



12244

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Date: June 10, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to exercise the third option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. ("PCG"), formerly known as F. M. Blake & Associates, for the provision of Eligibility Determination and Related Services in connection with Social Security Supplemental Security Income Benefits for the period from **July 1, 2010** through **June 30, 2011** for an amount not-to-exceed **\$350,000** to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

On July 5, 2007, your Honorable Board approved a resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with F.M. Blake & Associates for the provision of eligibility determination services in connection with Social Security Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits for the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 (the "Agreement") with the County having the option, in its sole discretion, to renew the agreement for up to three (3) additional one (1) year periods. The Original Agreement was subsequently executed.

On January 10, 2008, your Honorable Board approved a resolution to assign the aforesaid Agreement with F. M. Blake & Associates to Public Consulting Group, Inc. ("PCG") effective January 1, 2008. The assignment was subsequently executed.

On July 17, 2008, your Honorable Board approved a resolution to exercise the first option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. ("PCG") for the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 ("First Extension") This First Extension agreement was subsequently executed.

On May 21, 2009, your Honorable Board approved a resolution to exercise the second option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. ("PCG") for the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$200,000("Second Extension"). This Second Extension agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("The Department"), to exercise the third and final option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. ("PCG") for the provision of eligibility determination services in connection with Social Security Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits for the period from **July 1, 2010** through **June 30, 2011** for an amount not to exceed **\$350,000** to be paid pursuant to approved budgets and subject to appropriations. The request for an increase in the NTE is based on the following information. The number of pending cases has increased. The number of pending TANF cases received between 2/10 and 6/10 totaled 125. It is further anticipated that an additional 300 pending TANF cases will be received for 2011. In addition to the pending TANF cases, it is anticipated that an additional 80 pending foster care cases will be included in 2010 and 2011. All these cases will be referred to PCG for SSI eligibility determination.

The Public Purpose of this program is to provide services to a target population which is faced with multiple barriers and is unable to pursue benefits on their own. By definition, the federal SSI program is targeted at individuals who are found to be incapable of engaging in substantial gainful activity. Particularly, in the case of mental disability, the very nature of the individual's impediment is incongruous with self-advocacy. Public Consulting Group, Inc. will provide necessary assistance to the residents of the County who are eligible for SSI benefits by securing the benefits to which they are entitled.

The Goals and Objectives of the program are to provide valuable services in the establishment and maintenance of Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for the Temporary Assistance and AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) foster care customers.

The Goals and Objectives Are in the Best Interest of Fiscal Responsibility in that this contract is paid on a contingent fee-per-customer basis. This program assists our customers in becoming eligible for federally funded SSI benefits which may lead to case closures. For example:

- For every TANF Case closed due to receipt of SSI benefits, Westchester County can realize an annual cost avoidance of \$8,788.50, which is the difference between the annual PA grant of \$11,316, and the PCG fee of \$2,527.50.
- For every SNA Case closed due to receipt of SSI benefits, Westchester County can realize an annual cost avoidance of \$13,156.50, which is the difference between the annual PA grant of \$15,684, and the PCG fee of \$2,527.50.

Additionally, Westchester County Department of Social Services assumes representative payee status for most of the foster care children who are eligible for SSI benefits, where the benefits are paid directly to DSS. This can help defray the annual cost of foster care that can range from \$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 in family foster care and \$53,687.85 to \$164,009.10 in institutional foster care.

The Negative Consequences of not entering into this Contract may be that this could result in a significant increase in the number of individuals in receipt of Public Assistance, thereby significantly increasing the financial burden of the County.

The Goals and Objectives will be tracked and monitored to evaluate the success of the program using the **performance measurement indicators** developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, submission of monthly statistics and quarterly reports, as well as direct contact with the Department's Program Office.

The PMI Previous Results for the period of 7/1/09 – 3/31/10 are as follows: 141 cases have applied for SSI benefits. Out of the 141 cases that have applied, 89 cases were approved for SSI benefits. The approval rate at this time is 76%. The vendor is only paid for the successful approval of SSI benefits.

Except as specifically modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement as extended shall remain the same.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester to exercise the third and final option to extend the agreement with the Public Consulting Group, Inc. to provide the above said services.

An appropriate resolution is attached herewith seeking your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITIONS CONTRACT 7-1-2010 JUDITH VIEIRA SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to exercise the third and final option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) for the provision of Eligibility Determination and Related Services in connection with Social Security Supplemental Security Income Benefits for the period **July 1, 2010** through **June 30, 2011** for an amount not-to-exceed **\$350,000** to be paid pursuant to an approved program budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract is subject to County Appropriation; 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, except as specifically modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement as extended shall remain the same; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any documents and take any actions reasonably necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Original Agreement:	\$200,000
First Extension:	\$200,000
Second Extension:	\$200,000
This Extension:	<u>\$350,000</u>
Total	\$950,000

Account to be Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$54,950
2011	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$54,950
2010	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$48,825
2011	101	22	8900	5860	-----	\$48,825
2010	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$71,225
2011	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$71,225

Budget Funding Year(s) **2010-11** Start Date: **7/1/10** End Date: **6/30/11**
 (must match resolution)

		5880	5850	5860
Funding Source:	Tax Dollars:	31%	25%	50%
	State Aid:	41%	25%	50%
	Federal Aid:	28%	50%	-0-
	Other	_____		

\$350,000
 (must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 7-1-2010 - JOSE MARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY