

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD  
Acting Commissioner

15260

DATE: November 9, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Grant E. Mitchell, MD  
Acting Commissioner, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: **Authority to amend an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring and evaluation services for the Foster Parent Orientation, Certification and Home Studies of prospective foster and adoptive parents by extending the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to April 30, 2011 and also by increasing the total aggregate not-to-exceed amount by an additional \$63,870 from \$212,900 to \$276,770 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation, to cover the cost associated with the services to be provided during the extended term**

---

By Resolution adopted by your Honorable Board on October 15, 2009, the County of Westchester (the "County") was authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. ("Family Ties") for the provision of professional consultation, monitoring and evaluation services for the Foster Parent Orientation, Certification and Home Studies of prospective foster and adoptive parents, for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$212,950. An agreement (DSS619-10) was subsequently executed with the vendor for an amount not to exceed \$212,900 (for a lower amount).

In the next several months, an RFP will be developed and released for the provision of professional consultation, monitoring and evaluation services. To guarantee the provision of these services until a provider is chosen, authority is now requested to amend the agreement with Family Ties by extending the end date from December 31, 2010 to April 30, 2011 and also by increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$63,870 from a total not-to-exceed amount of \$212,900 to a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$276,770 to be paid monthly, to cover the costs associated with the services to be provided during the extended term.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because the services allow for orientation, screening and training of potential adoptive and foster family homes. Family foster homes offer children in foster care a safe,

nurturing and home-like environment, thereby helping to reduce the trauma of removal from their families.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide mandated orientation, screening and training to prospective foster and adoptive parents. The purpose of this intensive process is to help the Department select appropriate foster and adoptive parents and assist the prospective foster and adoptive parents to make an informed decision about whether foster or adoptive parenting is right for them.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as this service helps the Department to adequately train potential foster and adoptive parents to care for vulnerable children who have been abused or neglected and cannot remain at home. Throughout the intensive training process and home study, the vendor further screens the parents to ensure they are willing and capable of providing care to these children. The pool of foster and adoptive parents needs to be continuously replenished as new children enter care and children are adopted by the Department's existing resources.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the services replenish/increase the pool of available family foster homes. Having a pool of highly trained foster parents allows for children to be placed at the lowest, most appropriate level of care and reduces the risk of having to place some youth in residential care. Reducing the number of children placed in residential care can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster care cost annualized per child** - The cost of foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per child 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 child per year.**
- **Residential Foster care cost annualized per child** - The cost of residential foster care costs can range from \$199.60 to \$446.78 per day per child. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$72,854.00 to \$163,074.70 per child per year.**

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, submission and review of periodic reports and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of September 30, 2010, the Department is able to report that the vendor is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the contract and is on track to serving 100% of contract capacity. The vendor is required to complete 38 Foster/Adoptive Home Studies, and as of September 30, 2010, it has met 76% of the contracted goal.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in force and effect.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a) (ix) and 3(a) (xviii), thereof.

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

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to amend an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, and evaluation services for the Foster Parent Orientation, Certification, and Home Studies of prospective foster and adoptive parents, by extending the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to April 30, 2011 and also by increasing the total aggregate not-to-exceed amount by an additional \$63,870 from \$212,900 to \$276,770 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that 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**, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

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

Original Contract Amount: \$212,900  
**This Amendment: \$ 63,870**  
 Total: \$276,770

Account to be  
 Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$63,870

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011  
 (must match resolution)

Start Date: N/A End Date: 04/30/2011

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 41%  
 State Aid: 36%  
 Federal Aid: 23%  
 Other:

**\$63,870**  
 (must match resolution)