

Policy Idea Statement: Create a More Efficient and Accountable DJJ Contracting and Procurement Process

In these difficult economic times, we must work to enhance accountability, improve service delivery, and incentivize savings to the state. This means further streamlining, eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies so as to maximize limited state resources. To ensure continuous improvement in the area of contracting and procurement of juvenile justice services, FJJA recommends that discussions take place around contracting, procurement, extensions of contracts/renewals, performance vs. compliance, and national accreditation.

3 Key Points

1. Privatizing services in the DJJ was originally conceived to encourage organizations with specific expertise or a track record of high performance to deliver services, at a lower cost than government, with a better outcome than the state could provide.
2. Current process has stifled creativity, lowered performance, and eliminated enhanced cost savings possible with privatized model.
3. DJJ should be required to provide fiscal analysis of any new contract requirements, newly mandated reports/requests, to existing contracts. This would prevent services from being compromised and should allow a renegotiation of contract to accommodate any necessary changes mid contract. To ensure that state is most accountable to taxpayers, the following list below shows areas of improvement needed in the DJJ.

FUNDING/TERMS	RFP LANGUAGE	SCORING
Length of Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5yr/5yr renewal • Performance based as DCF 	Align practices with other states as well as agencies within Florida	Bonus for deemed status for specific program
Unfunded mandates	Limit reports and requests for information that DJJ already has	Professional rating system
Enact penalty for frivolous bid protests	Less prescriptive	Winning bidder accountable to proposal
Process to negotiate requirements/ funding	Consistent timeframes	Develop mechanism to measure accountability
Consistency in per diem rates/program types	Individual RFP's , not for multiple	Allow (or require) in person presentations
Cost of living increases when appropriate	Contract short and sweet – specific	Assign scores during public discussions
Build in startup funding	Limited scope to target population	Reduce # of points in RFP
Contract extensions for good performance	Remove CORE from contracts	Accreditation points, program specific
Contract mandates, changes in standards	Better defined job qualifications	Improve selection and training of “raters”
Resolution of provider payment for leap year	Remove PRIDE and RESPECT as a requirement in contracts	

Fiscal Impact: Extending high performing contracts would reduce the recurring costs of RFP procurement, evaluation, related costs. There is also a potential for reduction in current DJJ FTE’s based on workload reduction.

Operational Impact : change in workload may change operations in this area.

Legislative: SB 226 has been filed (accreditation, monitoring, and contracting)

- Procurement methodology, including competition versus model rates
- All contracting issues, including; negotiations to adjust payments when contracts are amended; payment for non-disputed items;, or administrative costs; cost of living increases subject to legislative appropriation; etc.
- Oversight monitoring and accountability; shifting focus to output and outcomes

- Paperwork reduction

PROS

- Privatization will bring the value that is expected, including creativity, innovation, exceptional outcomes
- Florida would benefit in that all programming would move towards national accreditation.
- Any cost savings could be redistributed within DJJ to prevention, intervention, civil citation, diversion, smaller community based residential, re-entry and transition services

CONS

- none