



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

13887

Date: September 7, 2010

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition & Contract

From: Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Re: **Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Nepperhan Community Center, Inc. (NCC), pursuant to which NCC will provide an “Achieving Success” after school program for students ages 13-17 who are eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services (up to 200% of the Federal poverty level) for a term commencing on November 1, 2010 and terminating on August 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$57,750 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved program budget and subject to appropriation.**

Attached for your consideration is a resolution which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through the Department of Social Services (the Department), to enter into an agreement with Nepperhan Community Center, Inc. (NCC), pursuant to which NCC will provide an “Achieving Success” after school program for students ages 13-17 who qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services (up to 200% of the Federal poverty level) for a term commencing on November 1, 2010 and terminating on August 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$57,750 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved program budget and subject to appropriation. A 10-month contract term was selected in order to bring this agreement in line with the contract terms for all after-school programs. The not to exceed of \$57,750 reflects a 10-month budget with a 10% reduction.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by promoting the self-sufficiency and economic security of the TANF youth population in Westchester County by assisting them in overcoming educational and employment barriers through the academic and job readiness services provided by this program.

The **goals and objectives** of the “Achieving Success” after school program are to provide the following benefits to students:

- To help participants succeed in school through academic enrichment and remedial tutorial services in order to obtain a high school diploma or GED
- To provide mental health and family counseling as well as intervention services to help stabilize the family structure in order to address the substance abuse and mental health issues faced by the students and their families
- To provide participants training in job readiness and employment skills to help them secure jobs

The proposed agreement will allow for the continuation of a productive partnership with NCC for the provision of valuable services to youth facing truancy issues, multiple suspensions from school, gang affiliations and lack of connectedness to the community, with a focus on single parent families and students facing academic deficiencies. These are the students who have dropped out of high school and have re-enrolled in continuing education to secure their GED or are at risk of dropping out of high school. The target population is mainly comprised of youth who come from low income families who pre-dominantly reside in the South West section of Yonkers. They are unemployable, lack marketable skills and are academically deficient.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** in that the services provided are aimed at improving school performance and attendance, reducing truancy and the potential for gang affiliation. The program further supports public safety by engaging the students in a viable after school structured environment that will keep them off the streets and discourage them from getting involved in possible criminal and gang activities.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** because the services provided address health and safety issues related to youth being unattended and left without a safe and nurturing environment. Under the direction and supervision of the adults at NCC, the program is confident that they can reduce the incidence of juvenile delinquency and quality of life crimes which negatively impact the health and safety of youth and the community. The “Achieving Success” after school program is designed to help students overcome various stumbling blocks to overall well-being, such as drugs and alcohol use, by creating a consortium of providers to assist in the delivery of services best suited for the students’ success.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the intervention services provided pursuant to this agreement will enable the participants to succeed in their academic and employment careers, leading to self sufficiency and economic independence. The services provided through the “Achieving Success” after school program prepare youth for the job market and prevent youth from becoming entrenched in the juvenile justice system. The benefit to the County of Westchester and taxpayers is the cost avoidance in the provision of public funds for sustenance to students who participated in the program and the diversion of the cost associated with the juvenile justice system.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using the performance measurement indicators** developed by the department and approved by the County Budget Office. Performance Measure Indicators to be tracked by the Department will include the number of students enrolled in academic enrichment and tutoring, improved grades, school attendance, number of students enrolled in Job Readiness and identification of barriers to participation and academic success. The vendor will submit monthly statistics and quarterly performance reports in the format approved by the Department. The Department will be responsible for approving milestones and tracking the vendor’s achievements by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits.

Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report that from the period of November 2009 through July 2010, sixty-one (61) TANF eligible students participated in the “Achieving Success” after school program. During the same period:

- 58% of the students improved their academic performance
- 50% of the students achieved a school attendance rate above 90%
- 25% of the students participated in the Job Readiness

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xiv and 3(a) xviii as this procurement is for the purpose of contracting with a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance and for the creation and support of recreation projects, youth service projects and other appropriate programs and services for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of the youth of Westchester County.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through the Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with Nepperhan Community Center (NCC), Inc. to provide the aforesaid services.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board’s approval.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Nepperhan Community Center, Inc. (NCC), pursuant to which NCC will provide the "Achieving Success" after school program for students ages 13-17 who qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services (up to 200% of the Federal poverty level) for a term commencing on November 1, 2010 and terminating on August 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$57,750 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper 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	263	22	708K	4380	T708	\$57,750

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010 Start Date: 11/01/10 End Date: 08/31/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars:

State Aid:

\$57,750
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 100%

Other _____