

Concept Paper: I-CAN

Introduction

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC or the Department) submits this concept paper in anticipation of the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Individualized Corrections Achievement Network (I-CAN). I-CAN is the Department's second generation effort, replacing Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE), and offering skills building opportunities and discharge planning to both eligible pretrial *and* sentenced, male and female inmates in jail and after release in the five boroughs.

Overview

The DOC is the second largest jail system in the country. The DOC consists of 14 jails, including ten detention facilities on Rikers Island and four borough houses of detention, and, in addition, prison wards at two hospitals and court detention facilities in all five boroughs. Inmates are currently assigned to nine facilities on Rikers Island and two borough jails.

The DOC currently detains an average of 12,791 inmates daily. During Fiscal Year 2011, DOC processed 87,515 admissions to and 88,095 releases from the city's jail system. Relatively few inmates (22.3 percent) are incarcerated for the first time. The majority of the population (77.7 percent) has been admitted previously to the DOC and quite a few (44 percent) readmitted within a year of discharge. The typical city inmate has been detained by the DOC an average of seven times. Approximately seven percent of the FY 2011 average daily population is between the ages of 19 and 24, 30 percent is between the ages of 25 and 35, and the remaining 40 percent is 36 years of age or older.

Rationale

The Department's strategic plan introduces the DOC's vision for improving public safety through inmate engagement in productive activities throughout their time in detention and after discharge. The focus of the DOC Strategic Plan is twofold, **Public Safety Now, and Later**. **Public Safety Now** encompasses the policies, procedures and practices employed by DOC throughout inmates' time in detention to enhance their safety and wellbeing as well as that of the DOC workforce and the neighborhoods in which the jails are located. **Public Safety Later** encompasses both in-jail and community-based skills building activities that promote the growth and development of both pretrial and sentenced inmates while in the custody of DOC and ready them for release from DOC, by acquiring critical credentials and completing a jail-to-community transition plan geared toward the reduction of criminal behavior and an increase in pro-social conduct. RIDE and the proposed I-CAN program relate to both **Public Safety Now and Later** in that activities include both in-jail and community components with a vision to ensure stability of inmates upon re-entry to the community.

Both **Public Safety Now and Later** are informed by objective risk and needs assessments and evidence-based, skill-building opportunities and discharge preparation services, for eligible pre-trial and city sentenced inmates in an effort to reduce idleness and violence in the jails and to provide this population with the tools they need to succeed in jail and the community. Specifically, DOC is implementing evidence based, standardized risk and needs assessments that will allow the Department to develop an individualized correction plans based on his or her identified needs. These interventions will be targeted toward inmates at high risk for readmission with high needs, amenability for intervention and an anticipated long length of stay in DOC

custody. These evidence-based opportunities are reinforced by continuous exposure to direct supervision, the application of cognitive development principles in everyday living, and daily opportunities to practice and improve problem-solving and decision-making, increasingly shifting responsibility for setting and achieving important goals and objectives from staff to inmate.

The Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE) is a discharge planning program for city sentenced inmates only. Community-based, not-for-profit agencies solicit eligible inmates who are interested in developing discharge plans and willing to remain in contact with these agencies after their release from DOC for up to 90 days. RIDE contractors are also required to transport participating inmates to their offices or to other service providers upon discharge from jail, and to provide case management sessions to them in the community 30, 60 and 90 days after release. In jail and community settings alike, Contractors address enrolled inmates' anticipated employment, housing, educational, sobriety, health needs and family reunification concerns. Presently, three Contractors provide these services; two providers serve the adult male sentenced population and one provider assists the adult female sentenced population. RIDE commenced in 2003.

I-CAN

The Individualized Corrections Achievement Network (I-CAN), the Department's second generation effort, replaces RIDE. I-CAN is informed through newly implemented standardized assessments of the inmate population particularly their lengths of stay, risk of readmission and elevated need for assistance, a heightened awareness of the necessity to be as inclusive as possible in discharge planning efforts, and the efficacy of targeting milestones. To that end, the contractor(s) will be required to develop, implement and manage a re-entry program that provides individualized interventions for both pretrial and sentenced, adult male and adult female inmates based on the results of DOC-administered assessments of need for intervention and risk of readmission plus a Contractor-administered, DOC instrument that assesses amenability for intervention. DOC will provide Contractor(s) with information about inmates' anticipated lengths of stay to further inform the level of service to be provided. DOC will also develop and provide individualized correction plans to guide contractor engagement with each inmate. The Contractor(s) will be expected to provide evidence-based interventions using innovative methods of engaging inmates that are tailored to individual inmates' specific needs and risks. Requirements may include workforce readiness, GED, substance abuse programming, and/or cognitive behavioral therapy, among other items as identified through individual assessments and will be specified for each inmate in his or her individualized correction plan. Contractor(s) will be paid by achieving performance-based milestones for targeted individual inmates as noted in Table 1.

Significant Changes from RIDE to I-CAN

The shift in milestone payments from time-specific to activity-related is consistent with the field's evidence-based practices, focusing providers and participants alike on achieving the outcomes that will best meet individual inmates' needs and mitigate their risks. In contrast, the current contracts focus on outputs but not outcomes, requiring providers to meet with participants at specified intervals whether or not it is warranted or makes a material difference to their success. Additionally, the population served will shift from sentenced inmates only to both detained and sentenced inmates but limited to those inmates who are high risk and high need, amenable for intervention and with an anticipated lengthy stay.

Table 1: Discharge Preparation and Pre-Post Release Skill Building Services
 Provided by DOC and by Others

Services to be provided	Anticipated time in detention	
	<30 days in detention	>30 days in detention
Discharge preparation		
Low risk of re-incarceration	DOC	DOC
Moderate to high risk of re-incarcerations	DOC	Contractor(s)
Pre and Post Release Skill Building Services		
Low risk of re-incarceration	DOC	DOC
Moderate to high risk of re-incarceration	DOC	Contractor(s)

Anticipated Procurement Timeline

DOC anticipates that the RFP will be released in late calendar year 2011, and that the deadline for receipt of proposals will be approximately six weeks thereafter. DOC anticipates that the selected contractor(s) will commence service on July 31, 2012.

Anticipated Term of the Contract

DOC anticipates that the contract(s) awarded from the upcoming RFP will be for a term of three years. The Agency reserves the right, prior to contract award, to determine the length of the initial contract term and each option to renew, if any.

Available Funding

The contracts awarded from this RFP will be for \$10,860,000.

Evaluation Criteria

- Demonstrated quantity and quality of successful relevant experience. 40%
- Demonstrated level of organizational capability. 20%
- Quality of proposed approach. 40%

Comments

The Department will be accepting comments on this concept paper in writing through **December 07, 2011**. Please direct any inquiries to:

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