



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

11352

Date: June 3, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. to provide transitional living services for homeless and aging out of foster care youth, ages 16-21, and assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thus avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$125,860 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. to provide transitional living services for homeless and aging out of foster care youth, ages 16-21, and assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thus avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$125,860 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The proposed agreement will provide a program called "Life Bridges" that is comprised of residential and non-residential components. The residential component will provide housing through intensely supervised independent living apartments as well as life skills training, referral and follow-up with mental and physical health care. Job preparedness training, ongoing counseling, and practice at real work activities such as budgeting, banking, saving and bill paying are also provided as part of the residential component. The residential component will serve 18 youth. The non-residential component will provide auxiliary services to 60 youth annually that include emergency cash assistance, housing subsidies, job

readiness training and paid internships with participating employers. The Children's Village, Inc. has consistently proven successful in delivering these services. The amount requested reflects a decrease of \$10,686 from the previous year as a result of cost savings negotiated between the program office staff and the vendor. The cost reduction will not affect the number of youths to be served under the new agreement. Instead, the number has been increased from 66 under the current contract to 78 under the new agreement. The Department of Social Services provides funding for approximately twenty one percent of the overall cost of running this program.

The proposed agreement will **serve a public purpose** by reducing the long term dependency of the targeted population on supportive services from the County because the program equips them with the tools needed to move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

The **goals and objectives** of the Life Bridges program are to provide transitional living services to young adults aged 16-21 who are homeless or aging out of foster care in order to make them independent and self sufficient. The program provides them with the necessary tools to become self sufficient. Foster Care support ends when a young adult turns age 21. If not prepared for the end of services, the young adult is at risk of continued homelessness and dependence on Temporary Assistance. The Objective of Life Bridges is to strategically prepare these high risk young adults for Independent Living. This Objective will be achieved through two core services: 1) a supervised community apartment program which provides the youth with the experience of maintaining an apartment, and 2) an education and employment training program to teach how to find and maintain employment and to continue vocational and educational planning. In addition, the program will provide on-going case management services to address individual needs, such as mental health issues, substance abuse, or crisis intervention services.

The **goals and objectives of this program are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at ensuring and enhancing the health and safety of the targeted population. The program provides this vulnerable population with transitional housing that is a safe haven for them to live. Housing homeless and foster care youth aging out of the foster care system will reduce the risk of them becoming homeless and victims of crime. The youth also receive direct support services such as independent living skills training, academic and vocational instructions, job readiness and job placement as well as mental and physical health care that will help promote the well being of the youth.

The aforesaid **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility and public policy** as they promote individual self-sufficiency, reduce homelessness and dependence on Temporary Assistance and improve the successful transition of foster children to adulthood. Listed below are some of the ways in which the program would help cut costs and thereby reduce the County's financial burden.

- **Annualized costs associated with homelessness:** It costs the County about \$100 a day to service a homeless youth. That translates to an annualized cost of \$36,500 per homeless youth.

- **Annualized Program costs:** The Children's Village, Inc. Life Bridges Program cost is \$125,860 per year. The program has a capacity to serve 78 youth in the 2010 contract year. This translates to a cost of \$1,613.59 per youth per year.

The **negative consequence of not entering into this contract** will be that this vulnerable population will not receive the supports that are necessary to avert homelessness and welfare dependence.

The Department of Social Services will continue **to track and monitor the success of the Life Bridges program** by requiring the submission of regular reports outlining the program's success in assisting clients in maintaining employment, enrollment in education and vocational training, providing training in budgeting, banking, and household management, and number of youth served.

The Department is able to report that The Children's Village's Life Bridges Program is on track to meeting its performance goals in the 2009-2010 contract years. As of April 30, 2010, over 73 youth have been served which represents over 100% of the contract capacity, with two more months left in the contract year. The Department was able to negotiate an increase in the contract capacity to 78 youth to be served in the 2010-2011 contract at a lower cost. Out of the 73 youth served, 17 were in the residential component while 56 in the non residential component of this program. 16 youth completed ILS training on household management, 38 were referred to the Education and Opportunity Center for vocational/educational resources, 18 were enrolled in a GED or vocational training certificate program, 4 transitioned into permanent housing, 3 entered college while 11 secured employment.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) xviii.

Accordingly, authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. to provide the aforesaid services is respectfully requested.

An appropriate resolution is attached herewith seeking your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc., to provide transitional living services for homeless and aging out of foster care youth, ages 16-21, to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thereby, avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester, for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$125,860 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive, or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5880	___	\$62,930
2011	101	22	8900	5880	___	\$62,930

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-2011 Start Dates: 7/1/10 End Date: 6/30/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 18 %

State Aid: 32 %

\$125,860
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 50%

Other: _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 6-17-2010 - JOMARYNEIRA, SECRETARY