

25521

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Jay T. Pisco, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation

DATE: March 9, 2012

SUBJECT: **Resolution for authority to advertise for the transportation of homeless school age children to their school of last permanent residence and children in foster care for court mandated visits with their families for a five (5) year period commencing September 1, 2012**

Attached for your consideration is a Resolution which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County to solicit bids by public advertisement for the above referenced project.

The County is mandated by New York State Education Law to provide transportation to homeless children attending school in their school district of last permanent residence (home school district). This requirement affects children who are housed outside their home school district attending school in their home district. The bid package will also provide for submission of a cost proposal to provide transportation for children in foster care for court mandated visits with their families and children placed under Section 1055 of the Family Court Act. Visitation allows for the preservation and strengthening of parent-child relationships as well as serving as a strategy for re-unifying families and achieving permanency. Visitation also reduces the negative effects of separation for the child and the parent. When feasible, the transportation of foster care children will be coordinated with the transportation of homeless school age children.

A bid security of \$2,000.00 per package is required. As security for the faithful performance of the contract, the successful bidder will be required to post security in the form of cash, certified check, performance and payment bond, or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the annual contract amount.

The goal of this program is to provide transportation of homeless children and children in foster care in accordance with State and Federal requirements. It is in the best interest of the County to contract with bus companies that are experienced in transporting school age children. The Department of Social Services will track and monitor these services 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 on-site visits.

Approval of the attached Resolution is respectfully requested.

KMM/JTP/dm

RESOLUTION

Upon communication from the Commissioner of Social Services and the Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation, be it

RESOLVED, that the County is hereby authorized to solicit bids by public advertisement on the following contract:

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR
HOMELESS SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN PLACED IN
COURT DIRECTED CUSTODY AND IN FOSTER CARE FOR THE
WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

and be it further

RESOLVED, that a bid security of \$2,000.00 is required for each bid package and that adequate and sufficient security for the faithful performance of this contract shall be deemed to be receipt of cash, certified check, irrevocable letter of credit, or a performance and payment bond, in an amount equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the annual contract amount, and in a form approved by the County Attorney. If security shall be in the form of a performance and payment bond, the Bond Underwriter or Surety must appear on the U.S. Treasury's listing of approved sureties (Department Circular 570) and all Sureties must be licensed to transact business in New York as a surety company; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this advertisement for bids will state that pursuant to Chapter 308 of the Laws of the County of Westchester, the policy of the County is to encourage the meaningful and significant participation on County contracts for business enterprises owned by persons of color and women – Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women Business Enterprise (WBE); and be it further

RESOLVED, that such advertisement shall appear in the following County newspaper(s):

THE JOURNAL NEWS (Southern Edition)

Account to be Charged/Credited	Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	101	22	4500	4250		N/A

Budget Funding Year(s) _____ Start Date _____ End Date _____
(must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____ 29%
State Aid _____ 26%
\$ _____ Federal Aid _____ 45%
(must match resolution) Other _____