

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

67176

DATE: January 14, 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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") for the provision of its Safe Harbour Program for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$90,000

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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide its Safe Harbour Program (the "Program"), a multi-faceted approach to support and serve youth who have been sexually exploited for a term beginning on January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$90,000 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** by protecting and serving exploited youth, thereby promoting public safety.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are to strengthen the County's ability to serve sexually exploited youth in Westchester County. This includes a combination of individual clinical services, psycho-educational process groups, creative expression groups, as well as being more intentional with access to the programming and services available and the Children's Village Education and Employment Center. In addition, the Program provides youth with the opportunity to further their education and gain the invaluable job readiness skill required for them to acquire gainful employment.

The modalities will be blended, complimentary, and structured to help participants to process trauma, build self-esteem, establish coping mechanisms, promote personal and financial independence, and help achieve a higher level of functioning.

Target Referral: The definition of sexual exploited youth is quite broad and refers to a continuum of behaviors and circumstances ranging from being sexually abused by a family

member or friend to being forced into the sex trade for food, money, or shelter to being a victim of sexual assault or trafficked. All of the youth in this program, whether they have been previously charged with a crime or not, are victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Program performance measurement indicators will be tracked through milestones such as:

- Youth outreach and engagement measured by youth participation, attendance and program completion
- Youth reduced criminal behavior and/or satisfy the requirements of court or probation measured by arrest and/or probation report
- Youth involvement in pro-social positive activities including education, volunteer, employment, or recreational activity; measured by confirmation of youth participation in one of the aforementioned activities.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that since its inception in June 2013, the Safe Harbour team, through collaboration with Children's Village and the Department's Cross Systems Unit (CSU), 619 youth were referred to the Program for assessment and services for sex trafficking. 7 of these youth are still in the process of being assessed, therefore, outcomes are still pending. Out of the 619 youth who have been assessed, 157 were federally confirmed victims, 88 NYS confirmed victims (3 pending). 316 had medium / low indicators. In 2018 there were 158 referrals to the Safe Harbour Unit.

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 The Children's Village, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

