



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD  
Acting Commissioner

15928

Date: December 13, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Subject: Authority to enter into an Agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. for the provision of family-based casework and supportive services for families of children in foster care and whose child(ren) are placed in out-of-state and out-of-county residential settings and whereas such placements in those locations pose an obstacle towards the child's reunification with their families, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, for an amount not to exceed \$119,629 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved program budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") for the provision of family-based casework and supportive services for families of children in foster care and whose child(ren) are placed in out-of-state and out-of-county residential settings and whereas such placements in those locations pose an obstacle towards their reunification with their families, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, for an amount not to exceed \$119,629 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation (the "Agreement"). There has been a decrease in the amount requested for 2011 for this program. The cost savings is reflective of the reduction in the number of youth served in this program. There is a decline in the placement of children in out-of-state residential facilities, which reduces the number of referrals made to this program.

The Children's Village, Inc. Westchester Out Of County Connection Program (WOCC), formally referred to as Westchester Out Of State (WOOS), began its service to youth and families in 2005. The WOCC program was designed to serve families with children who carry diagnoses of severe emotional, psychiatric, developmental and behavioral problems and are placed in out of state institutions and out of county institutions where the geographic location is deemed to be a barrier to permanency.

**This Agreement will serve a public purpose** by providing support services to families of children placed in out-of-state and out-of-county residential settings, thereby promoting the return of the child to the parent or caretaker. Under the terms of the Agreement, Children's Village will provide family-based casework and supportive services to the families of children who carry diagnoses of severe emotional, psychiatric, developmental and behavioral problems and are placed in out-of-state and out-of-county residential settings which have specialized services not available in the State and to youth who are placed in in-state residential facilities whose location poses an obstacle towards their reunification with their families.

**The goals and objective of the Children's Village WOCC program are to:**

1. Help families prepare for the successful return of their child to their families/guardian and community
2. Service youth placed in out-of-state or out-of-county facilities and youth who are in hospital, incarcerated, on AWOL status and/or otherwise identified by DSS to be appropriate for this program. The **WOCC** will seek to step the youth down to a lower level of care in an in-state facility/program.
3. Reduce the length of out of state and out of county placement of youth who were previously deemed to require services that were not available in Westchester County. For children with a goal of Independent Living, Adoption or Adult Custodial Care, WOCC will monitor the child's progress and plan for the child's transfer in-state or within Westchester County to an appropriate level of care.
4. Provide family visits & caseworker services to youth who are placed in out-of-state and in-state residential facilities whose location poses an obstacle towards their reunification with their families. The **WOCC** program will be the bridge between the child and the discharge resource, with the goal of strengthening the familial relationship and expediting the reunification process.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of Health and Safety** as the Children's Village WOCC program's focuses on helping families prepare for the successful return of their child and maintain family stability so that the child is able to remain home without requiring further intervention from the court or DSS. WOCC will monitor the child's progress and plan for the child's transfer in-state to an appropriate level of care. The WOCC program will be the bridge between the child and the discharge resource, with the goal of strengthening the familial relationship and expediting the reunification process. The overall child welfare goals are achieved and the health and well-being of the child is enhanced.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that these services prepare youth for a lower level of care and for eventual return to the family. The associated cost avoidance is as follows:

- **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 \$50.22 up to \$562 per day per youth. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$18,330.30 to \$205,130 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.**
- **Children's Village WOCC cost annualized per youth-** Children's Village has an annualized program cost of \$119,629. The program expects to serve 20 youth. That translates into an estimated per diem of \$16.39 and an annualized cost of **\$5,981.45 per youth.**

**The goals and objectives will be tracked and 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 furnished by the vendor and making site visits.

**Based on Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report** that Children's Village WOCC, formally WOOS, has served 75% of contracted capacity as of the end of the third quarter 2010. As of October 2010, 7 youth were discharged home and all of them were appropriately placed in a school program within 30 days of discharge. Of the 27 youth served year-to-date, 16 (60%) were brought back into the state. Another 7 youths were stepped down to a lower level of care.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii of thereof.

An appropriate resolution is herewith attached for your Honorable Board's consideration.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12-30-2010 - JOYMA VEIRA, SECRETARY

# 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 The Children's Village, Inc. for the provision of family-based casework and supportive services for families of children in foster care and whose child(ren) are placed in out-of-state and out-of-county residential settings and whereas such placements in those locations pose an obstacle towards their reunification with their families, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, for an amount not to exceed \$119,629 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget (the "Agreement"); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this contract is subject to County Appropriations; 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 hereby authorized to execute all documents, necessary and appropriate, to effectuate the purpose hereof.

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$119,629

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011      Start Date: 1/1/11      End Date: 12/31/11  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source                      Tax Dollars: 30 %  
    State Aid: 41%  
\$119,629                                Federal Aid: 29%  
 (must match resolution) Other \_\_\_\_\_