

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

16019

DATE: December 13, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: Authority to amend a resolution approved by your Honorable Board on December 2, 2010 to amend an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc., to provide professional consultation, monitoring and evaluation services for the Foster Parent Orientation, Certification and Home Studies of prospective foster and adoptive parents by modifying the scope of service to add ten home studies and two training sessions at no additional cost to the County

By Resolution adopted by your Honorable Board on October 15, 2009, the County of Westchester (the "County") was authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. ("Family Ties") for the provision of professional consultation, monitoring and evaluation services for the Foster Parent Orientation, Certification and Home Studies of prospective foster and adoptive parents, for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$212,950. An agreement (DSS619-10) was subsequently executed with the vendor for an amount not to exceed \$212,900 (for a lower amount).

By Resolution adopted on December 2, 2010, your Honorable Board authorized the County to extend the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to April 30, 2011 and to increase the total aggregate not-to-exceed amount by an additional \$63,870 from \$212,900 to \$276,770. The amended agreement has not been executed.

Authority is now requested to amend the Resolution approved on December 2, 2010 to modify the scope of service by adding a minimum of ten home studies and two training sessions at no additional cost to the County.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because the services allow for orientation, screening and training of potential adoptive and foster family homes. Family foster homes offer children in foster care a safe, nurturing and home-like environment, thereby helping to reduce the trauma of removal from their families.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide mandated orientation, screening and training to prospective foster and adoptive parents. The purpose of this intensive process is to help the Department select appropriate foster and adoptive parents and assist the prospective foster and adoptive parents to make an informed decision about whether foster or adoptive parenting is right for them.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as this service helps the Department to adequately train potential foster and adoptive parents to care for vulnerable children who have been abused or neglected and cannot remain at home.

Throughout the intensive training process and home study, the vendor further screens the parents to ensure they are willing and capable of providing care to these children. The pool of foster and adoptive parents needs to be continuously replenished as new children enter care and children are adopted by the Department's existing resources.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the services replenish/increase the pool of available family foster homes. Having a pool of highly trained foster parents allows for children to be placed at the lowest, most appropriate level of care and reduces the risk of having to place some youth in residential care. Reducing the number of children placed in residential care 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.**

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, submission and review of periodic reports and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of November 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% of contract capacity. The vendor is required to complete 38 Foster/Adoptive Home Studies, and as of November 30, 2010, it has met 87% of the contracted goal.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original resolution approved on December 2, 2010 shall remain in force and effect.

The amendment is to the Resolution as the proposed First Amendment has not been executed.

Approval of the annexed resolution by your Honorable Board is respectfully requested.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the Resolution approved by your Honorable Board on December 2, 2010 to amend an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, and evaluation services for the Foster Parent Orientation, Certification and Home Studies of prospective foster and adoptive parents by extending the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to April 30, 2011 and increasing the total aggregate not-to-exceed amount by an additional \$63,870 from \$212,900 to \$276,770 is hereby amended to modify the scope of service to add ten home studies and two training sessions at no additional cost to the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original Resolution approved on December 2, 2010 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all documents and to take any actions reasonably necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s): N/A
(must match resolution)

Start Date: N/A End Date: N/A

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: N/A

State Aid: N/A

N/A
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: N/A

Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12-30-2010 PRIMARY VEHA SECRETARY