

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

25618

Date: March 14, 2012

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester, acting through its Department of Social Services, to exercise its first option to extend the agreement with All County Bus, LLC to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers by extending the contract for one (1) additional year commencing June 1, 2012 and terminating May 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$170,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

By resolution approved June 9, 2011, your Honorable Board authorized the County to enter into an agreement with All County Bus, LLC to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers for the period June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$170,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation with the County having the sole option to extend the agreement for 5 additional one-year periods, The agreement was subsequently executed. It should be noted that the vendor was selected as the lowest responsible bidder in a bid process.

Authority is now requested for the County to exercise its first option to extend the agreement with All County Bus, LLC by extending the contract for one (1) additional year for the term June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$170,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

This contract serves a **public purpose** in that it promotes the health, safety and welfare of families and children in Westchester County by promoting attachment between parents and children and strengthening their relationships as a result of frequency and consistency of

visitations. Additionally, regular visitation between children who are currently in foster care and their families facilitate family assessments and can help the Department, as well as, the court to determine whether reunification is the best permanency option for the child.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** of the children of Westchester County. Visitation allows for the preservation and strengthening of parent-child relationships, as well as, serving as a strategy for reunifying families and achieving permanency. Visitation also reduces the negative effects of separation for the child and the parent.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the visitation program enables the Department to determine an appropriate plan or timeframe for reunification, thereby, decreasing the length of stay in foster care placement and avoiding the associated costs. Additionally, the provision of transportation for the purpose of court ordered visitations affords the Department the ability to remain in compliance, thereby preventing possible sanctions and/or fines. Lastly, by providing transportation services versus using a case manager to provide the same service, the case manager will have more available routine work hours to focus on other aspects of their jobs such as case planning and case management activities.

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.

During the 2011-2012 contract year:

- 1090 Trips were requested
- 460 Children were served

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to exercise its first option to extend an Agreement with All County Bus, LLC for the above stated purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to exercise its first option to extend the agreement with All County Bus, LLC to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers by extending the agreement for one (1) additional year for the period June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$170,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2012	101	22	8900	5880	----	\$99,167
2013	101	22	8900	5880	----	\$70,833

Budget Funding Year(s) 2012-2013
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 06/1/12

End Date: 05/31/13

Funding Source

\$170,000

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 25%

State Aid: 47%

Federal Aid: 28%

Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS 04/12/2012 - JOHANNY VIEIRA, SECRETARY