



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**30804**

Date: November 30, 2012

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Re: Authorization for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. (“NAFI”) for the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$264,044 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

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Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the North American Family Institute, Inc. (“NAFI”) for the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$264,044 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The program serves a **public purpose** by assisting the County to keep the children out of foster care. These children are all subjects of abuse and neglect proceedings who have been court ordered into an out of home placement. If the §1055 placement cannot be safely preserved, the child will be placed in foster care. However, children do better when they can be placed with family, remain in their community/schools and maintain existing ties with the community. Section 1055 of the Family Court Act, allows the Family Court to place a child under the age of 18 outside of their home with a family member as an alternative to a foster care placement (Art X Court Directed Custody). Once the child is placed in “out of home care”, the Department is obligated to provide services and support to allow the child to return home as soon as **safely** possible. The NAFI program provides services and supports to the child, parent and relative caretaker to help progress the services plan. DSS must report to the Family Court at 6 month intervals regarding our service plan and progress towards permanency.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to support relatives and caretakers who come forward as a resource for children who would otherwise be placed in foster care and to strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics. Frequently kin become caregivers after a family crisis. They may have little preparation in terms of learning about the child welfare system, their new role as kinship caregivers or how to access support. Studies indicate that kin are more likely to be single and to be poorer, older, in poorer health, and have less formal education than non-kin foster parents. Therefore, relative caregivers may have a greater need for services and supports than non-kin foster caregivers. This program will provide services to the court directed custodian, the biological parent and children with the goal of preserving the placement, avoiding foster care placement and reuniting with the family as quickly and safely as possible, thus promoting the welfare of these families. Services will include but not be limited to:

- Community linkages
- 24-hour on-call support
- Skill Building
- Communication skills
- Limit setting (rewards and consequences)
- Parenting skills
- Education advocacy
- Parent partner/mentor
- Day respite
- Clinical assessments and recommendations
- Mentoring

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the county in terms of public health and safety** as the Family Wraparound Program supports relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases. The program will preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional foster care placement; empower the caretakers and biological parents to gain strategies, skills and services, including limit setting, how to give rewards and consequences; provide linkages to supportive community based services and support in assisting the family to develop better decision-making and parenting skills. This will ultimately strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics and allow the children to return home expediently and safely.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the county in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional and more costly foster care placement. Children in family foster care can cost the County from \$17.10 to \$58.65 daily per child and from \$112.10 to \$562.00 per day per child placed in a residential treatment facility. As of the end of the third quarter (September 30, 2012), 87 children were averted from foster care placements, resulting in an estimated minimum cost avoidance of \$543,011 (\$6,241.50 annual cost of family foster care at the lowest level of care per child x 87).

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 Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements.

**Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that the NAFI Family Wraparound program has provided services beyond 100% of current contract capacity. From January 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, provision of services was extended to 46 families and 92 children. During this same period, 97.8% of the families served were not subject to an indicated CPS case while receiving services. Ninety-Eight percent (98%) of progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare *Connections* database within 5 days of the event.

The agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Common Grant Rule as this contract falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

The aforesaid agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii of said Policy as the services provided hereunder are to advance the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of children in the County of Westchester.

For the foregoing reasons, approval of the attached Resolution is respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/10/2013 - DOMINICK VERA, SECRETARY

**RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department") is authorized to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI") for the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$264,044 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget ; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this 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 time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of 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 and empowered to execute any and all documents necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2013	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$264,044

Budget Funding Year(s): 2013 Start Date: 01/01/13 End Date: 12/31/13  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$ 264,044  
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 41%  
State aid: 30%  
Federal aid: 29%  
Other: