

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

22190

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Date: October 31, 2011

Re: Authorization to enter into a Letter of Understanding/Letter of Revenue Intercept to utilize medical providers under contract with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to provide medical and psychological examinations and/or intelligence tests for persons who are applying for or receiving Temporary Assistance Benefits or Food Stamps or to make recommendations for Federal Disability Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, or disability determinations for Medical Assistance recipients for the term **January 1, 2012** through **December 31, 2012** at a cost not to exceed \$350,000 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (the "State") issued a Local Commissioners Memorandum in December 2006 which outlined the above referenced program, whereby local social services districts were offered the opportunity to utilize medical providers under contract with the State to provide medical and psychological examinations and/or intelligence tests for persons who are applying for or receiving Temporary Assistance Benefits or Food Stamps or to make recommendations for Federal Disability Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, or Disability determinations for Medical Assistance recipients.

Due to the success of this program in providing assessment services for our Temporary Assistance customers, the Department would like to continue participating in the above program. Accordingly, authority is now requested to enter into a Letter of Understanding /Letter of Intercept with the New York State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance to provide the aforesaid services for the period **January 1, 2012** through **December 31, 2012** at a cost not to exceed \$350,000. It is to be noted that the cost of providing these services in an

amount not to exceed \$350,000 will be deducted from Westchester's RF-2 or RF-2A Federal or State settlement funds available for Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The services provided pursuant to this agreement achieve a public purpose by identifying the physical and psychological barriers which impede the employability status of Temporary Assistance customers. As a result of these assessments, rehabilitative plans can be developed to address these issues and create a plan of action to develop their employability status. The successful removal of these medical and psychological barriers will allow the customers access to employment resources which will promote their self-sufficiency and economic security, and ultimately end their dependence on Temporary Assistance.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are to provide funding for assessment services from medical providers under contract with the State, for medical and psychological evaluations. These assessments will help determine employability for Temporary Assistance recipients and be used as a tool in developing individualized plans that lead to employability status for the Temporary Assistance recipients.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility because the aim is to move Temporary Assistance recipients out of the classification of being unemployable. Each customer who either moves into employability status or is referred to Social Security, represents a reduction in County expenditures when they ultimately obtain employment or receive Social Security benefits. There is a significant economic cost for individuals in receipt of Temporary Assistance. Currently, Family Assistance customers cost the County \$11,520, Safety Net Families cost \$15,000 and Safety Net Individuals cost \$8,268 per year. The cost savings to the County results when cases in these assistance categories close. Furthermore, reaching a status of employability for Temporary Assistance customers will qualify them to become engaged in employment activities that can ultimately lead to self sufficiency and economic independence.

The goals and objectives of this contract will be tracked and monitored by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The performance reports are based on the parameters determined by New York State. The provider submits monthly rosters of all customers served in the previous month. A quarterly performance report is also submitted to New York State. The Department can review these reports to determine fiscal savings as well as referrals to our employment programs for customers who qualify.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators reported from January 2011 through September 2011, 2189 customers were referred for assessments, 535 customers were determined to be temporarily unemployable and needed rehabilitation, while 201 were deemed permanently unemployable and potentially eligible for Social Security Benefits. Additionally, 899 customers were determined to be employable with restrictions while 86 deemed fully employable without any restrictions. The customers who were determined to be employable were referred to the various programs offered by our Department for job training and job placement, setting the stage for their eventual departure from dependency on Temporary Assistance.

It is therefore requested that your Honorable Board authorize the Department of Social Services (the "Department") to enter into a Letter of Understanding/Letter of Revenue

Intercept with New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for the provision of the aforesaid services.

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

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/15/2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, by and through its Department of Social Services (“Department”), is hereby authorized to enter into a Letter of Understanding/Letter of Revenue Intercept with the State of New York, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (“State”) for the provision of medical assessment services pursuant to the State’s contract for such services for the Department’s customers for the term commencing **January 1, 2012** and terminating **December 31, 2012** at a cost not to exceed \$350,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid cost will be deducted from Westchester’s RF-2 or RF-2A Federal or State settlement funds available for Temporary and Disability Assistance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized 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
101	22	8900	9716	-----	<\$70,000>
101	22	8900	9723	-----	<280,000>

Budget Funding Year(s) 2012 Start Date: 1/1/12 End Date: 12/31/12
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars:	<u>9716</u>	<u>9723</u>
	State Aid:		71%
<u>(\$350,000)</u>	Federal Aid	100%	29%
(match resolution)	Other	_____	