



State of Connecticut

JUDICIAL BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR
COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
455 Winding Brook Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Hamden – Regions Secure Update

As previously reported, the Judicial Branch is moving forward on the renovation of a new Secure Regions program in Hamden. The contract was awarded to Community Partners in Action (CPA). This program is the right step toward providing a smaller full service treatment and educational environment for some of our highest risk youth.

- Phase I of the renovation plan is **on schedule** to be complete by mid-September. We are optimistic that we will have residents admitted in October. In Phase I, the Branch and the vendor (CPA) will develop programming, educational, medical and recreational services, and living spaces that reduce the correctional feel, increase natural light, and improve lines of sight. The Phase I space will allow for each resident to have their own room.
- Phase I will house up to eight juveniles. Services include, but are not limited to, individual, group and family treatment, using DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy) as a primary modality. DBT has been recognized as a successful tool in working with juvenile justice populations. DBT skills are being used in all our Regions and Detention environments.
- Phase II, which we anticipate will open in early 2021, will increase the number of beds to 16 and provide a full vocational training component. ACES (Area Cooperative Educational Services) will provide a full range of vocational training at the site, in addition to the educational and the vocational soft skill components that will begin in Phase I.
- The construction of the Hamden complex, and its programmatic design, takes into account recommendations from several national experts who the Branch has consulted with since the jurisdictional law change in 2018.

Regions Secure – RFP Update

Based on feedback from provider informational session in January 2020, the Judicial Branch will be making some changes to the procurement process for this service.

- There will be a 16 week turn-around time from RFP issuance to bid due date (more than double the typical amount of time)
- The Branch is exploring effectuating a longer contract than typical 3 years with two 1-year extensions. We are considering a 5 year contract with two 1-year extension options.
- The Branch will provide a list of available sites for consideration, including a site in Brooklyn that is promising.
- The RFP makes clear that anticipated renovation costs should be reflected in the start-up budget.
- The program size will be increased, to address concerns with the ability to license an education program will less than 10 students.

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- The Branch is seeking a 12 bed program; bidders may propose additional beds by including a separate budget for beds beyond 12. We are not seeking program larger than 20 beds.
- We have included several sites identified in a recent Request for Information (RFI).
- We clarified administrative expectations of key positions (e.g., assistant program director, senior mentors/shift supervisors). The need for staff with lived experience in key positions was emphasized (e.g., Reintegration Mentors, Family Support Specialists).
 - Family Support Specialist position(s) has been added to emphasize the importance of family engagement and empowerment. The REGIONS-Secure program will (1) maintain an unencumbered, extended-hours visitation and phone call schedule; (2) utilize a broad definition of family to include the biological family, kin, step-family, caregivers, and supportive and significant individuals/mentors in the adolescent's life, (3) have the capacity to meet family transportation needs, and (4) encourage involvement and provides support to families in other areas of their lives. The Family Support Specialist may continue to support a family post release, but the reintegration mentor will be the primary support for the youth when he returns home.
 - The Reintegration Mentor positions have been expanded. The Reintegration Mentors should have lived experience and will work with the youth for up to 12 months post discharge from the residential portion of the program. This assumes a length of stay of 6 months and a release back to the community. The Reintegration Mentor will be involved for the 18 month duration of a Probation with Placement order. The Reintegration Mentor will work in conjunction with the Family Support Specialist and Juvenile Probation Officer to ensure a unified approach in supporting the adolescent's successful re-entry into the community. The Reintegration Mentor will provide support for the adolescent to engage in his home school, and to become involved in the community (e.g., work, other programming, prosocial activities, volunteering). Upon discharge, the adolescent will be removed from the program's census but remain on the Reintegration Mentor's caseload. The Family Support Specialist will remain involved as needed.
- Licensed mental health clinicians are recommended to have a salary of \$72,000 annually in order to attract properly licensed, experienced, and culturally diverse clinical workforce. The salary of this position will be a marker for the salary of other positions.
- We have included requirements related to COVID-19 precautions and safety measures.
- It has been requested that the budget clearly reflect summer programming needs and services for high school graduates (e.g., diploma, GED).

REGIONS Staff-Secure Programs for Boys

Boys & Girls Village (BGV), Milford: 12 beds opened December 2018

Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR), Waterbury: 8 beds opened December 2018

Community Partners in Action (CPA), Hartford: 8 beds opened June 2020

REGIONS Limited Secure Program for Girls

Journey House at Natchaug Hospital, Mansfield: 12 beds open since before JJ transfer.
Judicial Branch and Hartford Healthcare entered into a new contract as of January 1, 2020.