



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

20198

Date: June 29, 2011

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon pursuant to which Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, through its Friendship Visitation Center program, will provide a safe and neutral environment for family reunification or alternative arrangements for children residing or potentially residing outside of their homes or communities for the period August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$80,750 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon pursuant to which Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, through its Friendship Visitation Center program, will provide a safe and neutral environment for family reunification or alternative arrangements for children residing or potentially residing outside of their homes or communities for the period August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 in amount not to exceed \$80,750 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The average monthly cost remains the same as in the previous contract. The total contract not to exceed amount is increased as a result of the cost associated with providing services for seventeen (17) months versus a twelve (12) month period. The Department of Social Services Child Welfare division has chosen to do this for greater efficiency in fiscal and program planning.

This program is in line with the cost savings plan of the Department as the visitation services allow families and children to have safe, healthy and productive visits that may result in an increase in the number of children returning home more expeditiously.

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Additionally, this contract meets one of the goals of the Department in that it allows for faith-based local institutions to participate in the mediation and reunification process of children and families of the communities.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes family stability, safety of children and improved parent-child interactions. Furthermore, it assists the Department in achieving its goal of reunifying families and promoting permanency.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to facilitate permanency for youth in foster care. Friendship Visitation Center program will accomplish this goal by providing a safe, neutral and nurturing environment for family reunification and establish and maintain connections between children, their families and communities. In order to achieve its goals and objectives, Friendship Visitation Center program will:

- Provide supervision and support for parents during visits through redirection and coaching to include parenting skills training, modeling age appropriate expectations;
- Establish short and long term goals for the visits;
- Ensure children's safety during visits;
- Observe and document family progress or lack of progress during visits.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County** in terms of public health and public safety as the program is aimed at promoting the safety and health for the children of Westchester County through the reunification of children with their families.

Additionally, the **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County** in terms of **fiscal responsibility** as the services provided by Friendship Visitation Center program help to reduce the need for foster care placements and the cost associated with such placements by promoting the reunification of children with their families.

- **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. This 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 \$50.22 up to \$562.00 per day per child. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$18,330 to \$205,130 per child per year.**
- **Contract program cost per child** – The estimated cost of the Friendship Visitation Center Program operated through The Friendship Unified Free Will Baptist Church of Mount Vernon is \$80,750 for a seventeen month period. The Vendor is expected to serve a maximum of 60 families over this period which translates into a cost of \$1,345.83 per family.

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 of periodic reports by the vendor and making onsite visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators reported from the 4th quarter of 2010 to May 2011, the Department is able to report:

- 100% of the Progress notes were completed within 5 business days
- 100% of the referrals received a response within 48 hours
- 100% of referrals picked up for visitation within 5-7 business days.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3a (xiv) as the agreement is with a not for profit organization to provide aid and care to persons in need of public assistance in Westchester County.

Therefore, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon for the aforesaid purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the 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 Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon pursuant to which Friendship Unified Freewill Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, through its Friendship Visitation Center program, will provide a safe and neutral environment for family reunification or alternative arrangements for children residing or potentially residing outside of their homes or communities for the period August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$80,750 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 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 this agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is empowered 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	
2011	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$23,750
2012	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$57,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011-2012 Start Date: 8/1/11 End Date: 12/31/12
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 41 %
State Aid: 30 %
Federal Aid: 29%
Other _____

\$80,750
(must match resolution)

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