



**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

**Department of Social Services**

**Grant E. Mitchell, MD**  
Acting Commissioner

**15932**

**Date:** December 13, 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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") for the provision of crisis respite care and services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter, to youth at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$393,363 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") whereby Children's Village will provide crisis respite care and services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter to youth at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$393,363 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. Cost is based on per diem rates. There has been a decrease in the amount requested for 2011 and this decrease is based on usage during 2010.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by promoting the well-being of Westchester County youth through the provision of temporary shelter care and by implementing crisis services that allow youth to return to their homes after completing the program. These services divert youth from homelessness, truancy and foster care placement.

Crisis respite services are offered in compliance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' (NYS OCFS) mandates, the Department's Child and Family Service Plan and the Department's Persons In Need of Supervision Plan. Children's Village provides crisis respite to adolescents at high risk of foster care. Referrals come from the Probation or Social Services System. PINS legislation mandates this service be provided to adolescents as a PINS diversion strategy. Services are also provided to older adolescents listed as maltreated children on CPS (Child Protective Services) reports.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to introduce safety and risk reducing interventions to youth and their families during the temporary separation. Services provided also include coping strategies for the safe and smooth transition of the youth back into the family system. This service also prevents foster care placement of adolescents. The design of the Children's Village Respite program provides families with the break that is needed to problem solve and mediate youth/guardian familial difficulties. There is a daily 14 bed capacity. Services are provided for a maximum of 21 consecutive days. Extensions beyond 21 days require prior Department approval. In addition to the shelter services, the children also receive services, such as case management and educational supports, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, community recreation, Independent Living Services instructions, academic success assistance and after care planning.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as they are aimed at preventing placement in foster care, reducing risk of abuse and neglect in highly volatile situations and preventing runaway situations where adolescents make unsafe plans. The youth remain in Westchester and continue their connections with the community and school. Youth receiving services through the Children's Village Respite Program receive counseling to determine their individual strengths and needs. The youth are maintained in a highly supervised environment and therefore are less likely to be vagrant, reside in unsafe housing situations and possibly commit crimes throughout the community.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** of the youth and families of Westchester County because the services provided by the Children's Village Respite Program are designed to support the well-being of the youth and the maintenance of the family system. The short-term program not only reduces foster care placements, but also provides an opportunity for youth to receive mental and physical health assessments. The benefits extend beyond the youth. The Children's Village Respite Program organizes family and community resources that restore healthy family functioning.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the program is designed to reduce foster care placements, residential care placements and juvenile detention. The diversion of any out-of-home placement of youth would result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

- **Family Foster Care cost annualized per youth** - The cost of foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per youth 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 youth.**
- **Residential Foster Care cost annualized per youth** - The cost of residential foster care costs can range from \$50.22 up to \$562.00 per day per youth. That translates into an **annualized cost for residential care from \$18,330.30 to \$205,130 per youth.**
- **Non-Secured Detention cost annualized per youth** - The average cost to maintain a youth in non-secured detention is \$323 per diem. This translates into an **annualized cost of \$117,895 per youth.**
- **Secured Detention cost annualized per youth** - The average cost to maintain a youth in a secured detention facility is \$317 per diem per youth. That translates into an **annualized cost of \$115,705 per youth.**
- **The Children's Village Respite Program cost annualized per youth** – This program has an annualized program cost of \$393,363. Payments for services are made using a per diem rate of \$183.23. The program expects to serve 200 youth with an average of 21 days of respite services. That translates into an **average annual cost of \$3,847.83 per youth.**

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. The vendor will submit monthly statistics and quarterly performance reports in the format approved by the Department. The Department will be responsible for setting the 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 The Children's Village has satisfactorily met the performance goals for the first nine months of 2010. As of the end of the third quarter of 2010, there were a total of 117 admissions to the respite center. Of the 117 admissions, 95.57% of the youth were diverted from foster care.

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

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

An appropriate resolution is attached herewith 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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which the Children's Village will provide crisis respite care and services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter, to youth at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$393,363 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 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 either to 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 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
2011	101	22	8900	5960	---	\$393,363

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011    Start Date: 01/01/11    End Date: 12/31/11  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 30%

State Aid: 41%

\$393,363  
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 29%

Other \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12-30-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY