terms of the sample contract. All contracted providers will be required to maintain insurance as required by the County of Sonoma. Securing and providing proof of insurance will be a condition of entering into a contract. Insurance requirements are included in the sample contract for both individuals and organizations. Please note that the requirement for Cyber Liability insurance cannot be waived.

V. Service Descriptions

Child Welfare Social Workers will refer families or youth to a specific contracted provider who will provide the therapeutic service as indicated by the social worker and based on information contained in the referral. All therapeutic services to child welfare families are part of the child welfare case plan that include assessed treatment goals. Specific services descriptions are as follows:

A. Psychotherapy

FY&C contracts for clinical counseling and therapy services for child welfare families referred by a FY&C social worker. Treatment models include individual, couples, family and group therapy. Contracted therapists will provide therapy and counseling services using short term, solution-focused treatment models, including evidence-based models to address the child protection issues as communicated via the referral form completed by the social worker.

For clients with an active child welfare case, contracted therapy providers are required to contact the FY&C social worker every month via phone, message or email to provide an update on referred clients and their progress in the attainment of goals. Every six months, the contracted provider will either attend the client's scheduled case conference meeting or provide written feedback, via a provided feedback form, to the FY&C social worker describing the client's progress towards their child welfare therapy goals.

B. Psychological Evaluation

FY&C contracts for psychological evaluation services for children, youth and parents involved in the child welfare system. Contracted providers will assess/evaluate referred individuals, using validated assessment and testing models, draw clinical conclusions, make diagnoses (if appropriate), and prepare a thorough written assessment report to the referring FY&C social worker within 14 days of the final meeting with the referred individual.

C. Neuropsychological Evaluation

FY&C contracts for neuropsychological evaluation/assessment services for children, youth and parents involved with child welfare. Contracted providers will assess/evaluate referred individuals, using validated assessment and testing models, draw clinical conclusions, make diagnoses (if appropriate), and prepare a thorough written assessment report to the referring FY&C social worker within 14 days of the final meeting with the referred individual.

D. Domestic Violence Services for Victims and Child Witnesses

FY&C contracts for domestic violence services for adult victims of domestic violence/battery and children witnesses. Contracted providers will provide initial assessment and individual and/or group treatment services to referred victims and/or child witnesses of domestic violence. Services shall be short-term and solution-focused to address child protection and safety issues.

For clients with an active child welfare case, contracted therapy providers are required to contact the FY&C social worker every month via phone, message or email to provide an update on referred clients and their progress in the attainment of goals. Every six months, the contracted provider will either attend the client's scheduled case conference meeting or

provide written feedback, via a provided feedback form, to the FY&C social worker describing the client's progress towards their child welfare therapy goals.

E. Batterer Intervention Services for Perpetrators

FY&C contracts for batterer intervention and domestic violence treatment services for perpetrators whose families are involved in the child welfare system. The contracted provider is required to provide an initial assessment and individual and/or group treatment services to referred perpetrators. Services shall be short-term and solution-focused to address the child protection and safety issues.

For clients with an active child welfare case, contracted therapy providers are required to contact the FY&C social worker every month via phone, message or email to provide an update on referred clients and their progress in the attainment of goals. Every six months, the contracted provider will either attend the client's scheduled case conference meeting or provide written feedback, via a provided feedback form, to the FY&C social worker describing the client's progress towards their child welfare therapy goals.

F. Therapeutic Visitation Services

FY&C contracts with therapists who will participate in supervised visits between parents with active child welfare cases and that do not currently have custody of their children, and children, specifically when issues are present that impact the child or parent's ability to engage or participate in the visit. Examples include children that are frightened of parents due to past trauma, parents with ongoing issues with anger, parents that are unable to create or maintain healthy attachment, and parents with serious mental health issues.

1:1 therapy sessions will be available before and after visits take place for both the parents and children. Contracted providers must be willing to be called to testify in court when required and provide monthly written progress reports. Visits may take place at the FY&C administrative office or other locations, such as the clinician's office (preferred).

G. Specialized Therapeutic Services

Occasionally, a client may need a highly specialized form of therapy or one that requires specific credentials. Examples include: treating clients who have witnessed the murder of a family member, been a victim of incest, or endured torture. Specialized therapeutic services may be paid at a different rate than those listed on the rate form. FY&C will negotiate the rate for identified specialized therapeutic service based on a review of the documentation submitted by provider.

H. Alternative Therapeutic Services

Clients involved with child welfare may come from a culture, ethnicity and/or race where talk therapy is not preferred or is not a culturally relevant service for them. FY&C is working to individualize and provide services that are culturally relevant for the client to address the child welfare concerns. FY&C will be contracting for therapeutic services that meet a variety of cultural preferences that may include indigenous healing practices, mindfulness groups, mediation groups, BIPOC parent support groups, etc.

Applicants should include their certifications for the specific service, as well as explain how it is culturally relevant and can address the child welfare issues.