



# Legislative Report Continuum of Care (Thrive)

House Bill No. 909 (Act No. 561) of the 2022 Regular Session of the  
Louisiana Legislature

**December 2024**

# Division of Family Support

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## Executive Summary

On June 17, 2022, during the 2022 Regular Session, the Louisiana State Legislature enacted the Continuum of Care for Certain Women and Parents, hereafter called Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network. This program uses a statewide telecare support network providing community outreach, consultations, and care coordination of services for expectant women and families with biological and adoptive children under the age of two years. These services will be delivered exclusively through electronic means provided for and in accordance with Act No. 561 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature. Said Act is comprised of La. R.S. 46:1451 through 1455.

Thrive is designed to accomplish all of the following goals:

- Encourage healthy childbirth;
- Support childbirth as an alternative to abortion;
- Promote family formation;
- Assist parents in establishing successful parenting techniques; and
- Increase the economic self-sufficiency of families.

## Program Development

Telecare services will focus on medical and psychosocial health. Licensed registered nurses will be employed for the medical aspect of the program. The medical services will include assessments, referrals, medical care plans, and medically accurate information for expectant families and families with children under the age of two years. Licensed social workers or equally qualified licensed professionals will be responsible for the psychosocial capacity of the program. Thrive's psychosocial aspect will include assessments, case plan development, assistance applying for state and federal benefits, and referrals to local providers and services.

Thrive's goal is to provide clear and direct support services to the vulnerable population. The organization aims to enhance the well-being and quality of life for individuals and families facing various challenges. Through its telecare network, Thrive seeks to increase participants' access to counseling, education, and the creation of personalized care plans.

## Community Integration Plan

The contractor shall provide a client-centered Community Integration Plan (CIP) that will include a community needs assessment and a description of the services to be provided to the community, including the type of services, target population, and expected outcomes. The CIP shall require the contractor to enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with each partner formalizing these agreements, which allows for a warm hand-off upon contract approval. The contractor shall provide a copy of all approved MOUs to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

## Procurement

The Request for Proposals (RFP) process began in August 2023, with a kickoff meeting between DCFS and the Division of Administration, Office of State Procurement (OSP). DCFS staff worked with OSP to publish the RFP for Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network on May 14, 2024. The selection committee presented an award recommendation on October 1, 2024, to DCFS for executive approval.

The successful proposer, Human Coalition, was informed in early November 2024 that their firm was selected to receive the award of the RFP. No timely protests were received regarding the proposed award. Negotiations between Human Coalition and DCFS began on November 6, 2024. The contract was duly executed by the parties on December 19, 2024 with a term of December 1, 2024 to November 30, 2027.

## Terms of Payment

Thrive's terms of payments will be a fixed rate and based on unit costs for telehealth services and psychosocial services. The unit cost for telehealth services provided by licensed registered nurses is based on an hourly rate billable in 15-minute units. The unit cost for psychosocial counseling services provided by licensed social workers or other licensed professionals will be billed based on an hourly rate billable in 15-minute units. The unit costs will include administrative and indirect costs that do not exceed the standard for said costs.

Thrive's expenditures will also be based on a monthly unit cost for psychosocial services, not including counseling, provided by licensed social workers or other licensed professionals, and are billed at a flat rate per client. These psychosocial services include case management, case planning, assistance applying for state and federal benefits, and referrals to local services and resources.

## Reporting Requirements of Act No. 561

La. R.S. 46:1454 requires DCFS to submit a report on or before December 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare on the status and operation of the program. Each report required by this section shall include all of the following:

1. A detailed itemization of expenditures associated with the program.
2. The number of individuals served by the program, and for the individuals served, the types of services provided to each.
3. Any information regarding the program requested by and provided to any elected member of the legislature during the period addressed in the report.
4. Any other information the Secretary of the Department deems necessary or appropriate for facilitating the evaluation of the program.

## Requested Information

DCFS has not received any requests for information from any elected member of the legislature during the period addressed in the report.