

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Probation

Rocco A. Pozzi  
Commissioner

**88852**

DATE: December 15, 2021

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Rocco A. Pozzi  
Commissioner of Probation

RE: Authority to retroactively enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept funds in an amount not to exceed \$601,339.24 under the supervision and treatment services for juvenile programs, for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022; and also to retroactively enter into two (2) agreements both for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 as follows: 1.) Student Advocacy Inc. to operate a program entitled "education for youth: promoting school success for court involved youth," in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00; and 2.) Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc., to operate the linkages program, in an amount not to exceed \$191,339.00 .

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The County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Probation (the "Department"), seeks authority from your Honorable Board to retroactively enter into an agreement (the "Grant Agreement") with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS"), to accept funding in the amount of \$601,339.24 (the "OCFS Funds") under the OCFS' Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program ("STSJP"), for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

Authority is also requested to retroactively enter into an agreement (the "Student Advocacy Agreement") with Student Advocacy Inc. ("Student Advocacy"), for an amount not-to-exceed \$80,000.00, for a period from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022, whereby Student Advocacy will operate the program entitled "Education for Youth: Promoting School Success for Court Involved Youth" ("Program"), under the STSJP state program. Pursuant to the Agreement, Student Advocacy will work with the Department, through the County's three probation offices, and the School Districts to ensure that students referred to the Program receive the education resources they are entitled too in order to meet their learning academic needs.

Under the Student Advocacy Agreement, Student Advocacy will assist approximately 80 youth, who are either returning to school, to obtain the necessary services to enable them to successfully reenter the learning environment or who are already in school, but at risk of leaving school, to remain in school, by providing direct legally based education advocacy to youth and their families as well as technical assistance for the Department officers. All services to be provided under the proposed Student Advocacy Agreement shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. Student Advocacy's representation will be provided by trained advocates and will include the following:

- Interview with parent and youth to learn about educational history, family perspective and concerns
- Educate the student and family about their educational rights
- Obtain school records from all schools, programs, and facilities the student attended
- Perform a comprehensive analysis of the student's school experience
- Interview social service providers, medical professionals, mental health providers and community partners to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the student's strengths and challenges
- Advocate for additional evaluations as required
- Represent the youth and family at school meetings to a) enhance the educators' understanding of the challenges facing the youth; b) advocate for appropriate school services and supports; c) ensure parental participation; d) advance youth voice and youth choice

The goals of the proposed Student Advocacy Agreement are to safely engage youth and their families who have interacted with the juvenile justice system, through innovative programming, to reduce out of home placement and detention of youth.

Authority is further requested from your Honorable Board to retroactively enter into an agreement (the "WJCS Agreement") with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS") whereby WJCS will operate the Linkages Program, in an amount not to exceed \$191,339.00, for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

Under the WJCS Agreement, WJCS operates the Linkages program which provides assessment services for youth who have been arrested in Westchester County and given Desk Appearance Tickets on Juvenile Delinquency cases that are determined to be appropriate for adjustment services. Additionally, Linkages may also do assessments on court ordered Persons In Need of Supervision ("PINS") diversion cases when appropriate. The goals of the proposed WJCS Agreement are to provide needed clinical interventions aimed at addressing underlying needs while helping the youth avoid protracted court involvement. The Department remains responsible for case planning and case management. WJCS will make every effort to engage families in the adjustment process to conduct assessments and provide diversion services and referrals as well as outreach to the victims. Assessments consist of clinical as well as Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument evaluations.

The public purpose of the proposed agreements (“Agreements”) is to prevent future delinquency, including youth violence, by working with youth before they commit a crime or engage in other delinquent behaviors and provide youth with education resources to meet their learning needs. By providing services in the community, youth can stay at home with their families and continue to go to school, while still getting their needs met and saving taxpayers money.

The remaining \$330,000.24 of the OCFS Funds will be used by the Department to provide several other juvenile programs, allocated as follows:

- Probation Juvenile Extended Operations \$120,000.00
- Westchester Alternative to Detention \$140,000.24
- Electronic Home Monitoring \$ 25,000.00
- Juvenile Trainings \$ 25,000.00
- CLUSTER Community Services \$ 20,000.00

I certify that my department, a.) has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the “Grant Terms”), b.) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c.) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d.) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

The proposed Agreements with Student Advocacy and WJCS are exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)xviii regarding youth service projects and appropriate programs and services for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime.

Approval of the attached resolution is respectfully requested.

RAP/cmc  
Enclosure

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTING 06/06/2022 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Probation, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester ("County") is authorized to retroactively enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") to accept funding in an amount not to exceed \$601,339.24 under the OCFS's Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP), for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022; and be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that the County is further authorized to retroactively enter into an agreement with Student Advocacy Inc. ("Student Advocacy") whereby Student Advocacy will operate the program entitled "Education for Youth: Promoting School Success for Court Involved Youth," in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that the County is further authorized to retroactively enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS") whereby WJCS will operate the Linkages program to provide services for youth who have been arrested in Westchester County, in an amount not to exceed \$191,339.00, for the period October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that the agreements ("Agreements") are subject to County appropriations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the proposed Agreements are 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 the 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 the Agreements or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to Student Advocacy or WJCS, then Student Advocacy or WJCS shall have the right to terminate the Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be 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
	263	39	541W	9854		\$601,339.24
	263	39	541W	4380		\$271,339.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021-2022 Start Date 10/1/2021 End Date 9/30/2022  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars 0  
 State Aid \$601,339.24  
\$601,339.24 Federal Aid 0  
 (must match resolution) Other \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/06/2022 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY