

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

15846

DATE: December 7, 2010

TO: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester (“County”) to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for a term commencing on January 1, 2011 and terminating on December 31, 2011 whereby Westchester Institute for Human Development will administer the “Project IMPACT” program and provide intensive in-home parent training services to parents with cognitive or learning disabilities in an amount not to exceed \$295,349 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 Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will administer the “Project IMPACT” program and provide intensive in-home parent training services to parents with cognitive or learning disabilities who have been identified by the Department of Social Services as being at risk of having one or more children removed from their care. The agreement shall commence on January 1, 2011 and expire on December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$295,349 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to future appropriation. There is a 10% decrease in the amount requested for the 2011 agreement. These savings were mostly achieved from decreases of costs in other than personnel services and administrative overhead. There is no impact on the services provided to families and children.

The contract serves a **public purpose** whereby the program preserves the family, reduces the risk of child abuse or neglect and/or need for foster care placement as the parents are in a better position to understand, as well as, handle child behaviors. Project IMPACT began at WIHD in 2005 and is a child maltreatment prevention program to provide intensive, in-home services for parents with cognitive and learning limitations who are at risk for family disruption. Project IMPACT serves families with a parent of any age or gender with an identified cognitive and/or learning disability who are at risk for foster care placement of their children and are receiving preventive services.

The goals and objective of this program are to:

- Reduce family disruption
- Provide permanency, safety and well-being for children with parents with cognitive and/or learning disabilities
- Identify service needs for the children and family following intensive in-home services to reduce family disruption for these families
- Provide intensive in-home parent training services to families at risk for foster care placement of their children
- Provide parenting services that meet the learning needs of parents with cognitive disabilities
- Provide parenting services that are consistent with the parenting curriculum developed specifically for this population
- Ensure that children in those families receive all appropriate health, mental health and developmental services
- Ensure that caseworkers are knowledgeable about the needs of these families and can be empowered to support permanency for children in those families

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and safety as the services reduce the risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment of the children of Westchester County. Services also enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements. Preventive services have been proven to be reliable and effective.

Furthermore, in terms of fiscal responsibility, the services provided by the program help to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system 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 \$50.22 up to \$562.00 per day per child, depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized cost from **\$18,330.30 to \$205,130.00 per child per year.**
- **Contract program cost avoidance annualized per child.** During the 2009 contract period, the program succeeded in averting foster care placements for 38 children. The projected minimum annualized foster care cost avoidance can range from **\$237,177.00 to \$813,475.50.**

The goals and objectives will be monitored using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The program office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor and making site visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of October 31, 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% contract capacity. In addition as of October 31, 2010, WIHD has averted 100% foster care placements and helped keep families intact.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant of Section 3 (a) viii of said policy.

A resolution for your Honorable Board's approval is annexed herewith. I recommend your favorable consideration of the annexed proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will administer the “Project IMPACT” program and provide intensive in-home parent training services to parents with cognitive or learning disabilities who have been identified by the Department of Social Services as being at risk of having one or more children removed from their care, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$295,349 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement 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 the 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 the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$295,349

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011 Start Date: 01/01/11 End Date: 12/31/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 41%
 State Aid: 36%
\$295,349 Federal Aid: 23%
(must match resolution) Other: