

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

80336

DATE: October 14, 2020

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Authority to amend a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Westchester and Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. to provide grant funds in the sum of \$375,000, as part of the Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative entitled Westchester Building Futures in order to extend the termination date of the grant from September 29, 2020 to the date when the project is completed, on or about June 30, 2021 and to revise the scope of services.

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to amend a Memorandum of Understanding with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (“Mathematica”) to provide grant funds in the amount of \$375,000, for use by the County as part of its BraveLife Intervention program (the “MOU”) to provide the BraveLife Intervention program to provide youth involvement and experience with trauma-informed child welfare professionals focusing of the elimination of homelessness among at-risk youth with foster care histories in order to extend the term of the MOU from September 30, 2019 through September 29, 2020, until the project is completed on or about June 30, 2021 and to revise the scope of work to reflect the extended term of the MOU. Mathematica is the prime contractor to the United States Department of Health & Human Services (“HHS”), Administration for Children and Families and is entering into the proposed amendment to the MOU at the direction of HHS in order to evaluate interventions for youth/young adults with child welfare involvement at risk of homelessness. This request is necessary as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has delayed the implementation of this program.

All other terms and conditions of the MOU shall remain in full force and effect.

The proposed amendment **will serve a public purpose** by preventing youth homelessness within the County.

The **goals and objectives** of Westchester Building Futures (“WBF”), is a youth and community-driven planning process to develop a detailed blueprint for transforming Westchester’s system of public and private resources to prevent homelessness among youth emerging from our child welfare system that can be rigorously evaluated, thoroughly documented, and replicated nationwide.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed amendment is **in the County’s best interest** regarding **fiscal responsibility** as it will reduce homelessness and dependence on public assistance that not only improves the economic situation of the program participants but of the County as well by reducing the County’s public assistance expenditures.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed amendment is also **in the County’s best interest** regarding **public health and safety** as the operation of the program to obtain permanent housing and self-sufficiency that correspondingly improves the program participants’ physical and psychological well-being and provides a safer and more stable overall environment.

The **performance measurement indicators** for WBF will cross four outcome areas: Stable Housing, Permanent Connections, Social and Emotional Well-being and Education/Employment.

The **goals and objectives** of the amendment to the Grant Agreement **will be tracked and monitored** by the Department that will include performance measurement indicator results.

Accordingly, authority is hereby requested for the County to enter an amendment to the MOU to receive grant funds in order to extend the term as a result of delays resulting from COVID-19. I respectfully recommend your Honorable Board’s approval of the attached Resolution.

KMM/DI

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to amend a Memorandum of Understanding with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (“Mathematica”) to provide grant funding in the amount of \$375,000 for the Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative entitled “Westchester Building Futures” (the “MOU”) in order to extend the term of the MOU from September 29, 2020 until the program services are completed, on or about June 30, 2021 and to revise the Scope of Services to reflect the extended term of the MOU; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the all other terms and conditions of the MOU shall remain in full force and effect, and be it further

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

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0.00

Budget Funding Year(s): 2019-21 Start Date: 9/29/2019 End Date: 6/30/2021
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: N/A
 State Aid: N/A
 Federal Aid: N/A
must match resolution) Other: N/A