

# CERTIFIED COPY OF ORDER

STATE OF MISSOURI }  
County of Boone } ca.

January Session of the January Adjourned

Term. 2024

In the County Commission of said county, on the 25th day of January 20 24

the following, among other proceedings, were had, viz:

Now on this day, the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby approve the attached Grant Application: Proposal for the Domestic Relations Program for Parents and Children, Contact for Kids: A Safe Way, submitted by the 13th Judicial Circuit Court, Family Court.

Done this 25th day of January 2024.

ATTEST:

*Brianna L. Lennon*  
Brianna L. Lennon  
Clerk of the County Commission

*Kip Kendrick*  
Kip Kendrick  
Presiding Commissioner

*Justin Aldred*  
Justin Aldred  
District I Commissioner

*Janet M. Thompson*  
Janet M. Thompson  
District II Commissioner



**STATE OF MISSOURI  
OFFICE OF STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

RFP NO. OSCA 24-02210

TITLE: Domestic Relations Programs for Parents and Children

ISSUE DATE: January 2, 2024

CONTACT: Trish Adamson

PHONE NO: 573-526-8818

EMAIL: [osca.contracts@courts.mo.gov](mailto:osca.contracts@courts.mo.gov)

**RETURN PROPOSAL NO LATER THAN: 4:00 PM, February 1, 2024**

**Late submissions will not be accepted**

**Proposals may be submitted either electronically to  
[osca.contracts@courts.mo.gov](mailto:osca.contracts@courts.mo.gov) or**

**(U.S. Mail)**

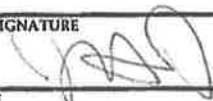
**Office of State Courts Administrator  
P.O. Box 104480  
Jefferson City, MO 65110 - 4480**

**(Courier Service)**

**or Office of State Courts Administrator  
2112 Industrial Dr.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109**

**CONTRACT PERIOD: July 1, 2024, THROUGH June 30, 2025**

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE 		DATE 1/17/24
PRINTED NAME J. H. Zubbs		TITLE Presiding Judge
CIRCUIT/COUNTY 13th Circuit		
MAILING ADDRESS 705 East Walnut Street		
CITY, STATE, ZIP Columbia, Missouri 65201		
CONTACT PERSON Angie Bezoni	TITLE Deputy Juvenile Officer III	
PHONE NO. (573) 886-4200	EMAIL ADDRESS <a href="mailto:angie.bezoni@courts.mo.gov">angie.bezoni@courts.mo.gov</a>	

**NOTICE OF AWARD (OSCA USE ONLY)**

ACCEPTED BY OFFICE OF STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR AS FOLLOWS:		
CONTRACT NUMBER		CONTRACT PERIOD
CONTRACT SECTION	DATE	DEPUTY STATE COURTS ADMINISTRATOR

**Domestic Relations Program for Parents and Children  
Request for Proposal  
Supervised Access and Exchange Program, "Contact for Kids: A Safe Way"  
Budget Spending Plan & Narrative**

**2.1 Continuation of Approved Program:**

For fiscal year 2024, the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Family Court requested \$20,000 in funding to continue our Supervised Visitation program. The Court received \$16,000, and has continued to provide supervised exchange services through a contract with KVC (previously Great Circle).

The Court continues to require the non-custodial parent to pay a per diem based off his/her income. It should also be noted the Court can find a person indigent, and not require them to pay a co-pay. Each non-custodial parent is allowed up to twelve hours of supervised visitation during the grant cycle.

During the current grant cycle from July 1 through January 18, twenty-four families have been referred to the program as a result of their involvement in domestic relations cases. Of those twenty-four families, eighteen have received supervised visitation program services. Of the six cases which did not receive services, one case did not qualify, three participants failed to provide requested additional information, and additional documentation has been requested from two families. There is one family who is approved, but has not yet begun services. Most families that participated in services successfully completed the program. Some families were recommended to continue with supervised visits, in which they are responsible for finding funding for the continuation of visits.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit's Family Court supervised visitation and exchange program was established in July of 2009. The program's need has continued throughout the years. So far this year, the program's popularity has continued. For the current grant year, we predicted we would serve thirty families, and we have already served eighteen families. While it is impossible to predict how much the program will be used, we do anticipate more referrals before the grant year ends.

As noted above, for fiscal year 2024 we requested \$20,000 and were awarded \$16,000. Through December 2023, \$5,523.50 has been billed for supervised visitation. So far this year, we have served four fewer families compared to the previous year, but we anticipate additional referrals being made. So far this grant year, families have received 119 direct service hours. That is a decrease from the previous year. Although it is impossible to predict the number of referrals we will receive, we anticipate at least that many more referrals will be made.

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Families Served</b>	<b>Hours</b>
1	11	56.5
2	13	62.5

3*	10	120
4*	10	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>359</b>

\*Estimates

If the current trend of referrals persists, depending on copays collected, because we are on track to surpass the amount of grant funds we have left, the Court may have to request additional grant funds or discontinue the program until more funds are available.

