



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin McGuire
Commissioner

33933

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Date: May 13, 2013

Re: **Authority for the County to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide Preventive Respite Services for the term July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017 in the total amount not to exceed \$1,059,903 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations**

On February 1, 2013, the Westchester County Department of Social Services ("Department") issued a Request for Proposals for "Preventive Respite Services" (the "RFP"). The Department received two proposals, and upon evaluation by a panel of five Child Welfare staff, the proposal of Family Services of Westchester, Inc. received the highest score based on the criteria contained in the RFP and was determined to be the most cost effective and advantageous to the Department. In addition, Family Services of Westchester, Inc. has provided the County with preventive respite services since 2006 and has demonstrated service delivery and excellent program outcomes. It is therefore recommended that your Honorable Board authorize the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") to provide preventive respite services for the term July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017 in the annual amount of **\$235,534**, for a total not to exceed amount of **\$1,059,903** for the term of the agreement (the "Agreements") to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. The total not to exceed amount of the Agreement will be divided annually as follows: **\$117,767 in 2013, \$235,534 in 2014, \$235,534 in 2015, \$235,534 in 2016 and \$235,534 in 2017.**

The proposed Agreement will provide respite care and services which are mandated services pursuant to 18 New York Code of Rules and Regulations §§ 423 (19), 435.1, 435.2, 435.3 (a) & (b). Respite care and services include the provision of brief and temporary care and supervision of children for the purpose of relieving parents or foster parents of the care of such

children or foster children when the family or foster family needs immediate relief in order to be able to maintain or restore family functioning. These services also provide relief for foster parents from the stress of providing care for a severely handicapped or emotionally disturbed foster child or for a foster child with a chronic or recurring illness. The proposed agreement will help to relieve caregivers' stress, will help to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and maltreatment, and will support family functioning. The services to be provided will include traditional respite beds, recreational respite activities and early childhood respite services and activities.

The traditional respite beds will be provided at a per diem cost. Both Westchester County DSS and the contractor recognized that this is not the preferred method of respite. However, when necessary, this service will be available. The Recreational Respite program will serve children ages 6-17 including providing assessments of the youths' interest, skills and hobbies and matching the youth to activities including, but not limited to, ice skating, bowling, hiking, cultural events, and community events; providing two supervised activities per month. Early Childhood respite provides services and supports for children 0- 5 years of age and their parents. These services include, but are not limited to, the provision of an in home individualized parent assessment, development of a plan to help reduce the parent's isolation in the community, introducing parents to low and no cost community resources and empowering parents to identify and utilize natural family and community supports and services as respite resources.

The Agreement will serve the public purpose of helping children who are at risk of foster care placement obtain services to help maintain and/or restore family functioning. This in turn has the goal of reducing the need for foster care and thereby saving taxpayer funds.

A resolution is annexed hereto, which I recommend for your favorable consideration.

KMM/DI
Attachment

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 Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide preventive respite care for the term from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017 in the annual amount of \$235,534 for a total not to exceed amount of \$1,059,903 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this contract 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 ("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 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 impact of any such budget(s) 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 the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes 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	-----	\$117,767
2014	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$235,534
2015	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$235,534
2016	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$235,534
2017	101	22	8900	5960		\$235,534

Budget Funding Year(s) : 2013 – 2017
(must match resolution)

Start Date 7/1/13 End Date 12/31/17

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 27%

State Aid: 44%

\$1,059,903
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 29%

Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 06/06/2013 - JOMAR VERA, SECRETARY