

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

15144

DATE November 3, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and 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 Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$359,353 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement. This program provides direct intervention in the home, focusing on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The proposed contract, in an amount not to exceed \$359,353 will be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with the approved budget and subject to appropriation for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Family Services of Westchester, Inc. has provided this service for the County for the past several years. The requested amount reflects a 10% decrease from the last contract period. These savings were mostly achieved from decreases in administrative and overhead costs. There is no impact on the program or services to be provided to families.

The services provided through this contract serve a **public purpose** in that it preserves the family, reduces risk of abuse or neglect, prevents delinquency and youth crime, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families are better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program promotes the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with OCFS regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10) which mandates that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placements. Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services are also available to families with a child coming home from foster care, to help with the transition home and when possible, allow the child to have a

shorter length of stay in foster care. The provider is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Intensive short term in-home crisis intervention
- Family education in order to preserve families and prevent foster care placement
- Assessment services to include housing assistance, child care, job training, educational services support and training related to home and finance management
- Teaching child development and age appropriate expectations
- Improving overall functioning and ability to parent children
- Improving family communication and establishing household routines

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster care cost annualized per child** - The cost of foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per child depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized foster care cost from **\$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 per child per year.**
- **Residential Foster care cost annualized per child** - The cost of residential foster care costs can range from \$199.60 to \$446.78 per day per child. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$72,854.00 to \$163,074.70 per child per year.**
- **Contract program cost annualized per child** - Family Services of Westchester, Inc. annualized program cost is \$359,353. During the 2009 contract period, the program provided services to 281 children. At this current rate of service, the per child cost for the contract year projects to be **\$1,278.84 per child.**

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the contract, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor, and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of September 30, 2010, the Department is able to report that the vendor is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the contract and is on track to serving 100% contract capacity. As of September 30, 2010, of the 224 children served, FSW has averted 99.6% foster care placements. As of September 30, 2010, FSW reported that 97.8% of the children served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report while receiving services.

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

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the above stated purpose.

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 is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$359,353 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with the approved budget; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, and this contract is 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 budget of the State budget and/or the adoption of the 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 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 this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive, or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take all actions necessary and appropriate on behalf of the County of Westchester to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011 101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$359,353

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/2011 End Date: 12/31/2011

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 41%
State Aid: 36%
Federal Aid: 23%
Other:

\$359,353
(must match resolution)