

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

67117

DATE: January 8, 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”) to provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program, for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$160,000

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”) to provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$160,000 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** as the program will serve approximately 40 youth under the age of 18, and their families, and will provide short-term, in-home family stabilization, direct intervention to restore family functioning and education to prevent the unnecessary placement of children in foster care. Services to be provided pursuant to the Agreement will include home-based casework, case management, direct therapeutic services and parent skills training.

The **goals and objectives of this program are in the best interest of the County** as it will preserve the family and reduce the need for foster care placement. The overall objective is to provide direct intervention that can restore and/or stabilize family functioning to an acceptable level. Additionally, the goals and objectives:

- Promote the protection and well-being of children;
- Help parents improve their parenting abilities;
- Prevent, reduce or eliminate behavior which may place a child, family or community at risk;

- Prevent unnecessary long-term out-of-home placement of a child;
- Expedite the imminent return of a child and promote reunification of a family;
- Further the creation of a stable and nurturing family environment in which children can grow and develop;
- Improve family functioning;
- Intervene at the point of a family crisis with intensive family preservation services;
- Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as this program is expected to reduce the number of future foster care placements and the cost associated with those placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and its taxpayers.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department.** FSW will submit monthly and quarterly statistical reports in a format approved by the Department. The Department will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking FSW's performance. Other monitoring efforts will include periodic review of records and site visits. The FSW Step Down Program will seek to produce the following outcomes:

1. Diversion of foster care for special needs youth (Target 100%)
2. Diversion of incidences of substance abuse and/or child abuse and neglect (Target 80%)
3. Reduced incidences of substance abuse and/or child abuse and neglect (Target 80%)

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 100% of contract capacity. FSW has served 29 families and 80 children. Of the 80 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, as the services provided hereunder are to advance the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of children in the County of Westchester.

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.

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 Family Services of Westchester, Inc., ("FSW") to provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$160,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 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 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
2019	101	22	8900	5960		\$160,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2019 **Start Date:** 1/1/2019 **End Date:** 12/31/2019
(must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars: 33%
\$160,000 State Aid: 44%
(must match resolution) Federal Aid: 23%