



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**35257**

Date: July 26, 2013

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner of Social Services

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Children's Village, Inc. to provide transitional living services for homeless and aging out of foster care youth ages 16-21 and to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thus avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$125,860 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with the Children's Village, Inc. to provide transitional living services for homeless and aging out of foster care youth ages 16-21 and to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thus avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$125,860 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The proposed agreement will provide a program called "Life Bridges" that is comprised of residential and non-residential components. The residential component will provide housing through intensely supervised independent living apartments as well as life skills training, referral and follow-up with mental and physical health care. Job preparedness training, ongoing counseling, and practice at real work activities such as budgeting, banking, saving and bill paying are also provided as part of the residential component. The residential component will serve 18 youth. The non-residential component will provide auxiliary services to 60 youth annually that include emergency cash assistance, housing subsidies, job

readiness training and paid internships with participating employers. The Children's Village, Inc. has consistently proven successful in delivering these services.

The proposed agreement will **serve a public purpose** by reducing the long term dependency of the targeted population on supportive services from the County because the program equips them with the tools needed to move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

The **goals and objectives** of the Life Bridges program are to provide transitional living services to young adults aged 16-21 who are homeless or aging out of foster care in order to make them independent and self sufficient. The program provides them the necessary tools to become self sufficient. Foster Care support ends when a young adult turns age 21. If not prepared for the end of services, the young adult is at risk of continued homelessness and dependence on Temporary Assistance. The objective of Life Bridges is to strategically prepare these high risk young adults for Independent Living. This objective will be achieved through two core services: 1) a supervised community apartment program which provides the youth with the experience of maintaining an apartment, and 2) an education and employment training program to teach how to find and maintain employment and to continue vocational and educational planning. In addition, the program will provide on-going case management services to address individual needs, such as mental health issues, substance abuse, or crisis intervention services.

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 ensuring and enhancing the health and safety of the targeted population. Housing homeless and foster care youth aging out of the foster care system will reduce the risk of them becoming homeless, victims of crime and developing health related issues.

The aforesaid **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they promote individual self-sufficiency, reduce homelessness and dependence on Temporary Assistance and improve the successful transition of foster children to adulthood.

The Department of Social Services will continue **to track and monitor the success of the Life Bridges program** by requiring the submission of regular reports outlining the program's success in meeting the goals and objectives. The Children's Village's Life Bridges Program has performed well in 2012. In 2012, Thirty-four (34) youth received services. During this same period, seventy percent (70%) of the youth in the residential program were transitioned into permanent housing. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of those youth obtained some form of employment.

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

Accordingly, authority to enter into an agreement with the Children's Village, Inc. to provide the aforesaid services is respectfully requested.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/05/2013 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

## 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 the Children's Village, Inc., to provide transitional living services for homeless and aging out of foster care youth ages 16-21 to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thereby, avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$125,860 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 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 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	5880	-----	\$62,930
2014	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$62,930

Budget Funding Year(s): 2013-2014 Start Dates: 7/1/13 End Date: 6/30/14  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 35 %

State Aid: 32 %

\$125,860  
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 33%

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/05/2013 - JOMARY FEIRA, SECRETARY