

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

73767

Date: January 6, 2020

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin McGuire, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

RE: Authority to enter into an agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings to provide genetic marker test services and supportive testimony as ordered by the Family Court in disputed paternity proceedings for a total amount not-to-exceed \$15,000 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation, on a per task basis at the rate of \$29.75 per person tested which also includes the cost of expert witness testimony for the term January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings to provide genetic marker test services and supportive testimony as ordered by the Family Court in dispute paternity proceedings for the term of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation on a per task basis at the rate of \$29.75 per person tested which also includes the cost of expert witness testimony.

Under the Family Court Act of the State of New York, the alleged father in a paternity proceeding has the right to request a genetic marker test to determine whether or not he can be excluded as the father of a child. The Office of Child Support Enforcement makes every effort to recoup the cost of these tests. However, if the court finds the alleged father indigent, and the child is then, or is likely to be, in receipt of public assistance, the court may direct the Department to pay for the test.

The proposed agreement would provide for the performance of Deoxyribonucleic Acid ("DNA") tests, which produce probabilities of paternity of 99% or greater. In addition, the agreement requires that Laboratory Corporation be prepared and available to provide expert witness testimony should the need arise.

The services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement will serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County of Westchester to ensure the safety and welfare of those children whose paternity is in dispute as the tests conducted pursuant to this agreement would establish the paternity and provide for the child's support once the paternity is established and thus help in promoting the economic security and wellbeing of the family.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to help IV-D customers (clients involved in paternity proceedings pursuant to the Family Court Act of the State of New York) obtain and retain financial security and achieve self sufficiency, thereby eliminating the need for temporary assistance.

The **goals and objectives as stated above are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they assist in reducing the tax dollars spent on public assistance to the targeted population by making the fathers pay for the support of the children and families. Through the tests conducted pursuant to this program, the paternity is established and the alleged father is ordered by Court to pay for the child's support, thus shifting the responsibility of providing assistance to these families and children from County government to private individuals.

The **goals and objectives of this contract will be tracked and monitored** by the Department using the established DSS Performance Measurement Indicators, as well as the Child Support Management System measurement indicators established by the State and GenLink Internet Access.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)viii which exempts procurements for contracts for medical or health related services. Nevertheless, in 2019, the Department requested written price quotes from 14 genetic testing laboratories approved by the New York State Office of Disability and Temporary Assistance (see attached). Laboratory Corporation, the current provider of such services to the Department and the only lab that responded to the County's solicitation, submitted a price quote at a rate of \$29.75 per person tested through 2020. In addition to its competitive price, Laboratory Corporation was selected due to its proven ability under the present agreement to provide services that are flexible and reliable at the Department's three (3) Family Court sites. They also have provided software and technical support to obtain testing results on line at no additional cost to the County.

Accordingly, the County is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings for the aforesaid purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board's approval.

KMM/TL/jpg
Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester ("County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings to provide genetic marker test services and supportive testimony as ordered by the Family Court in disputed paternity proceedings for a total amount not-to-exceed \$15,000 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget on a per task basis at the rate of \$29.75 per person tested which also includes the cost of expert witness testimony for the term from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 (the "Agreement"); 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 duly authorized representative is hereby authorized to execute all documents and to take all actions, necessary and appropriate, to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8000	4420		\$15,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2020 Start Date: 1/1/20 End Date: 12/31/20
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars:	40%
	State Aid:	0%
<u>\$15,000</u>	Federal Aid:	60%
(must match resolution)	Other:	N/A

GENETIC MARKER TESTING PRICE QUOTES

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings

Quote from current vendor of \$29.75 per test for the 2020 year contract.

The following 13 New York State approved laboratories were contacted and failed to submit a quote:

- 1. Chromosomal Labs Bode Technology**
- 2. Advanced Genetics Testing Laboratory LLC**
- 3. Independent Forensics of Illinois**
- 4. Indiana Blood Center**
- 5. Paternity Testing Corporation**
- 6. Genetic Technologies Inc.**
- 7. DNA Diagnostics Center**
- 8. DNA Solutions, Inc.**
- 9. Sorenson Genomics-Identigene**
- 10. AlBiotech dba, Fairfax Identity Laboratories**
- 11. Gene by Gene DBA DNA Findings**
- 12. Natera Inc.**
- 13. Strand Diagnostics**

Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings has provided reliable, efficient service to Westchester County Office of Child Support Enforcement continuously for over 20 years. The laboratory operates four Patient Service Centers within Westchester County, 109 Patient Service Centers in New York State, 1,900 Patient Service Centers nationwide, and 13,000 collection sites in total. This laboratory employs 1,075 individuals in New York State. Therefore, the Office of Child Support Enforcement has selected this laboratory.