

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Redwood Coast Regional Center

Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community

Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) FY 25/26

Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice Development

for RCRC Clients and Families

in Del Norte, Lake, and Mendocino counties

“We envision strong, healthy individuals and families whose emotional resources are renewed and supported by community and regional center. We envision full access to a complete array of health services through life.”

From RCRC Vision

Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC) is one of 21 locally based nonprofit private corporations that contract with the State of California to develop and coordinate community resources and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Redwood Coast Regional Center serves Californians who reside in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties.

RCRC received start-up funding from the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to carry out RCRC's 2024-2025 Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP). CRDP funding is provided by DDS to meet the following objectives: **A)** Expand the availability, accessibility, and types of services and supports to meet the current and future needs of individuals and their families in the community. **B)** Develop systems to ensure that quality services and supports in the least restrictive environment are provided to individuals in the community. **C)** Develop services that are person-centered and represent the diversity of the regional center’s catchment area.

RCRC was awarded funding to expand dental health services in RCRC’s catchment area, so that RCRC clients and families have access to specialized dental services to meet the varying needs in our rural community. To accomplish this expansion RCRC will be offering a unique opportunity to Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) to receive specialized mentoring and training from a qualified RDHAP on best practices for providing dental services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD), including Autism.

TRAINING DESCRIPTION

This 12-month training project will provide the following training and support for up to 3(three) RDHAPs, selected through this RFP process, to integrate into their individual dental practices:

- General information about the CA Regional Center System and applicable laws and regulations.

- Differing techniques needed for serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism.
- Information about becoming a Redwood Coast Regional Center Vendor.
- Insurance vs. Regional Center billing activities.
- Assistance in becoming a MediCal/DentiCal Provider
- Assistance in obtaining/purchasing necessary equipment and supplies
- Assistance in developing a relationship with a dental provider and/or dental clinic in the catchment area
- Education regarding types of disabilities and common medications as well as the effects of both on oral health
- RDHAP laws and regulation requirements to operate a RDHAP practice
- Assistance in RCRC referral system for oral health
- Screening education and information on when to refer to hospital dentistry
- Assistance in tele-dentistry if needed

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must have current licensure to provide RDHAP services in California, though current RCRC vendorization is not a requirement, the applicant must meet California Code of Regulations Title 17 requirements for vendors who provide RDHAP Services [Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 17, § 54342(21)].

GOAL:

The goal of the project will be to identify up to 3 licensed RDHAPs (In Del Norte, Lake and Mendocino County) to receive specialized mentoring and training from a qualified licensed RDHAP on best practices for providing dental services to individuals with IDD, and specifically autism. At the end of the project the identified RDHAPs will become vendored to provide dental services for RCRC clients on an ongoing basis.

START UP FUNDING:

A total of up to \$30,000 is available for **each** of the selected RDHAPs. Start-up funding may be used for training activities (including travel costs) during the 12-month project; dental equipment needed to offer services to RCRC clients (mobile clinic or in an office setting); up to 3 months' rent in an office space; and other RCRC approved start-up expenses.

PROPOSALS:

All interested parties are required to submit an electronic copy of their proposal to the following email address, lthompson@redwoodcoastrc.org no later than 02/23/2026 by 5:00 PM. All proposals will be reviewed and scored by evaluators selected by RCRC. Applicants who meet the proposal criteria will be invited to participate in an interview process. **Proposals must include the following 6 items:**

1. A cover page that lists your name, address, phone number, email, and geographic location you plan to serve.	5 points
2. Provide a description of your current dental practice, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of clients you currently support (all funding sources) • The age group you serve • Specific populations you serve • Geographical location you serve • Whether you provide services in a mobile or office setting • A statement regarding your services philosophy • Experience you have supporting clients with IDD, including autism (**little or no experience will not exclude you from this RFP) • What languages, if any, are you fluent in other than English? • A copy of your current RDHAP license to practice dental services 	25 points
3. Provide the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of your independent work experience as it relates to owning and operating a RDHAP Business. • A description of your experience collaborating with a dentist or clinic to provide needed restorative care for your patients. 	20 points
4. If awarded a contract, please discuss your availability to provide long-term dental services for RCRC clients. Describe where dental services would take place (mobile or office setting), and any barriers you foresee in your ability to provide dental services for RCRC clients.	20 points
5. Provide a list of dental equipment, including the cost and a brief description of each item, you would need to purchase to begin providing dental services for RCRC clients. Use the format in Attachment A.	15 points
6. Provide a statement outlining your experience serving diverse populations, including culturally and linguistically diverse populations. The statement should discuss information on how you will promote equitable access to services and supports to reduce disparity while flexibly tailoring services to respond to the unique needs of the client that is respectful of the language, ethnicity, and culture of the person receiving services. <i>*Priority will be given to applicants who are bi or multi-lingual.</i>	15 points
TOTAL	100 points

TIMELINE:

Completion Date	Activity
January 15, 2026	RFP Released on RCRC Website
February 23, 2026	Emailed Proposals are due to RCRC by 5:00pm
Week of March 9, 2026	Proposals are reviewed RCRC chosen team of evaluators
Week of March 23, 2026	RFP interviews of selected applicants Via Zoom
Week of March 30, 2026	Notification of contract awards for selected applicants

Before beginning work on the proposal and/or if there are any questions regarding this RFP, it is strongly recommended that applicants contact

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RCRC reserves the right to withdraw this Request for Proposals (RFP) at any time without prior notice. Further, RCRC makes no representation that any agreement will be awarded to any applicant responding to this RFP. RCRC reserves the right to reject the proposal of any respondent who, in the opinion of RCRC, is not responsible or has previously failed to perform properly or is not able to operate within the service parameters.

