

Applied Behavior Analysis Digital Therapeutics Intervention

Date of Issue:	October 23, 2023
Information must be received no later than:	2:00 p.m. November 17, 2023
Submit all RFI-related questions to:	Hans Leach <u>hans.leach@phila.gov</u>

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: WOMEN,
MINORITY INDIVIDUALS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE
ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) provides services addressing mental health, addiction, and intellectual disability to the citizens of Philadelphia. DBHIDS oversees several sub-agencies, the largest of which is Community Behavioral Health (CBH), for the Pennsylvania HealthChoices Program. CBH is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather high-level information about options to create digital therapeutic interventions for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). CBH seeks responses describing the general functionality, benefits, limitations, and cost of solutions available over the coming year.

2. BACKGROUND

ABA is a therapeutic approach founded on the science of learning and behavior with significant research support for use with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) (Howling, Magiati, and Charman, 2009). The well-known impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and behavioral health staffing shortages have contributed to growing ABA access concerns for CBH youth. CBH's network for ABA services includes 34 providers, which is the largest provider network for any prior authorized children's services; still, even with significant network expansion, the demand continues to exceed the availability of ABA services. The use of digital therapeutics is being proposed to provide a complementary service for those youth and families waiting connection to ABA services, specifically youth with ASD or another neurodevelopmental diagnosis.

CBH is seeking a vendor(s) to create and provide digitized therapeutic programming for children and families with ASD. Digital therapeutics would provide access to psychoeducation and foundational skill-building while maintaining member engagement.

3. RESPONSE FORMAT AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Responses to this RFI should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the applicant's ability to respond to the RFI. Each response in this RFI should use the format described below. Responses must be presented in print size of 12, using Times New Roman font, single-spaced, on 8.5" by 11" sheets of paper with minimum margins of 1".

For each section where it is required, the applicant must fully answer all the listed questions in the outline form in which they are presented in the RFI. Answers to each question must be numbered/lettered and correspond to the numbered/lettered questions in this RFI. Applications should not exceed 10 pages.

Parties responding to this RFI should answer the questions in the section below and provide additional information of value to CBH. The cover page does not count in the page total and should include:

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- ➔ Name of the responding company
- ➔ Name, phone number, and email of the contact person for the response, particularly for the person or persons who can answer questions about the responses
- ➔ Note if the responding company is a Pennsylvania Minority, Women or Disabled-Owned Enterprise (M/W/DBE). Note any similar or related other designations (e.g., Philadelphia M/W/DBSE, etc.)
- ➔ Number of years the company has been in business

3.1. RFI Questions

3.1.1. Applicant Agency

What type of service does the vendor provide, including all managed care organizations in PA counties (i.e., Montgomery County, Bucks County, Delaware County, etc.)? Describe the scope of this work. In your response, please include the following:

- a. Identify the name of your company.
- b. Indicate the type(s) of service offered by your company.
- c. Does your company have existing digitized programming for families with children with an autism spectrum diagnosis?
- d. What experience does your company have serving an urban population?

3.1.2. Organizational Background

- a. Provide a brief company history of knowledge working with families and children, specifically ASD.
- b. Who are your typical clients/customers?
- c. Provide relevant information about the company related to services that are pertinent to this RFI.

3.1.3. Operational Components

- a. How much flexibility does a customer have to customize your product?
- b. Discuss how the company will ensure that diversity and cultural competency are addressed.
- c. Describe how your company meets the needs of families with youths with ASDs.

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- d. Describe any barriers the company would anticipate with creating digitized programming for youth.
- e. Discuss how these barriers would be addressed.
- f. Do you have any user success stories?
- g. What staff have experience working with children in behavioral health?

3.1.4. Design Factors

- a. What design supports do you currently offer for youth with ASD? (i.e., Visual – colors, labeling, font, etc., Auditory – voiceovers, music, etc.)?
- b. Discuss how clinical best practices can be optimized using your platform.

3.1.5. Data

- a. How do you measure participant satisfaction?
- b. How do you measure outcomes?

3.1.6. Budgeting Factors

- a. What resources would your company need to support the implementation of programming? Please describe.
- b. What is the initial cost to implement the program? Do you require recurring annual costs to maintain service?
- c. Is ongoing maintenance or updates included in the initial cost?
- d. Are there additional costs that we may have not inquired about? If so, please describe the costs and what they will be funded for.

3.1.7. Product Demos

Do you have demos for your product? Please attach any demos to your response.

4. SUBMISSIONS

This RFI is released on October 23, 2023. Questions from potential respondents should be sent to **Hans Leach** at hans.leach@phila.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2023, and CBH expects to answer the questions it feels would clarify this RFI by November 6, 2023.

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<i>RFI Event</i>	<i>Deadline Date</i>
RFP Issued	October 23, 2023
Deadline to Submit Questions to CBH about RFI	October 30, 2023
Answers to Questions about RFI to be posted to CBH website	November 6, 2023
Application Submission Deadline	2:00 p.m. ET on November 17, 2023

Interested parties should respond to this RFI by 2:00 p.m., November 17, 2023. Please submit your responses to Hans Leach at hans.leach@phila.gov. All responses become the property of CBH upon submission. **This RFI will be closed once the submission deadline has passed.**