



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin McGuire
Commissioner

18887

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Date: May 3, 2011

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents for the term May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations

On November 29, 2010, the Westchester County Department of Social Services (the "Department") issued a Request for Proposals for "Marketing and Training of Foster/Adoptive Parents" ("RFP"). The Department received four proposals as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. | \$265,097 |
| 2. Westchester Institute of Human Development | \$276,707 |
| 3. Center for the Support of Families, Inc. | \$383,641 |
| 4. Abbott House | \$429,206 |

After evaluating these proposals, the Department has determined that the proposal for foster and adoptive parent training from Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. ("Family Ties") is the most cost effective and the firm meets the specified qualification criteria. Pursuant to the County's Procurement Policy and Procedures, the Department negotiated with Family Ties and the price proposal was reduced to \$226,360.

It is therefore recommended that your Honorable Board authorize the County to enter into an agreement with Family Ties to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents for the term May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. The County will

have an option to renew the agreement for up to five (5) additional one-year periods upon the same terms and conditions, to be paid pursuant to approved budgets and subject to appropriations.

The agreement with Family Ties would serve the public purpose of providing orientation, screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents. The proposed agreement will assist the Department in selecting appropriate foster and adoptive parents and will assist them in making an informed decision about whether foster or adoptive parenting is right for them.

Family Ties uses the Models Approach to parenting and Partnership (“MAPP”) which includes:

- up to 30 hours of training provided in each comprehensive multi-week training program cycle;

- a written profile about each and every family or household member;
- a minimum of two family consultations;
- a home safety inspection;
- a complete medical clearance;
- State Central Registry clearance for previous child abuse and maltreatment;
- criminal history background check;
- personal contact with references;
- complete a financial assessment

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are to provide **professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents and to provide foster/adoptive parent marketing and recruitment programs and also to increase** the number of available foster and adoptive homes within the County.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety in that this service helps the Department identify potential foster and adoptive parents who can care for vulnerable children who have been abused or neglected and cannot remain at home. The vendor screens the parents to ensure they can provide the State-mandated services and refers them on for more intensive training, home studies, and screening to ensure they are willing and capable of providing care for these children.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the services provided by the program allows for the increased availability of foster and adoptive homes in a family foster setting thereby decreasing the need to place children in higher levels of care such as 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 \$19.26 to \$57.76 per day per child depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized foster care cost from **\$7,029.90 to \$21,082.40 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. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$18,330 to \$205,130 per child per year.**

The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored to evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the contract, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits.

Family Ties will also provide orientation sessions designed to inform, encourage and engage eligible persons responding to the marketing campaign to apply to become foster and/or adoptive parents and encourage them to attend subsequent training.

A Resolution is annexed hereto, which I recommend for your favorable consideration. A separate Resolution is being submitted to your Honorable Board for a foster/adoptive parent marketing and recruitment program.

KMM/DLV
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 05/12/2011 - FAMILY TIES SECRETARY



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RESOLUTION

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 Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to provide professional consultation, monitoring, evaluation screening and training of potential adoptive and foster parents for the term May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$226,360 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County shall have an option to renew the agreement for up to five (5) additional one-year periods upon the same terms and conditions, to be paid pursuant to approved budgets and subject to appropriations; 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 ("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 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 impact of any such budget(s) 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 the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and 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	5880	-----	\$150,907
2012	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$ 75,453

Budget Funding Year(s) :2011-12 Start Date: 05/01/11 End Date: 04/30/12
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 41%
 State Aid: 36%
\$226,360 Federal Aid: 23%
 (must match resolution) Other:

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