

**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD  
Acting Commissioner

15924

Date: December 10, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$115,650 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$115,650 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been a decrease in the NTE amount from that of 2010 resulting from a reduction of program operation in the Yonkers District Office.

The services provided pursuant to this contract serve a **public purpose** because they are aimed at promoting the safety and general welfare of the children in Westchester County who are the alleged victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse through immediate and ongoing intervention services addressing their victimization and decreasing the emotional stress to families in crisis. The program seeks to preserve the family, reduces the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide protective and preventive services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services by providing concrete services expediently to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse. Under the proposed agreement, Victims Assistance Services program will:

- be responsible for immediate and initial crisis counseling services for victims and children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse
- be responsible for maintaining continued contact with these families and to assist in the arrangement of specialized supportive services for them
- help these families cope with the multiple demands placed on them by the legal, medical and child protective systems they work with regularly
- participate in the child fatality reviews

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract are aimed at promoting and ensuring the safety and well being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual/physical abuse by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the services provided by the program help to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placement. 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 annualized per child** – WestCOP’s annualized program cost is \$115,650. The 2011 contract capacity is 120 children in total, which would translate to **\$963.75 per child per year.**

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 and reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators** available 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. To date, the program has served 220 children. Of the 220 served, the program has averted 97.3% foster care placements. Ninety-four percent of the children served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report while receiving services.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) (xviii) as it is an agreement to improve the well-being of the children and youth in Westchester County.

Therefore, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board’s approval.

## 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 enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$115,650 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved 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**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is empowered to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

2011

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$115,650

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

Start Date: 1/1/2011 End Date: 12/31/2011

Funding Source

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

**\$115,650**

(must match resolution)