

**20973**

DATE: August 11, 2011  
TO: The Board of Acquisition and Contract  
FROM: Mary Kate Cabaleiro, Coordinator  
Westchester County Youth Bureau  
RE: Authority to enter into an Agreement with Student Advocacy, Inc. to operate the Overcoming the Odds II program for the program period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in the total amount not-to-exceed \$55,573

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Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Student Advocacy, Inc. to operate the Overcoming the Odds II program, for the program period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The funding amount for this program will be provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services in an amount not-to-exceed \$55,573. There is no match requirement for this funding stream therefore the total contract amount will not exceed \$55,573 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget.

SDPP is a specific initiative targeted to youth with well-defined needs. SDPP supports services aimed at keeping youth from becoming involved or dependent upon the juvenile justice and/or human service systems. It also promotes efforts to reduce the need for longer term acute or chronic care services.

The Overcoming the Odds II program offers educational advocacy services to the families of at-risk youth facing significant school problems such as academic failure, dropping out, disciplinary problems or failure to enroll. It results in more appropriate school services that ensure: access to school, improved behavior and better educational progress leading towards graduation.

The planned 2011 program outcomes are as follows:

Of the 68 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 55 will benefit from parents who have improved parenting skills regarding the resolution of school problems as measured by parent reports.

Of the 68 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 55 will benefit from new instructional opportunities and educational supports at school, as measured by an analysis of changes in school services before and after advocacy intervention.

Of the 68 youth who receive educational advocacy services, the parents of 55 of the youth will report that the youth will achieve one or more of the following: improved attendance at school, improved academic progress at school, decreased disciplinary problems at school, as measured by parent's reports.

Each of the goals and objectives as stated above will be tracked and monitored through monthly, quarterly and annual reports, Report Cards and by bi-yearly site visits from Youth Bureau Program Monitors.

This program was funded in 2010. Please note that the outcomes were achieved as indicated below:

**Of the 85 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 72 will benefit from parents who have improved parenting skills regarding the resolution of school problems as measured by parent reports.** *Among the 146 completed cases, 139 parents reported that they are better able to advocate for their child. They have greater knowledge of their child's rights, the educational process, and advocacy strategies.*

**Of the 85 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 72 will benefit from new instructional opportunities and educational supports at school, as measured by an analysis of changes in school services before and after advocacy intervention.** *Among the 146 completed cases, 139 gained new instructional opportunities and educational supports including access to school after being denied registration, minimal loss of school time after a suspension, home instruction during a suspension, academic supports and/or special education services targeted to the student's learning needs.*

**Of the 85 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 72 of parents reports the youth will achieved one or more of the following: improved attendance at school, improved academic progress at school, decreased disciplinary problems at school, as measured by parents reports.** *Educational advocacy services were completed for 146 youth. Parents of 126 reported that their child has improved in one or more of the ways listed above.*

Pursuant to Act No. 109 – 2011 adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators on July 11, 2011 the County of Westchester was authorized to participate in a Resource Allocation Plan to provide State reimbursement for certain youth services programs which operate with funding provided by the County's Special Delinquency Prevention Program.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to section 3(a)xviii thereof. Nevertheless, in 2008 the Youth Bureau issued an RFP to cover the program years 2009 – 2011. This agency is one of 94 agencies that submitted a proposal in response to the RFP. However due to the precariousness of the funding stream from the state, the Youth Bureau deemed it appropriate to enter into one year contracts with this agency as opposed to a three year contract as stated in the above mentioned RFP. The agency has agreed to contract with the County on a year to year basis for the 2009 – 2011 period based upon appropriation and contract compliance.

An appropriate Resolution is attached hereto for your Honorable Board's consideration.

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Coordinator of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement with Student Advocacy, Inc. to operate the Overcoming the Odds II program for the program period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in the total amount not-to-exceed Fifty Five Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Three (\$55,573) Dollars payable pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement 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 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 their Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited SDPP	Fund	Dept. code	Unit #	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	263	11	040L	4380	T040	\$55,573
Budget Funding Year(s) <u>2011</u> Start Date <u>January 1, 2011</u> End Date <u>December 31, 2011</u> (must match resolution)						
Funding Source	Tax Dollars _____ \$ _____					
	State Aid _____ \$55,573 _____					
\$55,573 (must match resolution)	Federal Aid _____ \$ _____					
	Other _____					