



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

37632

Date: December 26, 2013

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition & Contract

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

Re: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide crisis respite care and services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter to youth at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$393,173

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. pursuant to which Children's Village will provide crisis respite care and services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter to youth at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$393,173 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by promoting the well-being of Westchester County youth through the provision of temporary shelter care and by implementing crisis services that will allow youth to return to their homes after completing the program. These services will divert youth from homelessness, truancy and foster care placement.

Crisis respite services are offered in compliance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' (NYS OCFS) mandates. Children's Village provides crisis respite to adolescents at high risk of foster care. Referrals come from the Probation, Social Services System, local Police Departments, School Districts, Community

Agencies and Families. PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision) legislation mandates this service be provided to adolescents as a PINS diversion strategy. Services are also provided to older adolescents listed as maltreated children on CPS (Child Protective Services) reports.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are to introduce safety and risk reducing interventions to youth and their families during the temporary separation. Services provided will also include coping strategies for the safe and smooth transition of the youth back into the family system. This service will also prevent foster care placement of adolescents. The design of the Children's Village Respite program provides families with the break that is needed to problem solve and mediate youth/guardian familial difficulties. There is a daily 14 bed capacity. Services are provided for a maximum of 21 consecutive days. Extensions beyond 21 days require prior Departmental approval. In addition to the shelter services, the children also receive services such as case management and educational supports, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, community recreation, Independent Living Services instructions, academic success assistance and after care planning.

The **goals and objectives of the Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as they will prevent placement in foster care, reducing risk of abuse and neglect in highly volatile situations and preventing runaway situations where adolescents make unsafe plans. The youth remain in Westchester and continue their connections with the community and school. Youth, receiving services through the Children's Village Respite Program, receive counseling to determine their individual strengths and needs. The youth will be residing in a highly supervised environment and therefore are less likely to be vagrant, residing in unsafe housing situations and possibly committing crimes throughout the community.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** of the youth and families of Westchester County because the services provided by The Children's Village Respite Program are designed to support the well-being of the youth and the maintenance of the family system. The short-term program not only reduces foster care placements, but will also provide an opportunity for youth to receive mental and physical health assessments. The benefits extend beyond the youth. The Children's Village Respite Program organizes family and community resources that restore healthy family functioning.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the program will reduce foster care placements, residential care placements and juvenile detention. The diversion of any out-of-home placement of youth would result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

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. Children's Village will submit monthly statistics and quarterly performance reports in the format approved by the Department. The Department will be

responsible for setting the milestones and tracking the achievements by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the Children's Village and making onsite visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that Children's Village has satisfactorily met the performance goals as of the end of the third quarter of 2013. Children's Village served 111 youth as of the close of the third quarter.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3 (a) xviii.

It should be noted that this agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rule as this program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT 02/05/2014 - JONARY VIERA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide crisis respite care and services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter to youth at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$393,173 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement 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 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 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 to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2014	101	22	8900	5960		\$393,173

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014 Start Date: 01/01/14 End Date: 12/31/14
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 32%

State Aid: 47%

Federal Aid: 21%

Other: _____

\$393,173
(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/06/2014 - JOMARY VIEIRA SECRETARY