

**Request for Information**  
**RFI**  
**Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice**  
**Acadiana Center for Youth**

RFI response due date/ time: Close of Business 5/27/2011 at 4:30 P.M.

Version: 1.0  
Date: 5/6/2011  
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**Confidentiality**

Only information which is in the nature of legitimate trade secrets or non-published financial data may be deemed proprietary or confidential. Any material sent in response to this RFI, which is deemed by the responder to be proprietary or confidential shall be identified as such and be clearly marked. The material will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act. R.S. 44: 1-44 and applicable rules and regulations. Any response marked as confidential or proprietary in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

**Introduction and Purpose of the RFI**

Note: This request for information (RFI) is solely for informational and planning purposes and should not be construed as a request for proposals (RFP). The purpose of this RFI is to determine the interest and willingness of various communities within the named parishes to be selected as the site for the Acadiana Center for Youth. Responses submitted by interested communities will be used to evaluate which community will be chosen as the site for the Acadiana Center for Youth.

**Scope**

Specific information is requested as outlined in the attached form.

**RFI Procedure**

*Submitting a Response*

To respond to this RFI, please fill in the attached form and provide supporting documents as requested. Please send the completed attached form and supporting documentation in word-format (format unchanged) by email to Girard.Melancon@la.gov.

The responses to this RFI will be evaluated by a review panel which will include OJJ staff as well as representatives from the juvenile justice system and family organizations. The review panel members are not from the areas included in the RFI.

*Contacts*

Please send all questions and correspondence to:  
Dr. Girard J. Melancon  
Assistant Secretary  
225-247-6776  
Girard.Melancon@la.gov

*Timeframe*

The dates below are target dates for the RFI process and may be subject to change by OJJ without notification. Please note that this RFI does not constitute a solicitation of offers.

05/6/2011 ..... RFI is distributed to potentially interested parties  
06/17/2011 ..... OJJ announces location of Acadiana Center for Youth

## **Background**

Youth Services is a cabinet-level agency whose head, the Deputy Secretary, reports directly to the Governor of Louisiana.

Our official title is Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice (DPSC/YS/OJJ).

Under the direction of the Deputy Secretary, the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) has policy oversight and support responsibilities for state programs for youth who are adjudicated delinquent, as well as, any youth and their families found in need of services by courts of juvenile jurisdiction (FINS - Families in Need of Services). We are responsible for youth assigned to our care by the court system, either for supervision or custody in residential placement, or secure care. OJJ also provides services to youth under local court supervision. Our staff supports the Administrative Remedy Procedure disciplinary appeal process for juveniles and performs quality assurance activities for juvenile programs and facilities.

The Office of Juvenile Justice is composed of major programs that interact with each other on a regular basis. They are Administration, Swanson Center for Youth, Jetson Center for Youth, Bridge City Center for Youth, Field (Community) Services, Contract Services, Auxiliary and Louisiana Housing for Juvenile Offenders.

OJJ operates three 24-hour secure facilities for males: Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe, Jetson Center for Youth in Baker, near Baton Rouge, and Bridge City Center for Youth just outside New Orleans. Secure care for girls is provided at Ware Youth Center in Coushatta, in the Natchitoches area.

Through prevention and diversion programs, OJJ also serves community youth, who have not yet become involved in our system. The Community Services program provides probation and parole supervision and coordinates both residential and non-residential treatment services for delinquent youth, as well as, status offenders and their families. Regional offices are located in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, Natchitoches, New Orleans, Opelousas, Shreveport, Tallulah and Thibodaux.

## **Purpose of RFI**

OJJ has identified the need to provide therapeutic services for adjudicated youth in the Acadiana region, in order to keep youth closer to home, community, and family. OJJ's mission is to protect the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth. To that end, we have worked with national partners, including the Missouri Youth Services Institute, to develop small, treatment-focused, regional facilities that will expand the continuum of services available in local areas. OJJ is seeking to partner with communities to locate a secure care facility to serve Acadiana-area youth. We are pleased to have the chance to expand the continuum of care in your region, while creating an opportunity for economic growth by putting local people to work. We invite your thoughts and recommendations on the matter of choosing an appropriate location for this facility.

The proposed Acadiana Center for Youth will implement proven treatment models that focus on therapeutic services, accountability, and restorative justice. Facility staff will assess youths' needs and risks, and will provide substance abuse, mental health treatment, education,

workforce development and training, and other services. These models have been proven to reduce recidivism and place youth on the path to productive citizenship.

The Acadiana Center for Youth will have a capacity of 72 beds and employ an estimated 90 to 100 full-time, permanent staff members. The project will require a skilled workforce including architects, engineers, and construction workers during the design and construction phases.

### **Statement of Need**

We will consider sites which require building a new facility and those which require renovating an existing structure. A suitable site for new construction should consist of approximately 10 acres of undeveloped land. A suitable site for renovation of existing buildings should encompass approximately 70,000 square feet and ten to twenty acres of land.

### **Qualifications**

The following factors will be considered for site selection.

- Demonstrated public awareness and support for locating the facility in that area;
- Economic incentives (e.g., land donation, site improvements, etc.);
- A certified letter—if the state is required to purchase the property from an owner within the parish—agreeing to sell the property at the appraised value, as determined by the Louisiana Division of Administration;
- Proximity to established neighborhoods;
- Cost to improve the property;
- Access to the property;
- Total acres for development;
- Letters of support from local officials;
- Reasonable access to utilities;
- Proximity to major highways;
- Access to medical services;
- Proximity to the target client population in the Acadiana region;
- Ability to hire professional staff, who have college degrees, teaching credentials, etc.

The following parishes qualify for consideration: Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion.

**Form to complete in response to the RFI**

<b>Questions/ Instructions</b>	<b>Answer/ Reply</b>
What are some of the general community characteristics?	
Provide the address of proposed property.	
Provide a physical description of the property and legal description, if available.	
Describe the prior use of the property.	
Provide a map of the location.	
Are there issues with site drainage?	
What is the property's proximity to major highways?	
Provide a picture of the location.	
Will this property be donated to the state?	
How quickly can the state receive the property, if donated?	
If the state is required to purchase the property, has the owner agreed to sell the property at appraised value, as determined by the Louisiana Division of Administration?	
How quickly can the state purchase/receive the property?	
What is the use of properties surrounding the proposed property?	
Is this property zoned for this activity?	
How has the community been informed about your proposed site?	
Provide a reference list of citizens, including contact information, who support the project.	
What are the major employers in the parish?	
Is there public sewage connectivity?	
Is there water connectivity?	
Is there electrical connectivity?	
Is there gas connectivity?	
Are there any issues regarding fire suppression?	
How near is the community or technical college?	
Provide site utility distribution drawings.	
Provide flood zone determinations.	
Submit the 2010 US Census State and	

County Quick Facts for your parish.	
Any other documents or information that supports locating the Acadiana facility in your community?	
Who is the contact person for your response to this RFI?	