

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

## **Redwood Coast Regional Center**

### ***Respecting Choice in the Redwood Community***

### ***Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) FY 25/26***

### **Mental Health Clinician (Licensed Therapist) Development for**

### **RCRC Clients and Families**

**For RCRC Vendors in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino counties**

*“We envision all members of the support community having access to adequate resources, including funding, in order to provide desired services and supports. We envision a collaboration between members of the community which creates a whole of services and supports which is greater than the sum of its component contributors. We acknowledge that shared learning, communication and planning activities will provide the greatest benefit for those individuals we mutually serve, as well as for our respective members.”*

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 2025-2026 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 mental health counseling services in RCRC's catchment area, so that RCRC clients and families have access to specialized counseling services to meet the varying needs in our rural community. To accomplish this expansion RCRC will be offering a unique opportunity to licensed mental health counselors to receive specialized mentoring and training from a qualified licensed clinician on best practices for providing counseling services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD), and specifically Autism.

This 16-month project will provide the following training and support for up to 5 (five) licensed mental health counselors, selected through this RFP process, to integrate into their individual counseling practices:

- Online self-study program “Counseling Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities” (includes 12 CEs for Mentees).
- Initial virtual kick-off training session, for RCRC selected Mentees, which outlines the individual and group training schedule for this project and promotes a collaborative community learning environment for the RCRC selected Mentees.
- Identification of individual support needed for each Mentee specific to their geographical location and population served. Mentees will receive multiple one-on-one mentoring sessions that include at minimum:
  - Virtual training sessions, via video conferencing (at least 12 sessions per Mentee).
  - In-person training session (at least one per Mentee)
- Up to 12 online/virtual group sessions with Mentees, which include discussion of skills learned and practiced throughout the training process.
- Final group training session, held virtually, will include a debriefing of skills both learned and practiced, and will provide an opportunity for Mentees to build a network of support among each other.

**APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:**

Applicants must have a current licensure to provide mental health counseling 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 Counseling Services [Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 17, § 54342(18)].

**GOAL:**

The goal of the project will be to identify up to 5 licensed therapists to receive specialized mentoring and training from a qualified licensed clinician on best practices for providing counseling services to individuals with IDD, and specifically autism. At the end of the project the identified therapists, if not yet vendored, will become vendorized to provide counseling services for RCRC clients.

**START UP FUNDING:**

A total of \$90,000 is available for this project. The funding awarded for this project will be **divided among RCRC selected applicants**; actual funding received by Mentees will depend upon the number of proposals received and approved. Start-up funding will be provided as an incentive payment using a milestone structure for completed training activities during the 16-month training project.

**PROPOSALS:**

All interested parties are required to submit an electronic copy of their proposal to the following email address, [lthompson@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:lthompson@redwoodcoastrc.org) no later than **03/20/2026** 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 4 items:**

1. A cover page that lists the applicant's name, address, phone number, email, and name of person preparing proposal, if other than the applicant.	<b>5 points</b>
<p>2. Provide a description of your current practice, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of clients you currently support (all funding sources)</li> <li>• The age group you serve</li> <li>• Specific populations you serve</li> <li>• Geographical location you serve</li> <li>• Any treatment specializations you offer</li> <li>• Whether you provide in-person, online or hybrid services</li> <li>• A statement regarding your counseling philosophy</li> <li>• Experience you have supporting clients with IDD, including autism (**little or no experience will not exclude you from this RFP)</li> <li>• What languages, if any, are you fluent in other than English?</li> <li>• Funding sources you currently receive for providing counseling services</li> <li>• A copy of your current license to practice mental health counseling services in CA</li> </ul>	<b>20 points</b>
<p>3. Discuss your RCRC vendorization status:</p> <p>A) For current vendors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you <u>currently vendored</u> with RCRC to provide mental health counseling services?</li> <li>• If yes, how many RCRC clients do you currently provide counseling services for?</li> <li>• Does RCRC fund these services or is there another funding source?</li> <li>• Do you have the capacity to support additional RCRC clients?</li> </ul> <p>B) For applicants who are <u>not currently vendored</u> with RCRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please discuss any barriers you have experienced in becoming vendored with RCRC.</li> <li>• If awarded the training contract, does your practice have the capacity to support a caseload of RCRC clients?</li> </ul>	<b>10 points</b>
4. 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>	<b>15 points</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50 points</b>

**TIMELINE:**

<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
February 27, 2026	RFP Re-Release Date
March 20, 2026	Emailed Proposals are due to RCRC by 5:00pm
Week of March 30, 2026	Proposals are reviewed by a chosen team of evaluators
Week of April 6, 2026	RFP interviews of selected applicants Via Zoom
Week of April 13, 2026	Notification of contract awards for selected applicants

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

**Leah Thompson**  
**Community Placement Plan Resource Consultant**  
**Redwood Coast Regional Center**  
[lthompson@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:lthompson@redwoodcoastrc.org)  
**(707) 616-2206**

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.