

**78941**

**DATE:** August 25, 2020

**TO:** Board of Acquisition and Contract

**FROM:** Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner of Social Services

**RE:** Authority to enter into an agreement with Concordia College (“Concordia”) pursuant to which Concordia, in conjunction with the County’s Department of Social Services (“DSS”), will provide a fieldwork/internship program in social work for Concordia students for a term commencing on August 1, 2020 and continuing through July 31, 2021, at no cost to the County.

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through DSS, to enter into an agreement with Concordia pursuant to which Concordia and DSS will collaborate to provide a fieldwork/internship program in social work for Concordia students for a term commencing on August 1, 2020 and continuing through July 31, 2021 (the “Agreement”).

Pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, Concordia, in conjunction with DSS, will provide an adequately supervised program of field education in social work for college students to participate in a fieldwork/internship at DSS. The social work interns’ primary responsibilities will include supervising foster care visits between parents and children, utilizing the “Coached Visitation Model”. The Coached Visitation model is "a child-needs focused approach rather than a parenting approach to visits" to reduce the child’s length of stay in foster care. The model is designed to engage the family in the planning and debriefing process, while placing a strong emphasis on coaching parents before, during, and following visits in order to achieve child welfare outcomes. When a child is placed in out of home care, focused visiting is essential to expediting a successful return home. Together, the social work intern, the assigned caseworker, and the parent identify what the parent needs to learn and use during visiting in order to bring their child back home.

There shall be no cost to the County in connection with this Agreement. However, each party will agree to indemnify and hold harmless the other party from all claims arising out of or in connection with the other party’s negligence.

As this Agreement does not involve the procurement of goods or services, the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy do not apply.

The Agreement will serve a public purpose by reducing the child’s length of stay in foster care.

Authority for the County to enter into the Agreement with Concordia for the purposes as herein described is most respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/17/2020 - LISA MRIJAJ, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“DSS”) is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Concordia College (“Concordia”) pursuant to which Concordia, in conjunction with DSS, will provide a fieldwork/internship program in social work for Concordia students for a term commencing on August 1, 2020 and continuing through July 31, 2021 (the “Agreement”); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that there shall be no cost to the County in connection with this Agreement. However, each party will agree to indemnify and hold harmless the other party from all claims arising out of or in connection with the other party’s negligence; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized to execute said agreement and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s): 2020-21 Start Date: 08/01/2020 End Date : 07/31/2021

(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars N/A

State Aid: N/A

N/A

Federal Aid: N/A

(must match resolution)

Other: