

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**ONBASE # 72877**

**DATE:** November 25, 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 Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141.**

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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 Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141 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 risk of abuse or neglect, preventing delinquency and youth crime, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families will be better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are in compliance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services regulations, 18 NYCRR, Part 423 et seq., which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. This program provides specialized programming for children and parents diagnosed with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues, with a strong focus on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The catchment area of this program is Southern Westchester. These services will now be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, the Department will seek to avoid foster care placements. WJCS is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Network Facilitation and the Support Circle model of care coordination
- Wraparound planning
- Strength-based care coordination and service planning
- Family engagement skills
- Crisis and respite planning
- Safety planning for sexually reactive youth as well as those with fire setting behaviors
- Assessment of childhood mental health and behavioral issues
- Advocacy for Committee on Special Education and other school meetings
- Using community services to enhance family stability
- PINS pre-diversion assessment and service treatment
- Assessment and screening of sexually exploited youth for the Safe Harbor Program

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 through this contract 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 are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department will be able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success of the services provided by WJCS mental health case management assessment using the mutually established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by the vendor and site visits.

**Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report** that in the first three quarters of 2018, WJCS has provided services to 374 children and 263 families. During that same period, 100% of FASP reports were completed on respective due dates, 100% of progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare Connections System within 10 business days, and 95% of each family receiving services had a face-to-face contact with all family members, at minimum, every two weeks.

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

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

