

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**73740**

**DATE: January 2, 2020**

**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, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$166,380**

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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") to provide the Family Preservation Step Down Program, for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$166,380 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, 2019 through September 30, 2019, 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 31 families and 94 children. Of the 94 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 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 of Westchester 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.

