

12788

DATE: July 8, 2010

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Marlene E. Furtick, Executive Director
Westchester County Youth Bureau

RE: Authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. to operate the Sanctuary Program, for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, for a total amount not to exceed \$169,507

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village"), pursuant to which Children's Village will operate the Sanctuary Program (the "Program"), for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, for a total amount not to exceed \$169,507, pursuant to an approved budget (the "Agreement").

To fund the Agreement, New York State Office of Children and Family Services will provide \$101,704; Westchester County will provide \$33,902, and the Children's Village will provide \$33,901. Pursuant to Act No. 19 – 2010, adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators on March 22, 2010, the County was authorized to participate in a Resource Allocation Plan to provide State reimbursement for certain youth services programs which operate with funding provided by the County's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program.

The proposed agreement will serve a public purpose by helping meet the immediate needs of 200 runaway and homeless youth and youth needing respite services through the operation of a 14-bed shelter that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Program provides medical and psychiatric assessment; individual, family and group counseling; preventive education; and referral and aftercare services. The Program staff, working in partnership with youth, will utilize a wide array of support systems in an attempt to reunite the youth with their families, or, when that is not possible, to help them make a successful transition to an alternative living situation.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are as follows:

Of the 200 youth who will participate in the shelter program, 200 (100%) will be "safe", as defined below:

- Youth admitted to the Program will be safe while in the Program. They will have the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing (as needed) provided, and they will be listened to as they tell their story about coming to the shelter. This will be documented in their case record.

Of the 200 youth who will participate in the shelter program, 180 (90%) will improve their relationships with their family, as measured by any of the following:

- Active participation in Program-facilitated family meetings to reach agreed-upon discharge plan as noted in the case notes and/or service plan.

- Participation in Family Success classes offered by Children's Village as noted on sign in sheets.
- Satisfaction reports on youth discharge survey and parent satisfaction survey.

Of the 200 youth who will participate in the shelter program, 200 (100%) will achieve one or more of the following:

- Complete the HIV/AIDS assessment and take part in safe sex practice discussion groups.
- Practice life skills, including but not limited to self care, household maintenance, productive decision-making, money management, career planning, nutrition and healthy eating, and effective communication, as measured by completing chores, following daily program, and/or attending classes in the Children's Village's Youth Options Education Center.

Of the 500 Hotline calls that the Program will receive, all 500 callers will be provided with information and/or community-based referrals to help them resolve whatever difficulty they were experiencing that motivated the call, as noted on the Hotline call sheet. Those youth between 12 and 17 who request a safe place to stay due to a crisis will be admitted to the shelter as noted in their admission documents.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety because the Program provides a safe, nurturing environment for youth who might otherwise be homeless and in the streets and/or partake in activities that would lead to them having involvement, or further involvement, with the juvenile justice system.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement will be tracked and monitored through monthly, quarterly, and annual reports and by site visits from Youth Bureau Program Monitors.

If this resolution were not approved, these at-risk youth would not be provided with these shelter and support services by Children's Village under the Program, and many youth might partake in activities that would lead to them having involvement, or further involvement, with the juvenile justice system.

Your Honorable Board authorized a similar agreement in 2009, and the Program's outcomes achieved its goals and objectives, as follows:

GOAL 1: Of the 200 youth who will participate in the shelter program, 200 or 100% will be SAFE as defined below.

RESULT/OUTCOME: 206 youth were admitted and all 206 were safe while at the Sanctuary. They were all provided with the full complement of shelter services, including a place to sleep, food, clothing (as needed) and case management to help identify their service needs and discharge plans.

Of the 206 youth admitted, 133 returned to the guardian they had been living with at the time of admission with some improvement noted. There were 22 youth who left to live with either an approved family friend or a non-custodial relative, 14 who entered some form of a DSS placement, and 6 went to detention. Although some of these discharge locations may not have been the youth's first choice, they were all deemed safe. This is a total of 88% safe discharges from the Sanctuary, which meets the projected goal.

