

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TARRANT §

AGREEMENT

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court finds that residents of Tarrant County, Texas, are faced with the continuing challenge of child abuse and child sexual abuse, and that a need exists to facilitate continued provision of services to victims and the community to address this challenge.

The Commissioners Court finds that **ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN, INC.** can and does provide these services and currently provides three child friendly centers in Tarrant County, located in the City of Arlington, Fort Worth and Hurst, in which various governmental entities maintain staff and supplies in order that they may more efficiently conduct investigations of such abuse and protect the child victim from unnecessary trauma. Presently, local police departments, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and the staff of the Criminal District Attorney of Tarrant County use the centers of **ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN, INC.** to conduct their investigations of this abuse.

The Commissioners Court finds that the services of **ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN, INC.** are in the nature of a professional service, and that the provision of these services furthers a public purpose in that they support investigations into child abuse, lessen the trauma to child victims, and address the clinical and educational needs of victims and the community regarding this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, this **Agreement** is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2024, by and between **ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN, INC.** ("**ALLIANCE, INC.**"), a private non-profit corporation chartered by the State of Texas, acting herein by and through its duly authorized agent and officer, and the **TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS** ("**COUNTY**"), acting by and through its County Judge.

ALLIANCE, INC. and the **COUNTY** agree as follows:

1. **ALLIANCE INC.** agrees to continue to provide its services in Arlington, Fort Worth and Hurst for the use of the above-named governmental agencies in their investigations of child abuse.
2. **COUNTY**, for and in consideration of the services provided hereby agrees to pay to **ALLIANCE, INC.** a lump sum payment of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$220,840.00) for such services during the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

3. TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY TEXAS LAW, ALLIANCE, INC. AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS COUNTY, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, OFFICIALS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, INJURY OR CLAIM ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENT OPERATION OF ITS PROGRAMS OR APPLICATIONS OF ITS FUNDS. SAID INDEMNIFICATION WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, ALL AMOUNTS OF ALL CLAIMS, ATTORNEYS' FEES, AND COSTS OF COURT.

4. Nothing contained in this **Agreement** shall be deemed or construed by the parties hereto, nor by any third party, as creating the relationship of principal and agent, partnership, joint enterprise, common enterprise, joint venture, joint owners, or joint tenants between the parties. The parties hereby declare and acknowledge that the relationship existing is one of independent contractor. This **Agreement** does not and shall not be construed to entitle either party or any of their respective employees or officials, if applicable, to any benefit, privilege or other amenities of employment from the other party.

5. This **Agreement** shall not be interpreted to inure to the benefit of a third party not a party to this **Agreement**. This **Agreement** may not be interpreted to waive any statutory or common law defense, immunity, including governmental and sovereign immunity, or any limitation of liability, responsibility, or damage of any party to this **Agreement**, party's agent, or party's employee, otherwise provided by law.

6. The parties to this **Agreement** will not sell, assign, transfer or convey any benefits or obligations of this **Agreement** in whole or part without the prior written consent of both parties.

7. If any one or more of the provisions contained in this **Agreement**, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability will not affect any other provision of this **Agreement**.

8. This **Agreement** constitutes the entire agreement between the parties, and any and all prior negotiations are merged into this **Agreement**. Any amendment, change, or addition to this **Agreement** shall be made only in writing and signed by both parties.

9. This **Agreement** will be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for any action or claim arising from this **Agreement** will be in Tarrant County, Texas, as to state court actions, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, as to federal court actions.

10. In providing the services required by this **Agreement**, **ALLIANCE, INC.** must observe and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations, including, without limitation, workers' compensation laws, minimum and maximum salary and wage statutes and regulations, and non-discrimination laws and regulations. **ALLIANCE, INC.** shall be responsible for ensuring its compliance with any laws and regulations applicable to its business, including maintaining any necessary licenses and permits.

11. **ALLIANCE, INC.** agrees to provide **COUNTY** all records relating to the programs performed by **ALLIANCE, INC.** upon written request of **COUNTY** and to provide a final report detailing the manner in which such funds are expended and the program details of its services.

12. **ALLIANCE, INC.** must submit to **COUNTY** a final report as to the program outcomes achieved within sixty (60) days of the end of the requested funding year [by November 30, 2024] by providing the following:

- (a) a program update on all outcomes accomplished and client populations served; and,
- (b) an accounting of all expenditures of **COUNTY** funds (salary, rent, training, etc.). *Any funds not used for the specified purposes or not used within the time limits specified in this contract are subject to be returned to **COUNTY**.*

Until receipt of this final report by **COUNTY**, all subsequent funding will be held in abeyance.

13. **ALLIANCE, INC.** verifies that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract. The term "boycott Israel" is as defined by Texas Government Code Section 808.001, effective September 1, 2017.

