



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

12675

Date: July 1, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Re: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. for the provision of the Project Learn program which will provide educational enhancement services for at-risk youth from low income families for a period commencing on September 1, 2010 and terminating on August 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$22,500 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. to implement the Project Learn program which will provide educational enhancement services for at-risk youth from low income families for a period commencing on September 1, 2010 and terminating on August 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$22,500 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The contractor has identified a 10% cost savings for this agreement. Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. eliminated training for staff and reduced the amount of supplies and administrative costs. The number of youth expected to benefit from this program remains unchanged.

Since 1929, the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people who need them the most, regardless of economic, social and family circumstances. The Boys & Girls Club has worked closely with young people from disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances for more than three generations. The Club provides after school, school vacation, holiday and summer programming to children and

youth ages 6 to 18. The Project Learn Educational Enhancement Program will be conducted at three (3) clubhouses: Mascaro, Remington and Respect. The program will provide support needed for 30 children year round who are served by the three facilities and who qualify under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) criteria. Project Learn will serve youth ages 6-18. Referrals will come through effective collaborations with schools, law enforcement agencies, city and county departments, community, faith-based organizations and parents.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement achieve a **public purpose** by creating a structured after school program for the TANF eligible youth population in Westchester County. The program will provide academic enrichment activities to improve school performance and attendance of these youth, as well as provide an alternative to activities that may result in criminal behavior.

The **goals and objectives** of Project Learn are to break the cycle of dependency on Public Assistance, with a focus on children of TANF customers, by providing after school homework help and tutoring. The Project Learn program is designed to create an increase in school attendance and improvement in grades of the youth who participate. The program will provide up to eight hours per week of homework help and tutoring as well as constructive academic and recreational after school activities. The educational and social needs of these students are incorporated into this program. Project Learn includes academic enrichment activities that will enable youth to succeed in their current academic and future employment pursuits. Some additional benefits of this program include an increase in the number of hours spent on homework and high-yield learning activities, improved attitude towards learning, remedial support, and improved grades in school, resulting in improved self-esteem and overall behavior.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health** in that the services provided by the program support youth in their homes and reduce family stressors created by youth involved in negative activities in the community. Many factors contribute to the academic failure of young people from disadvantaged circumstances. Research demonstrates that the way children use their time both in and out of school is an important predictor of their academic performance. Low-achieving students spend most of their non-school hours involved in activities that have little benefit to them in the classroom. High-achieving students, on the other hand, participate in more activities that reinforce the skills and knowledge they are learning in school.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety** in that this program encourages positive youth and community development, which is aimed at reducing the occurrence of truancy and involvement with the criminal justice system, as well as destructive behaviors such as substance abuse. Many youth offenders are from the area served by this program. The Project Learn program will provide the support required to redirect potential youth offenders, improving the youth's overall well-being and creating a safer community. The program will also support public safety by engaging the students in a viable after school structured

environment that will keep them off the streets and discourage them from getting involved in potential criminal and gang related activities.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that these services provide positive alternative activities which can be a tool to help avert the need for additional services such as foster care, and non-secure detention facilities. Preventing children from entering these institutions can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster Care cost annualized per youth-** The cost of foster care in a family setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per youth depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized foster care cost from **\$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 per youth.**
- **Residential Foster Care cost annualized per youth-** The cost of residential foster care can range from \$47.14 up to \$627 per day per youth. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$17,206.10 to \$228,855 per youth.**
- **Non-Secure Detention cost annualized per youth-** The average cost to maintain a youth in non-secured detention is \$323 per diem. This translates into an annualized cost of **\$117,895 per youth.**
- **Secured Detention cost annualized per youth-** The average cost to maintain a youth in a secured detention facility is \$317 per diem per youth. That translates into an annualized cost of **\$115,705 per youth.**
- **Boys & Girls Club, Inc cost annualized per youth-** Boys & Girls Club, Inc has an annualized program cost of \$22,500. The program expects to serve 30 youth. That translates into an estimated per diem of \$2.05 and an annualized cost of **\$750 per youth.**

The **negative consequences** for not entering into this agreement will be that the Department may experience an increase in the numbers of youth involved in truancy and other related activities which would have a negative impact on their lives and the community. The County could potentially have to pay for other more costly services associated with out-of-home placements and criminal justice services.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored to evaluate the performance of the Project Learn Program and to determine outcomes realized through the use of mutually established performance measurement indicators formulated by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by the vendor and site visits.

The **results of the Performance Measurement Indicators for the current contract** show that for the period from September 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, 30 TANF eligible youth were served. Of the 30 youth, 96.7% showed improvement in grades as measured by their report cards. Of the same 30 youth served, 96.7% had a school attendance rate of 90% or better. Of the 30 youth served, there was 100% participation in homework assistance and tutoring services.

The proposed agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) (xviii) of that policy.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. to operate the aforesaid program.

Approval of the attached resolution by your Honorable Board is respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 7-22-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, Inc. for the provision of Project Learn, an educational enhancement program for at-risk youth from low income families for the term **September 1, 2010** through **August 31, 2011** (the "Agreement") in an amount not to exceed \$22,500 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be

Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	263	22	413K	4380	T413	\$22,500

Budget Funding Years: 2010

Start Date 9/1/10

End Date 8/31/11

(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars _____

\$22,500

State Aid _____

(must match the resolution)

Federal Aid _____ 100%

Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITIONS CONTRACT - 1-2-10 JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY