



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

26856

DATE: May 1, 2012

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contracts

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

SUBJECT: Authority for the County of Westchester to exercise the first option to extend the agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) pursuant to which PCG will provide Social Security eligibility services for ‘Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care’ cases as well as for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Safety Net Assistance cases for the County for a term July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not-to-exceed \$380,000 for a new total not to exceed \$730,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Pursuant to a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) issued by the Department on April 19, 2011 and a Resolution approved on July 7, 2011, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for “Aid to Families with Dependent Children–Foster Care” cases as well as for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Safety Net Assistance cases for the County for the term July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (the “Agreement”) with the County having the option, in its sole discretion, to extend the agreement for up to three (3) additional one (1) year periods for an amount not to exceed \$350,000. The Agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“The Department”), to exercise the first option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$380,000 for a new total not to exceed \$730,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been an increase in the amount requested for the proposed

agreement and this increase is associated with the projected increase in the number of referrals to this program.

The proposed agreement will serve a **public purpose** by providing services to a target population which is faced with multiple barriers and is unable to pursue benefits on their own. By definition, the Federal Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program is targeted at individuals who are found to be incapable of engaging in substantial gainful activity. Particularly, in the case of mental disability, the very nature of the individual's impediment is incongruous with self-advocacy. PCG, under the proposed agreement, will provide necessary assistance to the residents of the County who are eligible for SSI benefits by helping secure the benefits to which they are entitled.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to provide services in the establishment and maintenance of SSI benefits for AFDC-FC customers as well as for TANF and SNA customers.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of **fiscal responsibility** as this program will assist customers in securing benefits to which they are entitled, thereby leading to case closures for DSS and related savings in terms of County resources expended in assisting such individuals.

Additionally, DSS assumes representative payee status for most of the foster care children who are eligible for SSI benefits where the benefits are paid directly to DSS. This can help defray the annual cost of foster care.

The **performance measurement indicators** will be tracked and monitored through monthly statistics and reports as well as through direct contact with DSS's Program Office. The vendor is only paid when customers are approved for SSI benefits. The Department is able to report that from July 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012, 92 customers became eligible for SSI benefits.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County to exercise its first option to extend the agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc for the purpose stated above.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

An appropriate resolution is attached herewith for your Honorable Board's approval.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to exercise the first option to extend the agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. ("PCG") pursuant to which PCG will provide Social Security eligibility services to the County for Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care ("AFDC-FC") cases as well as for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") and Safety Net Assistance ("SNA") cases for a term July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not-to-exceed \$380,000 for a new total not to exceed \$730,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget ;and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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, except as specifically modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain the same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions reasonably necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2012	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$ 38,000
2013	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$ 38,000
2012	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$152,000
2013	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$152,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2012-13
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 7/1/12 End Date: 6/30/13

		<u>5850</u>	<u>5860</u>
Funding Source	Tax Dollars:	1%	71%
	State Aid:	0%	29%
<u>\$380,000</u>	Federal Aid:	99%	
(must match resolution)	Other:		

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 06/21/2012 - JOHNNY WHEA, SECRETARY