



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

39008

Date: March 24, 2014

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to exercise its third option under the agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents by extending the contract for one (1) additional year for the term May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Pursuant to a Request for Proposals for “Marketing and Training of Foster/Adoptive Parents” (“RFP”) issued on November 29, 2010 and a resolution approved on May 12, 2011, your Honorable Board authorized the County to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents for the term May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$226,360 with the County having the option to renew the agreement for up to five (5) additional one-year periods upon the same terms and conditions. The agreement was subsequently executed.

On May 3, 2012, your Honorable Board approved a resolution authorizing the County of Westchester, through its Department of Social Services, to exercise the first option to renew the agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the term May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The agreement was subsequently executed.

On May 9, 2013 your Honorable Board approved a resolution authorizing the County to exercise the second option to renew the agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the term May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. This agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester to exercise the third option to renew the agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents by extending the contract for one (1) additional year for the term May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The funds requested for this agreement have remained flat since 2011.

The agreement with Family Ties would serve the **public purpose** by providing orientation, screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents. The proposed agreement will assist the Department in selecting appropriate foster and adoptive parents and will assist the potential parents in making an informed decision about whether foster or adoptive parenting is right for them. Family Ties uses the Models Approach to Parenting and Partnership ("MAPP") which includes:

- up to 30 hours of training provided in each comprehensive multi-week training program cycle
- a written profile about each and every family or household member
- a minimum of two family consultations
- a home safety inspection
- a complete medical clearance
- State Central Registry clearance for previous child abuse and maltreatment
- criminal history background check
- personal contact with references
- complete a financial assessment

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents and to provide foster/adoptive parent marketing and recruitment programs and also to increase the number of available foster and adoptive homes within the County.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety in that this program helps the Department identify potential foster and adoptive parents who can care for vulnerable children who have been abused or neglected and cannot remain at home. The vendor screens the parents to ensure they can provide the State-mandated services and recommends them for more intensive training, home study and screening to ensure they are willing and capable of providing care for these children.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the services provided by the program allow for the increased availability of foster and adoptive homes in a family foster setting, thereby decreasing the need to place

children in higher levels of care such as Residential Care. Reducing the number of children placed in Residential Care can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored to evaluate success using the established performance measures as stipulated in the contract, including but not limited to, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits. Family Ties will also provide orientation sessions designed to inform, encourage and engage eligible persons responding to the marketing campaign to apply to become foster and/or adoptive parents and encourage them to attend subsequent training.

The vendor has met the expectations regarding (2) Orientation Sessions and (3)“Caring For Our Own” trainings during the 2013-2014 contract period. Ten (10) MAPP trainings were offered during the contract year. 23 new foster homes were certified and 14 are pending.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement as extended shall remain in full force and effect.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/21/2014 - 501401/14/14 SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to exercise the third option to renew an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents by extending the agreement for one (1) additional year for the term May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to 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 ("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 except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement as extended shall remain in full force and effect; 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
2014	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$150,907
2015	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$75,453

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014-15 Start Date: 05/01/14 End Date: 04/30/15
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 32%
 State Aid: 47%
\$226,360 Federal Aid: 21%
 (must match resolution) Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT 04/24/2014 JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY