



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

35600

DATE: August 16, 2013

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: **Authorization for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (“FSW”) pursuant to which FSW will provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program for the period July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$51,364 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (“FSW”) to provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program for the period July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 (the “Agreement”) for an amount not to exceed \$51,364 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The program serves a **public purpose** as it will serve approximately 20 youths under the age of 18, and their families, by providing short-term, in-home family stabilization, direct intervention to restore family functioning and education to prevent the unnecessary placement of children in foster care. Services to be provided pursuant to the Agreement will include home-based casework, case management, direct therapeutic services and parent skills training.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to preserve the family and reduce the need for foster care placement. The overall objective is to provide direct intervention that can restore and/or stabilize family functioning to an acceptable level. The following additional **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County**:

- Promote the protection and well-being of children;

- Help parents improve their parenting abilities;
- Prevent, reduce or eliminate behavior which may place a child, family or community at risk;
- Prevent unnecessary long-term out-of-home placement of a child;
- Expedite the imminent return of a child and promote reunification of a family;
- Further the creation of a stable and nurturing family environment in which children can grow and develop;
- Improve family functioning;
- Intervene at the point of a family crisis with intensive family preservation services; and
- Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

The **goals and objectives** of the FSW Step Down Program **are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as this program is expected to reduce the number of future foster care placements and the cost associated with those placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Average Annual Expenditure Per Youth in Foster Care (All Levels)-**
\$45,567 per year (\$3,797 per month)
- **Average Annual Expenditure Per Youth in Contract Program-**
\$2,568 per year (\$428- \$856 per month)

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 vendor will submit monthly and quarterly statistical reports in a format approved by the Department. The Department will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking the vendor's performance. Other monitoring efforts will include periodic review of records and site visits. The FSW Step Down Program will seek to produce the following outcomes:

1. Diversion of foster care for special needs youth (Target 80%)
2. Diversion of incidences of substance abuse and/or child abuse and neglect (Target 80%)
3. Reduced incidences of substance abuse and/or child abuse and neglect (Target 80%)

This contract is exempt from the application of the Common Grant Rule as this program falls under the Social Service Block Grant. This agreement is also 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.

I respectfully recommend your Honorable Board's approval of the attached Resolution.

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 hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (“FSW”) to provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program for the period July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 (the “Agreement”) for an amount not to exceed \$51,364 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Agreement with FSW is subject to County Appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Agreement with the FSW is also subject to the further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the “State Budget”) proposed and adopted during the term of these Agreements. 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 the Agreement with the Contractor or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved therein. 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 authorized 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		\$51,364.00

Budget Funding Year(s): 2013 Start Date: 07/01/13 End Date: 12/31/2013
(must match resolution)

\$51,364
must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 30%
State Aid: 49%
Federal Aid: 21%
Other: