

11479

May 14, 2010

TO: The Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Marlene E. Furtick, Executive Director
Westchester County Youth Bureau

RE: Authority to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to operate the Conflict Resolution program for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in a total amount not to exceed \$54,000.

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (the "Agency") to operate the Conflict Resolution Program for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in a total amount not to exceed \$54,000, subject to appropriation and pursuant to an approved individual budget. The County Department of Social Services will provide Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) funding in the amount of \$34,398 as well as the local tax levy match requirement in the amount of \$19,602 for a total contract amount of \$54,000.

The COPS funding is designed to support community/neighborhood based youth services and parenting programs aimed at reducing youth risk-taking behaviors. Examples of services include family resource centers, drop out prevention programs, parent skills training, mentoring and tutoring programs, independent living skills, job training and linkage with employment, pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention, conflict resolution and gang and youth violence prevention.

This agreement will address the needs of youth ages 16-24 transitioning out of the children's mental health system by offering them 'knowledge nights' featuring conflict resolution, communication and advocacy skills and artistic expression workshops, resources and peer support to enhance their independent living skills and self-esteem.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are as follows:

- Of the 100 youth who will participate in Youth Forum/Conflict Resolution program, 62 will improve their coping skills as measured by the program coordinator and staff's observations and written reports.
- Of the 100 youth who will participate in the Youth Forum/Conflict Resolution program, 66 will achieve one or more of the following:
 - Enroll in a continuing education program (GED, college, training) or vocational program
 - Increase knowledge and awareness about the dangers of substance abuse
 - Build and maintain healthy relationships within the group and in the community
 - Improve or gain independent living skills.
- Of the expected 58 of the 100 Youth Forum/Conflict Resolution participants who have had previous psychiatric hospitalizations, 33 will avoid psychiatric hospitalization by developing coping skills that will help them manage their symptoms, enabling them to continue functioning in the community.

The proposed Agreement is in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety because it provides youth with the support they need to avoid high risk behaviors. If this resolution were not approved, the taxpayer would be faced with increased costs to address possible gang involvement, substance abuse, and criminal behavior.

Each of the goals and objectives as stated above will be tracked and monitored through monthly, quarterly and annual reports and by site visits from Youth Bureau Program Monitors.

This program was funded in 2009 and achieved its stated outcomes. The outcomes are as follows:

- Of the 116 (16 more than contracted for) young adults who participated in the Youth Forum / Conflict Resolution Program, 100 (38 more than contracted for) improved their coping skills by working alongside staff to identify their unique strengths, abilities, interests, and specific goals, as well as to identify possible emotional-triggers and areas of concern.
- Of the 116 (16 more than contracted for) youth who participated in the Youth Forum/Conflict Resolution program, 88 (22 more than contracted for) improved or gained independent living skills by actively participating in Youth Forum's Knowledge Nights where professionals from the community came in to educate youth in the ideals of general wellness & budgeting to prepare them for independent living. For the 30+ youth who have been living on their own, their participation in these knowledge nights has reinforced positive skills already learned and introduced some new skills to enhance their overall living experiences
- Of the 116 (58 more than contracted for) youth involved in Youth Forum/Conflict Resolution who have had previous psychiatric hospitalizations, 83 (50 more than contracted for) avoided psychiatric hospitalization by developing coping skills that helped them manage their symptoms, enabling them to continue functioning in the community. In 2009 there have been 2 VOLUNTARY hospitalizations. This shows that the youth are successfully utilizing their coping mechanisms learned/reinforced at Youth Forum/Conflict Resolution's Knowledge Nights.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to section 3(a) xviii thereof. Nevertheless, in 2008 the Youth Bureau issued an RFP to cover the program years 2009 – 2011. This agency is one of 94 agencies that submitted a proposal in response to the RFP.

An appropriate Resolution is herewith attached for your Honorable Board's consideration.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to operate the Conflict Resolution Program for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in a total amount not to exceed Fifty Four Thousand (\$54,000) Dollars, subject to appropriation and pursuant to an approved individual budget. The County Department of Social Services will provide Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) funding in the amount of Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Eight (\$34,398) Dollars as well as the local tax levy match requirement in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Two (\$19,602) Dollars for a total contract amount of \$54,000; 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 that Contractor shall have the right to terminate their 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.

Original Agreement
 First Amendment
 This Amendment
 New Total Amount

Account to be Charged/Credited	Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
DSS	263	11	613K	4380	T613	\$54,000

Budget Funding Year(s) Start Date January 1, 2010
 (must match resolution)

End Date December 31, 2010

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$19,602
 State Aid \$34,398
\$54,000 Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution)
 Other _____

Contractor Federal I.D. No./
 Social Security No.: _____
 Vendor No.: 991849
 Encumbrance No.: YTH1015