

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**67125**

**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 Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”) pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services (“VAS”) program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children’s safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$115,650.

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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 Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”) pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services (“VAS”) program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children’s safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$115,650 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 promoting the safety and general welfare of the children in Westchester County who are the alleged victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. This will be accomplished through immediate and ongoing intervention services which will address their victimization and decrease the emotional stress to families in crisis. The program will preserve the family by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are to provide advocacy, protective and preventive services to non-offending family members and child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services. WestCOP will provide

concrete services expeditiously to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse. Under the proposed agreement, the VAS program will:

- Be responsible for immediate and initial crisis counseling services for victims and children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Be responsible for maintaining continued contact with these families and to assist in the arrangement of specialized supportive services for them;
- Help these families cope with the multiple demands placed on them by the legal, medical and child protective systems they work with regularly;
- Participate in the child fatality reviews.

**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 will promote and ensure the safety and well-being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual/physical abuse by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

**The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the program will avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placement. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can 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.** WestCOP will submit monthly and quarterly statistical reports in the format approved by the Department. Other monitoring efforts will include but are not limited to periodic review of records and site visits.

**Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that as of the end of September 30, 2018, WestCOP is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the agreement. As of the end of the third quarter, the program has served 62 children and 46 families. Of the 46 families served, 100% have not had a new CPS report substantiated during the period of services. 100% of the families surveyed indicated feeling emotionally supported and safe since working with the Child Victim Advocate.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii as this agreement will improve the well-being of children and youth in Westchester County.

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 of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

