

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**67116**

**DATE:** January 9, 2019

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

**SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") pursuant to which FSW will provide Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$359,353.**

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Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("the Department"), to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") pursuant to which FSW will provide Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$359,353 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 preserving the family, reducing the risk of abuse or neglect, preventing delinquency and youth crime, thus reducing the need for foster care placement, as families are better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program will promote the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County. FSW has provided this service for the County for the past several years.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are to in compliance with the regulations of the Office of Children and Family Services (NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10)) which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placements. Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services are also available to families with a child coming home from foster care, to help with the transition home and when possible, allow the child to have a shorter length of stay in foster care. The provider is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Intensive short term in-home crisis intervention
- Family education in order to preserve families and prevent foster care placement
- Assessment services to include housing assistance, child care, job training, educational services support and training related to home and finance management
- Teaching child development and age appropriate expectations
- Improving overall functioning and ability to parent children
- Improving family communication and establishing household routines

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department will be able to reduce the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system will result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department.** Tracking and monitoring include, but are not limited to, the review of periodic reports and onsite visits.

**Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that from January 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018 the program is meeting targets and outcomes as outlined in the current contract, and the program is on track to serving 80% of contract capacity. FSW has served 66 families and 155 children. Of the 155 children served, 100% were diverted from foster care placements. During this same period 100% of the families were diverted from a substantiated report of abuse and neglect while actively receiving services from the program.

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 not subject to the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule) as the federal funding for this program falls under Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