GOAL 2: Of the 200 youth who will participate in the shelter program, 180 or 90% will improve their relationships with their family as measured by any of the following:

- Active participation in Sanctuary-facilitated family meetings to reach agreed upon discharge plan as noted in the case notes and/or service plan.
- Participation in Family Success classes offered by CV as noted on sign-in sheets.

- Satisfaction reports on youth discharge survey and parent satisfaction survey

RESULT/OUTCOME: There were 206 admissions and of the 206 total admissions in 2009, 75% reported improvement in their family relationships. The reason this outcome is lower than the expected result is that the Family Success program classes were not organized specifically for shelter families this year as they were in past. The plan is for the Social Work team to focus on their own abilities to facilitate the workshops in the future. Children's Village also initiated the parent survey in 2009 but were unable to attain information for the whole year as the volunteer who was administering the survey for Children's Village was not able to stay as a volunteer with the program. We have a new plan for 2010 and going forward should be able to obtain usable data.

GOAL 3: Of the 200 youth who will participate in the shelter program, 200 will achieve one or more of the following:

- Will complete the HIV/AIDS assessment, and take part in safe sex practice discussion groups.
- Will practice life skills including but not limited to self care, household maintenance, productive decision making, money management, career planning, nutrition and healthy eating, and effective communication by completing chores, following daily program, and or attending classes in the CV Youth OPTIONS Education and Employment Center.
- Increase their knowledge and ability to negotiate conflict with their parents, and others as measured by individual case record and youth satisfaction survey.

RESULT/OUTCOME: There were 206 admissions and of the 206 admissions to the shelter in 2009 all 206 did achieve one or more of the above-stated outcomes. Following is the specific information:

Every young person who comes to the Sanctuary and eats a meal participates in the kitchen clean-up, even as minimally as putting their plate in the dishwasher. All the youth are given the assistance to do their laundry and maintain their personal hygiene. All of these tasks are part of Independent Living Skills.

Of the 206 total admissions, 190 attended program at the Youth OPTIONS Education and Employment Center program equaling 92% receiving some form of formal (rather than the informal house chores) Independent Living Skills or job readiness instruction. All youth who were here for a Monday or Friday evening program participated in a discussion group which focused on some life skill for their future.

Forty percent or 81 of the total 206 admitted youth participated in the HIV prevention workshops. All were given literature with information on where to go for testing or further information if they want to explore this issue on their own. Many of the youth identify that they are not yet sexually active and receive HIV prevention information in their schools which they feel is enough for them right now.

GOAL 4: Of the 500 hotline calls that the Sanctuary will receive, 500 callers will be provided with information and/or community based referrals to help them resolve whatever difficulty they were experiencing that motivated the call as noted on the Hotline Call sheet. Those youth between 12 and 17 who request a safe place to stay due to a crisis will be admitted to the shelter as noted in their admission documents.

RESULT/OUTCOME: The Sanctuary Program received a total of 569 hotline calls in 2009 and all callers were provided with information to help them resolve their difficulty. Of the 569 calls, 206 resulted in admission or re-admission to the Sanctuary. The other callers were mostly asking about the admission process, some with a thought of coming to the Sanctuary, but not immediately. The program also received a number of calls asking about the Family Court Assistance Program. Those calls were redirected to that program.

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 - 7-22-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village"), pursuant to which Children's Village will operate the Sanctuary Program, for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, for a total amount not to exceed One Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seven (\$169,507) Dollars, pursuant to an approved budget (the "Agreement"); and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 to 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 their Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	11	108K	4380	T10888	\$101,704
101	11	0400	4436		\$33,902

Budget Funding Year(s)
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2010

End Date: 12/31/2010

Funding Source:

Tax Dollars \$33,902
 State Aid \$101,704
 Federal Aid _____
 Other \$33,901

Contractor Federal I.D. No./
 Social Security No.: _____
 Vendor No.: 999464
 Encumbrance No.: _____

\$169,507

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 7-22-2010 JOMAY VEIRA, SECRETARY