

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

49934

DATE: December 9, 2015

TO: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") to provide therapeutic and counseling services such as individual, sibling and group therapy to children in foster care and parent training services to the birth parents or guardians of these foster children to facilitate and expedite reunification for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$925,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") to provide therapeutic and counseling services such as individual, sibling and group therapy to children in foster care and parent training services to the birth parents or guardians of these foster children to facilitate and expedite reunification for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$925,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

This is a fee-for-service contract that provides therapy for children in family foster care and parent training and/or family therapy for birth parents of these children in order to facilitate and expedite reunification. The services provided are mandated. Services include:

- Clinical services to children in foster care
- Parent training services to birth parents (or guardians) with their children
- Psychiatric assessments for children in foster care
- Ongoing psychiatric treatment, including medication, for children in foster care
- Educational remediation

- With special approval, court ordered psychiatric or psychological assessments of birth parents.

This contract serves a **public purpose** by improving the well-being of children in foster care by providing them with clinical services such as individual, sibling and group therapy to assist in the children's adjustment to foster care, as well as to reduce mental health symptoms by helping them resolve issues related to trauma, separation from family and in some cases, plan for permanency through termination of parental rights and adoption.

The goals and objectives of this program are to meet the mental health needs of children in foster care in a timely and supportive manner by delivering services in a culturally competent manner that is respectful of cultural differences and recognizes the individual strengths of families. The program also assists in the development of permanency outcomes for children in foster care in order to reduce the length of time children stay in care.

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health as these treatment services will help reduce child behavior difficulties and achieve permanency either by returning these children home, or through alternative plans such as adoption, custody arrangements etc., thus contributing to the wellbeing of these children and their families. The professional expertise in the area of assessments and evaluations provided by WIHD on behalf of the Department ensures effective and efficient service delivery to the targeted population.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is paying the Medicaid rate for the services. This is a fee-for-service contract and the Department only pays for services rendered. Furthermore, lack of these services provided by WIHD could result in deteriorated functioning requiring placements in a higher level of care at a substantially higher cost.

The Performance Measurement Indicator reports and statistics submitted monthly by the vendor will be tracked and monitored by the Program office. Based on the performance data submitted from January, 2015 through September, 2015, the department is able to report that the program overall served 37 families and 105 children. Also, during this period, 54 children received medication management services

This contract is exempt from the application of the federal Common Grant Rules as this is a contract that falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant of Section 3 (a) viii of said policy.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into this Agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development for the above stated purpose.

A resolution requesting the same 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 (“County”) is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development to provide therapeutic and counseling services such as individual, sibling and group therapy to children in foster care and parenting training services to the birth parents or guardians of these foster children to facilitate and expedite reunification for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$925,000 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 (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 the 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 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
2016	101	22	8900	5960	-	\$925,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2016 Start Date: 01/01/16 End Date: 12/31/16
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars: 27 %
	State Aid: 43%
<u>\$925,000</u>	Federal Aid: 30 %
(must match resolution)	Other: