

Project Overview

Who is Spaulding for Children

Spaulding for Children is a private, non-profit child welfare agency, established in 1968; one of the first agencies in the country that specialized in finding and training adoptive families for the placement of children with disabilities and other challenges.

Spaulding's Mission

In partnership with families, communities, organizations, states and the nation, Spaulding for Children's mission is to assure that all children grow up in safe, permanent families and have the help they need to be successful in life.

Background

The child welfare system is designed to prioritize protecting children, often at the expense of understanding and engaging them. By focusing on protecting youth, professionals may decide "what is best" on their own, rather than working with youth to determine what will help them thrive. Ensuring that youth are authentically engaged, particularly as it relates to finding permanency, requires a paradigm shift in how the child welfare system views the engagement of youth in care. Youth need to be seen as competent, knowledgeable parties who are partners in decisions about their lives, especially related to permanency—legal, cultural and relational.

Funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Children's Bureau beginning in October 2021 The **Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency** (QIC-EY) is charged with advancing child welfare programs and practice to ensure that they are authentically engaging and empowering children and youth in foster care throughout the U.S., especially in relation to permanency decisions. It is expected that the work of the QIC-EY will bring about systemic changes in how children and youth are authentically engaged as reflected in intentional policy, practice, and culture shifts in the pilot sites. We believe ensuring that children and youth in care are authentically engaged, particularly as it relates to permanency, requires a paradigm shift in how the child welfare system understands and views their involvement in decision-making.

The QIC-EY is led by Spaulding for Children, the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors (NEACWCD), and the University of Washington (UW).

The QIC-EY is partnering with state, tribes, or territorial pilot sites on this exciting initiative to transform how child welfare agencies involve children and youth in all levels of their work. The QIC-EY will address system and worker-level changes necessary to support a vital shift in philosophy and practice nationwide. This shift in philosophy aligns with the Children's Bureau priority goals. One of the four goals is to ensure youth leave care with strengthened relationships, holistic support and opportunities. The QIC-EY will help sites to assess their

systems related to youth engagement and then work with them to make systemic changes that will ensure children and youth are listened to, have a say in the development of their own circles of support and are engaged in making decisions about their life. The QIC-EY also aligns with the Children's Bureau goal to invest in the child welfare workforce. This initiative provides training and coaching to workers and supervisors and ensure that staff have the knowledge, skills and support to effectively partner with children and youth.

A cornerstone of the Child and Family Services Plan is to have broad and meaningful engagement of persons with lived experience. The QIC-EY helps sites to develop a comprehensive plan that identifies ways to engage children and youth in care as well as those that have left care and have expertise to offer the field. The Administration for Children and Families is committed to a wide range of issues that impact the ability of children and their families to thrive and reach their full potential.

Current Need

Spaulding for Children is seeking two professionals to serve as site consultants for the QIC-EY. The Site Consultant will support the implementation of select QIC-EY project components by serving as liaison between the agency and sites, communicating all necessary information to support the designated work. The Consultant provide expertise in all activities associated with the different implementation phases including: identify and explore, implementation planning, installation, initial implementation, and full implementation.

Scope of Work:

- A.** Familiarize self with the goals, guiding principles, organizational structure, and the components of the QIC-EY.
- B.** Provide training and training implementation support and capacity building support to assigned sites.
- C.** Advise on establishment of a teaming structure as needed to accomplish identified project components.
- D.** Participate in meetings with assigned sites, Agency Staff, and other key project participants; as well attend -on site visits (if site wants to do in-person meeting- if not these meetings will be held remotely).
- E.** Provide updates during collaborator meetings to discuss project processes to ensure successful implementation of project components.

F. Provide a weekly status report on site progress.

G. Complete SAR or other documentation as assigned.

Project Timeline

The project ends 9/29/2027.

Submission Requirements

Submissions for this opportunity are due by 10/9/2026

Submit a cover letter, resume, and hourly rate to lcohen@spaulding.org