Budget Spending Plan

Should our Court be awarded the full amount of \$20,000, we are confident referrals will continue to be made and we will continue the consistent level of service as shown over the last fourteen years. We also will continue the practice that if a party falls below poverty level, the Court may waive an hourly per diem being paid by the non-custodial party. KVC has informed us that they would continue to partner with the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit to provide this service to families. Based on KVC reporting their therapist may have to take on fewer cases, the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit is speaking with another licensed therapist about supervising visits for some of the cases.

The following chart shows the expected budget spending plan for FY25, based on predictions of families served to date, and in past years. This budget plan includes continuing to contract with KVC and possibly another therapist to provide the supervision by a licensed therapist at \$58.00 per hour. It should be noted this hourly rate has not increased since the inception of the program.

# of Families Predicted to be Served	# of Available Visitation hours per family	Cost per Visitation Hour	Total Funds needed to provide services	Requested funds through DRRF	Additional Funds needed outside of Grant to cover expenditures
30	12	\$58	\$20,880	\$20,000	\$880

As mentioned above, the total number of families projected to be served during FY24 reporting period is thirty, based on the number of families referred so far this year for the first and second quarter, and based on data from past years. This program continues to be extraordinarily popular, and we have continued to receive a high number of referrals. Currently reimbursement per hour for the therapist to provide supervised visits is \$58 per hour. If each family receives twelve hours of supervised visitation services and qualified for having no co-pay due to income levels, the maximum amount needed would be \$20,880; however, the remaining \$880 needed would likely be covered through co-pays. Currently \$5,523.50 has been spent to provide supervised visitation services. We have collected \$1,478 in copays so far this year. We request \$20,000 in order to continue to support this program. It is hard, if not impossible, to determine how many referrals will be made for the rest of this year, and next year.

In an effort to continue assuming some of the responsibilities of the cost of this program, the Court will continue to work with KVC to have the non-custodial parent pay an hourly per diem based on their income level. For those non-custodial parents who fall below the poverty level, the Court would continue to be allowed to waive a per diem fee, therefore allowing the grant to pay the full hourly rate. It should be noted that during the first six months of the FY24 grant year, \$1,478.50 has been defrayed in costs due to collection of co-pays by the non-custodial parents. We have continued to stringently monitor the collection of co-pays by KVC to ensure maximum use of the funds provided for families.

Our Court, in collaboration with KVC, previously developed a sliding scale worksheet to determine the hourly rate the participant would be required to pay. This scale continues to provide for the fee to be waived if the participant's income is below poverty guidelines as provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For families which would be required to pay an hourly per diem, the family will continue to sign an agreement to pay a pre-determined amount before each supervised visitation and should they not be able to pay their amount, the visitation would not occur. It will continue to be up to the contract agency to collect the amount due from the family based on the sliding scale fee and the Court will agree to pay the contract agency the remaining balance of the \$58.00 per hour through contractual services through the DRRF grant. So far this grant year, three families had their fee waived as they had no income being received that could be counted towards the sliding scale and all fell below the minimum income of \$8,000 per year. As mentioned above, co-pays for the non-custodial parents have continued to help defray costs for the program and we will continue to be stringent in monitoring that families pay the appropriate co-pay for their income level. At this time, no other funding sources have been identified, but we will continue to keep the program as low cost as possible to the Courts while maintaining a high level of quality and effectiveness.

#### Benefit of Funds for FY25

Eighteen families have participated in the Supervised Visitation Program from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit as a direct result of this grant. The children and visiting parents have been given an opportunity to build a lasting relationship which might not have occurred without this program. The visiting parent has learned valuable information such as how to better communicate and/or interact with their child/children through the assistance of the licensed therapist. The custodial parent has been provided the assurance their child/children are safe and well supervised with the therapist being present.

Surveys collected by KVC have been positive. Participants learned new parenting strategies and were able to establish or re-establish relationships with their children.

Family Court Commissioner Sara Miller said, "The supervised visitation program has been an essential tool in our Family Court and has provided invaluable assistance to many families in the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit. The program works with some of the most difficult

cases we have and provides the framework for parents to form a positive parent-child relationship, while assuring the safety and well-being of the children. Without the supervised visitation program, a safe and successful outcome would not happen for many of these families. The successful outcomes we have from the supervised visitation program greatly benefit the families working with the program, as well as our community and the Family Court.”

Family Court Administrative Judge Sue Crane said, “When a parent’s behavior creates a safety issue for children, having the ability to use a supervised visitation program is a good thing for children for at least two reasons. First, we are maintaining some sense of normalcy for that child and protecting what there may be on the parent-child bond. Second, we are able to use third parties trained in this area, to help observe interactions that can determine the next step. Our Circuit relies on the supervised visitation program for such reasons and would use it even more if the resources were available.”

The program is well known among the Family Court Judge, Family Court Commissioner, guardians ad litem, and local attorneys, which further ensures families will continue to be referred to the program. Our Family Court Administrative Judge Sue Crane has given us approval to continue applying for this grant, as it is recognized as a needed resource for domestic Court cases involving children. There is currently a need for this program as it has allowed many domestic relations cases such as Ex-parte Child Orders of Protection, Ex-parte Adult Abuse, Dissolutions of Marriage, Paternity, and other Family Court cases to allow visitation between parents and caregivers in a safe, therapeutic environment and helps many cases to be resolved expeditiously and fairly.