



George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

64591

DATE: August 8, 2018

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: 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 a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") pursuant to which OCFS will provide the County with funding to pass through to the designated agencies listed below in order to ensure that a sufficient number of residential foster care beds and adequate services are maintained to accommodate juvenile delinquents who are placed into foster care by family courts as a result of the raise-the-age legislation ("Raise the Age").

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 a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") pursuant to which OCFS will provide the County with funding to pass through to the designated agencies listed below in order to ensure that a sufficient number of residential foster care beds and adequate services are maintained to accommodate juvenile delinquents who are placed into foster care by family courts as a result of the raise-the-age legislation ("Raise the Age").

As a key component of the implementation of Raise the Age, New York State must provide funding for the development of the additional residential capacity needed to serve the 16 and 17 year-old youth who will be adjudicated as juvenile delinquents by Family Courts and placed in residential care. In anticipation of this increased need, OCFS issued a Request for Applications to the private agencies throughout the State to solicit interest in being certified as Raise the Age foster care facilities ("RTA Facilities"). The agencies that were approved to be

RTA Facilities in Westchester County were The Children's Village, Inc., Graham Windham, and Lincoln Hall.

Because OCFS does not contract directly with voluntary agencies, there is no existing mechanism to provide direct funding to them and has requested the assistance of a few counties to be designated as "RTA Anchor Counties". The role of an RTA Anchor County is to function as a "pass-through" for the 100% state funding to these RTA Facilities for their start-up expenses as well as reimbursement for the per diem costs of maintaining vacant beds and associated unused foster care ("Gap Fostercare") and after care ("Gap Aftercare") services.

The MOU, if approved, will allow the County to serve as an RTA Anchor County to assist the State in providing funding to these RTA Facilities. The MOU will commence upon execution and terminate on June 30, 2022. Pursuant to the MOU, OCFS will advance to the County 100 percent of the start-up costs of the RTA Facilities prior to the date such funds are to be paid to the facilities. From the date each RTA Facility opens, the RTA Facilities will bill and be paid by the County monthly for the Gap Fostercare and Gap Aftercare expenses. OCFS will reimburse the County 100 % of the payments made to the RTA Facilities on a monthly basis. OCFS will also reimburse the County monthly for 50% of a full-time Department staff position to support the accounting, record-keeping, vouchering, and accounts payable/receivable activities associated with this MOU. By a separate Resolution, your Honorable Board's authority will be requested to enter into individual agreements with the above-named RTA facilities above in furtherance of this purpose.

The proposed MOU will serve a public purpose by helping to ensure that there will be adequate accommodations and services for juvenile delinquents to meet the increased demands created by Raise the Age.

The goals and objectives of the proposed MOU are to provide a means for OCFS to provide the funding to the RTA Facilities to provide a sufficient number of beds and adequate services to juvenile delinquents who are placed into foster care by family courts as a result of Raise the Age.

The goals and objectives of the proposed MOU will be tracked and monitored by the Department.

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

KMM/PS/JRC

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 a memorandum of understanding with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (“OCFS”) pursuant to which OCFS will provide the County with funding to pass through to the facilities certified by OCFS as Raise the Age foster care facilities in order to ensure that a sufficient number of residential foster care beds and appropriate services are maintained to accommodate the number of juvenile delinquents who are placed into foster care by family courts as a result of the raise-the-age legislation; 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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s):N/A
(must match resolution)

Start Date: Upon Execution

End Date: 06/30/2022

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: N/A

State Aid: N/A

Federal Aid: N/A

\$N/A
(must match resolution)

Other: N/A