14. **ALLIANCE, INC.** acknowledges and agrees that it has fully, accurately, and completely disclosed all interested parties in the attached Form 1295, and has acknowledged the completeness of this disclosure by filing the Form 1295, attached as Exhibit A, with the Texas Ethics Commission as required by law.

SIGNED AND EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.



OFFICER AND AUTHORIZED AGENT
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN, INC.

COUNTY OF TARRANT
STATE OF TEXAS

Tim O'Hare
County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**CERTIFICATION OF
AVAILABLE FUNDS: \$220,840.00**

Criminal District Attorney's Office*

Tarrant County Auditor

***By law, the Criminal District Attorney's Office may only approve contracts for its clients. We reviewed this document as to form from our client's legal perspective. Other parties may not rely on this approval. Instead those parties should seek contract review from independent counsel.**

Vendor Certification Addendum to Tarrant County Contracts
Entered Into on or After September 1, 2021
Required by New Texas State Laws
[Not required if all contracting parties are governments]

This Addendum relates to the following contract: Agreement between Tarrant County, Texas and Alliance for Children, Inc. (FY 2024)

FISCAL FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, Vendor acknowledges TARRANT COUNTY is a governmental entity and agrees TARRANT COUNTY (customer) may terminate this Agreement for future fiscal years if sufficient funding is not appropriated or allocated.

For All County Contracts Entered into on or after September 1, 2021, Vendor Must Certify:

Vendor is EXEMPT from Certification regarding Energy Companies and Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations:

Vendor is a sole proprietorship OR is a non-profit entity OR Vendor is a company that does NOT have 10 or more full-time employees AND/OR this contract does NOT have a value of \$ 100,00.00 or more that is to be paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental entity.

If the Vendor Cannot Certify that it is EXEMPT as Above, Vendor Must Certify as Follows:

Vendor is NOT EXEMPT and Certifies as follows:

Boycott of Energy Companies Prohibited. In compliance with Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (added by [87th Legislature, S.B. 13](#)), Vendor verifies that it does not boycott energy companies and will not boycott energy companies during the term of the above-described contract. "Boycott energy company" is defined in Section 809.001(1) (added by [87th Legislature, S.B. 13](#)) and means, without an ordinary business purpose, refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company: (A) engages in the exploration, production,

utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or (B) does business with a company described by subsection (A).

Discrimination against Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations Prohibited.

In compliance with Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (added by [87th Legislature, S.B. 19](#)), Vendor verifies that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association; and will not discriminate during the term of the above-described contract] against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. "Discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" is defined in Section 2274.001(3) (added by [87th Legislature, S.B. 19](#)) and means, with respect to the entity or association, to: (i) refuse to engage in the trade of any goods or services with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; (ii) refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; or (iii) terminate an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; the term *does not include*: (i) the established policies of a merchant, retail seller, or platform that restrict or prohibit the listing or selling of ammunition, firearms, or firearm accessories; and (ii) a company's refusal to engage in the trade of any goods or services, decision to refrain from continuing an existing business relationship, or decision to terminate an existing business relationship: (aa) to comply with federal, state, or local law, policy, or regulations or a directive by a regulatory agency; or (bb) for any traditional business reason that is specific to the customer or potential customer and not based solely on an entity's or association's status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association.

Vendor Hereby Certifies (Mark Applicable Certification):

☐ Vendor is EXEMPT from Certification as set out above.

☒ Vendor is NOT EXEMPT from Certification as set out above, and Vendor Certifies that it does not and will not Boycott Energy Companies and that it does not and will not engage in prohibited Discrimination against Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations.

CERTIFIED by:



Signature of Certifying Person

Julie Evans

Printed Name of Certifying Person

CED

Title of Certifying Person

Alliance For Children

Name of Vendor Company

Date Certified

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

FORM 1295

1 of 1

Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if there are interested parties.
Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 if there are no interested parties.

OFFICE USE ONLY CERTIFICATION OF FILING

1 Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.

Alliance for Children
Fort Worth, TX United States

Certificate Number:
2023-1090966

Date Filed:
11/03/2023

Date Acknowledged:

2 Name of governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed.

Tarrant County

3 Provide the identification number used by the governmental entity or state agency to track or identify the contract, and provide a description of the services, goods, or other property to be provided under the contract.

FY 2024 Contract
Children's Advocacy Center

4	Name of Interested Party	City, State, Country (place of business)	Nature of interest (check applicable)	
			Controlling	Intermediary

5 Check only if there is NO Interested Party.



6 UNSWORN DECLARATION

My name is Julie Evans, and my date of birth is 12/23/76.

My address is 3609 Marquita Dr., FW, TX, 76116, USA.
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Tarrant County, State of TX, on the 6 day of Nov., 20 23.
(month) (year)

Julie Evans
Signature of authorized agent of contracting business entity
(Declarant)



Chandler Merritt, County Administrator
Tarrant County Administration Building
100 E. Weatherford Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0609

Dear Mr. Merritt,

November 6, 2023

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff and team of multidisciplinary partners, and the many children and families Alliance For Children assists, I would like to sincerely thank Tarrant County for the \$220,840 grant awarded in support of our 2022 - 2023 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023). We are grateful for your longstanding partnership, and for continuing to champion our mission to protect Tarrant County children from child abuse through teamed investigations, healing services, and community education.

Together, with our multidisciplinary partners, comprised of 36 jurisdictions of local law enforcement, medical professionals at Cook Children's Health Care System, JPS Health Network, Texas Health Resources, Child Protective Investigations, Tarrant County Juvenile Services, and the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Alliance For Children provides topnotch evidence-based, trauma-informed programs and services completely free of charge to our child clients and their protective caregivers.

Alliance For Children's services begin when a suspicion of child abuse is reported in Tarrant County. Our Multidisciplinary Team reviews all Tarrant County allegations of child abuse to identify those rising to a criminal level, initiating the collaborative and investigative process amongst our staff and partners. Children suspected as victims of physical or sexual abuse are evaluated and treated by one of our 76 partners to ensure the health and wellbeing of the child, and to collect forensic evidence for criminal prosecution when available.

Confirmed victims of child abuse are interviewed by an Alliance For Children Forensic Interviewer who is specialized in child development, dynamics of abuse and question typology to elicit information in a non-leading manner on a developmentally appropriate level to the victim. Our team of Family Advocates act as a bridge between a family's involvement with the criminal justice system, child protective investigations, and a link to the social services and resources they may need. Advocates also coordinate case management, and court education and accompaniment to prepare victims of child abuse and their caregivers for the complex investigative and legal process. Clinicians provide evidence-based, trauma-informed individual therapy for

children who have experienced trauma as well as group therapy, play, art and animal assisted therapy when appropriate. Furthermore, a team of Community Educators provide evidence-based educational programs to assure both children and adults in our community gain the knowledge necessary to resist or responsibly respond to a suspicion of child abuse.

Coordinating these services helps children and protective caregivers navigate the necessary steps to provide a safe and healthy environment for their family so that these child victims are able to fully realize they are survivors of abuse, not defined by it. With the support of a protective caregiver and effective treatment, these children can recover without long-term, negative effects.

While we are still confirming the below numbers for absolute accuracy, we will have solidified numbers in the coming months and would be happy to share those at that time. Meanwhile, we estimate that we served the following during our most recently completed Fiscal Year (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023):

- 2,306 first-time child clients and their protective families were served at no cost.
- 27,313 child abuse case reports were screened by the Multidisciplinary Team Coordination Program, resulting in 11,196 referrals made to programs and services at Alliance For Children and area resources.
- 1,389 cases were coordinated at our case review meetings.
- 1,714 forensic interviews were conducted to assist investigating partners and reduce the re-traumatization of children who are receiving these interviews.
- 1,487 families received family advocate services, giving families the emergency needs, resources, and knowledge to navigate a complex legal system.
- 10,974 counseling sessions of trauma informed evidence-based therapy were conducted.
- 33,863 children were educated on personal body safety and how to recognize, resist, and report abuse or suspected abuse.
- 28,570 children were educated on Internet safety.
- 4,611 adults were educated in child abuse prevention and how to recognize and react responsibly to child abuse in Tarrant County.

Alliance For Children's staff and partners continue to see a high influx of cases of child abuse victims and their protective families in need of our services in Tarrant County. Research estimates that one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday, while one in four Texas children will be victims of abuse or neglect. Protective caregivers in the midst of abuse investigations are often overwhelmed with the unknown future they face. Many are forced to relocate for the safety of their child or have lost the financial support of a primary breadwinner due to allegations. Coupled with the impacts and limitations of an unstable economy, protective families may find it difficult to manage the financial strain that often accompanies allegations of abuse. Additionally, as the county continues to see growth in population, we brace ourselves for a higher demand for our programs and services. An important way Alliance For Children strives to reduce trauma for child abuse victims and their protective families is

through our Emergency Needs program, providing critical financial support services and resources such as beds, clothing, diapers and formula, or assistance with rent, utilities, groceries, or gas. Our Family Advocates utilize this program to empower adults through the provision of critical resources necessary to stabilize a family in crisis to enable them to focus on healing.

The steady, high number of cases of child abuse in the County continues to stretch our staff and partners. We consistently monitor caseloads in hopes of preventing burnout and staff turnover, yet we recognize the need to pour into every case promptly and individually. Additionally, while our clinicians' hearts are for our children and their betterment, we find ourselves competing with area private practices when it comes to salary.

Our agency's clinical teams are also witnessing child and adolescent depression, anxiety, and suicidality increasing at an alarming rate. There are a myriad of factors believed to contribute to these outcomes including heavy Internet and social media usage by children, a lack of social support systems, and a growing prevalence of low self-esteem and lack of coping skills for many of today's youth. Our law enforcement and medical communities are overwhelmed with the sudden shift in need for experienced mental health professionals specialized in child psychology and trauma-informed care. We know education and training is paramount in assuring our staff and partners are prepared to provide the level of care these children and their families deserve. Alliance For Children offers specialized trainings on a regular basis, actively working to engage each partner in our Multidisciplinary Team Core Concepts trainings that officers and detectives must manage on top of their already demanding schedules.

Community Outreach remains a critical aspect of our work at Alliance For Children, reflecting the collaborative efforts made by our staff and partners to educate the public about child abuse and neglect, and raise awareness of the services our agency provides children and families, completely free of charge. As we continue to see a steady, high number of new child clients, our team of Community Educators combat the pervasiveness of child abuse in Tarrant County through evidence-based, educational outreach programs that empower adults and children to respond appropriately to the issue of child abuse as shown in the numbers above. Presentations provide educational insight on practices to help prevent child abuse and neglect from taking place, how to responsibly respond to a child's outcry of abuse, teaches children about personal body and Internet safety, and offers guidance to parents and caregivers in reinforcing these discussions.

Alliance For Children also strives to nurture healing for child victims through trauma-informed, evidence-based therapy to help victims become survivors, no longer burdened by the abuse they experienced. Our team of expert therapeutic clinicians provide individual treatment for children who have experienced trauma or abuse that other victims may not relate to. Therapists utilize counseling modalities such as Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Parent-Child Care Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy, as well as art, play, and animal assisted therapies. Our group therapy sessions for child sexual abuse

survivors are broken-up by age and gender to create a comfortable, open environment, where children witness each other in different stages of their healing, allowing for peer encouragement and relatability. Additionally, we recognize that child abuse affects the entire family; parent and sibling groups learn the dynamics of abuse and how to handle their own secondary trauma while supporting their family member who was abused. It remains critically imperative that we are able to provide these support and healing services to every Tarrant County child abuse victim who comes through our doors.

Since the completion of our three-phase capital campaign, we have already witnessed the positive impact of the recent renovations including, updates to technology and security measures, and the reunification of our clinical team at all three campuses across Tarrant County. Alliance For Children is executing a renewed strategic plan to effectively re-affirm the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, and community partners to our mission. We have learned that co-location and collaboration with local law enforcement, the Department of Family and Protective Services, prosecution teams, and medical and mental health professionals is essential to providing a coordinated, streamlined investigative response to these cases, and expedites healing and justice for each child abuse victim and their protective family.

The reinstatement of our original model of a continuum care with the co-location of all services goes beyond providing an easy exchange of case information, but allows all teams involved to witness the healing these children receive, demonstrating how our efforts are life-changing for the child and their protective family. We are overjoyed to see that many of the implementations to our security and technology features are already providing a new level of commitment to not only our children, but also the efforts of our staff and partners in their provision of investigative and healing services.

Research and evidence-based strategies drive our processes to protect and provide healing for victims, while we continually evaluate current efforts and explore new, more effective methods to best serve and protect our community's children. Widely regarded as leaders in our field and recognized for our progressive approach, we pride ourselves on our responsiveness to child abuse victims in need of our programs and services. It remains critically imperative that we are able to provide support to every Tarrant County child abuse victim needing our services.

Furthermore, child abuse has been consistently in the news and even served as the focal point of hit movies over this past year, resulting in increased public awareness and engagement. The community is more willing to recognize and discuss this topic, while also recognizing that Alliance For Children provides a multidisciplinary teamed approach to serving Tarrant County victims and their protective families year-round.

In response to an increase in child abuse crimes and human trafficking in Tarrant County, the Police Departments of Fort Worth and Arlington have added a unit specific to Human Trafficking and Exploitation cases to serve child victims of sex trafficking more effectively, sharing space alongside Alliance For Children staff and the preexisting Crimes Against Children and Internet Crimes Against Children Units. These highly

anticipated and much needed teams will require specialized, essential training to cultivate the knowledge and expertise necessary for the critical work ahead.

The support provided by Tarrant County has been crucial to Alliance For Children's ability to serve every possible victim of child abuse who came through our doors over the course of the past year, and toward our efforts to plan for the children and families who will need us in the future. With your help we were able to substantially further our impact on children and families affected by child abuse, providing them with the necessary tools to ensure healing is accomplished.

We remain grateful and proud to call you our partners in this fight against child abuse in Tarrant County.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Evans". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Evans" clearly distinguishable.

Julie Evans
Chief Executive Officer