

New Contracting Opportunity:

Beacon is looking for Independent Assessors for Family First Program!

Beacon Health Options (Beacon) is developing a small network of Colorado providers to deliver behavioral health assessment services through the *Independent Assessment* for Child Welfare and Division of Youth Services (aka FFPSA or Families First). The Family First Prevention Services Act created a new type of residential services for children and youth called Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs). To determine the appropriateness of a child or youth's placement and services in a QRTP, an assessment must be completed by an independent, qualified individual (licensed mental health provider, i.e. LPC, LCSW, LMFT, PsyD, Psychiatrist, Psych NP, etc). The program is funded through The Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), and Beacon provides administrative oversight for the program in RAE regions 2, 4, and 7.

We are recruiting an exclusive cadre of licensed child and family specialists to complete face-to-face assessments of eligible children or youth, who are under the age of 18. The assessments must be completed within six (6) business days of the request and they must include information from parents and other collateral informants. All assessments must include the administration of the *Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths* (CANS) tool. The assessor uses this information to provide clinical treatment recommendations pertaining to a child or youth's services or placement in a QRTP including short and long-term goals. The assessor will submit a final document, titled *Independent Assessment Report Summary* (completed by the assessor), that outlines major findings and recommendations. Assessors will be compensated at a flat rate of \$900 per completed assessment through a simple invoicing and claims payment process. Beacon will coordinate with providers to help them complete the CANS certification process and required training through OBH, and will cover all training-related costs.

While the public health state of emergency is in effect, assessments can be provided via telehealth/televideo. Once the state of emergency has been lifted, telehealth assessments can be provided if the child or youth is out of state or as directed by the family. The family is the guiding decider on meeting in-person vs. telehealth/televideo.

If you are interested in becoming a provider for this program, please contact Alma Mejorado, Director of Contracting Development, by email:

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