

11699

October 27, 2010

TO: The Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Mary Kate Cabaleiro, Coordinator  
Westchester County Youth Bureau

RE: Authority to enter into an Agreement with the Jewish Council of Yonkers, Inc. to operate the Intergenerational Literacy program for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in a total amount not to exceed \$45,000

---

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with the Jewish Council of Yonkers, Inc. to operate the Intergenerational Literacy Program for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in a total amount not to exceed \$45,000, subject to appropriation and pursuant to an approved individual budget.

The Intergenerational Literacy program is addressing the educational and social needs of Yonkers students through a variety of methods including one to one tutoring sessions, mentoring and outreach to families.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are as follows:

- Of the 225 youth who are participating in the Summer Reading Buddies program, 200 improved/achieved the completion of their Summer Reading assignments from the Yonkers City School District by 100% as measured by the final reports provided by their Mentors in the Summer Reading Buddies program.
- Of the 300 youth who are participating in the Students and Mature Adults Read Together (SMART) program, 255 or 85% are improving/achieving their reading skills by at least 5 points as measured by a pre/post test, the Developmental Reading Assessment administered by each student's classroom teacher.
- Of the 300 youth who are participating in the SMART program, 270 or 90% are improving their attitudes toward reading by at least 50% as measured by the Elementary Reading Attitude Survey administered at the end of at least three months of their consistent participation in SMART.

This Agreement is in the best interest of the County in terms of Public Safety because active gang recruitment occurs at all ages, with young recruits having fewer skills to repel recruitment activities. Studies at Temple University's Center for Intergenerational Learning have shown that literacy programs and mentoring projects help at-risk youth stay in school and become competent, independent adults. The National Institute on Out of School Time exposes that at the elementary level, high achievers spend more time in "high yield" out-of-school learning activities than low achievers. "High Yield" activities include reading, writing and being tutored. The long term goals of the program are to increase literacy readiness and improve reading levels of youth 0 – 18 years old, in order to produce a positive educational experience and to increase the chance for academic success, reducing the risk of gang related, anti social behaviors.

This program was funded in 2009 and achieved its stated outcomes. The outcomes were as follows:

- Of the 242 youth (17 more than contracted for) who participated in the Summer Reading Buddies program, 242 improved/achieved the completion of their Summer Reading assignments from the Yonkers City School District by 100% as measured by the final reports provided by their Mentors in the Summer Reading Buddies program.
- Of the 347 youth (47 more than contracted for) who participated in the Students and Mature Adults Read Together (SMART) program, 347 improved/achieved their reading skills by an average of 6.5 points as measured by a pre/post test, the Developmental Reading Assessment administered by each student's classroom teacher.
- Of the 347 youth (47 more than contracted for) who participated in the SMART program, 270 improved their attitudes toward reading by at least 50% as measured by the Elementary Reading Attitude Survey administered at the end of at least three months of their consistent participation in SMART.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to section 3(a)xviii thereof.

An appropriate Resolution is herewith attached for your Honorable Board's consideration.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 11-12-2010 - JOMARY WEIRA, SECRETARY

