

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

33937

DATE: April 24, 2013

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 the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. to operate a Homeless Student Educational Success program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, case counseling, school registration, education compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$262,026 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc., to operate a Homeless Student Educational Success program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, case counseling, school registration, educational compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$262,026 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. There has been no increase in the amount requested for the proposed agreement.

The **public purpose** of this program is to assist homeless families with school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address with school registration, educational compliance and arrangement of school transportation.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to operate a program providing the homeless school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address with a choice of schools to attend and coordinate appropriate transportation. The program will also provide interventions necessary to improve the school attendance and school performance of Westchester County homeless students.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at providing services that will ensure that eligible homeless school-age children will attend school and receive appropriate support services. The goals and objectives are also aimed at helping to identify children who require special education. Referrals will be made to the appropriate service providers for medical evaluations and immunizations.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** because they ensure educational opportunity and support services for young homeless children. Due to the program's coordination and intervention efforts to improve school attendance and school performance, the students, many of whom remain in their school of origin, will experience fewer disruptions and a lower truancy rate. Frequent interventions by the case managers often times result in a reduction in the number of referrals for educational neglect to the Child Protective Services division.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored through performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The tracking and monitoring include the submission of monthly statistics and quarterly reports as well as direct contact with the D.S.S. staff in order to swiftly address any impediments to the program's success.

The **Department is able to report** that during the 2012-2013 contract term, the Homeless Student Educational Success Program operated through the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. has achieved the following program outcomes as of March 31, 2013:

- 1) Total unduplicated number of children served = 346
- 2) 7% of homeless student participants are Honor Roll students
- 3) 78% of homeless student participants have a grade point average of a C or better

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv). This contract is exempt from the application of the Common Grant Rule because this contract falls under the Social Service Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

An appropriate resolution is attached 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 enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc., to operate a Homeless Student Educational Success program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, case counseling, school registration, educational compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$262,026 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 authorized designee is empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2013	101	22	8900	5630	-----	\$131,013
2014	101	22	8900	5630	-----	\$131,013

Budget Funding Year(s): 2013-2014
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 7/1/13

End Date: 6/30/14

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 28%

State Aid: 41%

\$262,026

Federal Aid: 31%

(must match resolution)

Other: