

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**30640**

Date: November 21, 2012

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Re: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") whereby WIHD, through its "Enhanced Foster Care Program", will provide psycho-social in-home assessments of children placed or replaced in foster care, comprehensive developmental screening for children in foster care, foster parent training and respite/recreational services to identified foster children for a term commencing January 1, 2013 and terminating December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$558,243 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to future appropriation

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") whereby WIHD, through its "Enhanced Foster Care Program", will provide psycho-social in-home assessments of children placed or replaced in foster care, comprehensive developmental screening for children in foster care, foster parent training and respite/recreational services to identified foster children in an amount not to exceed \$558,243 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

**The public purpose** of this program is to enhance the well-being and permanency for children in foster care by supporting the roles of foster parents taking care of children with difficult behaviors. The individualized evaluations of children and families generated from this program assist in identifying early in foster care placements, the service needs of children placed into care as well as their birth families. As a result of the assessments, services can be put into place to stabilize placements, reduce placement into more intensive levels of care and promote permanency planning by identifying services needed for birth parents for reunification with their children. Further, the services help to stabilize children newly placed or replaced into foster care

in order to prevent replacement of children from one home to another and to identify the supports that foster parents need when taking care of children who are difficult to care for

**The goals and objectives of this program are as follows:**

- To improve specific parenting skills for foster parents in a way that is tailored to the individualized needs of children placed in their homes;
- To identify service needs for children newly placed in foster care;
- To improve the well being of children in foster care by ensuring that the health, developmental, mental health and educational needs of children placed in foster care are met appropriately and in a timely manner;
- To stabilize foster home placements, improve child wellbeing and reduce the rate of replacement of children from one home to another.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in regard to public health and safety** in that the program provides screening, assessments, training as well as respite/recreational services for children in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Social Services. These services promote the advancement of the physical and mental well being of the most vulnerable children of Westchester County, children who have been abused or neglected and placed in foster care to ensure their safety.

**Furthermore, they are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as these support services provided by the vendor to children in foster care help to identify and ameliorate child behavioral problems which if left unchecked, can lead to a deterioration of functioning and placement in higher and more costly levels of care.

**The goals and objectives will be monitored using the performance measurement indicators** developed by the department and approved by the County Budget Office. The vendor will submit monthly statistics and performance reports in the format approved by the Department. The Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements. During the current contract period, DSS program staff maintained ongoing phone and face-to-face contact with the vendor.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators**, the Department is able to report that as of September 30, 2012, a total of 143 families and 249 children were served in this program while 95% of children served did not face placement disruptions, therefore did not need to be replaced with another foster family or, to a more restrictive placement.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) viii of said policy.

An appropriate Resolution is attached herewith seeking your Honorable Board's approval.

**RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) whereby WIHD, through its “Enhanced Foster Care Program”, will provide psycho-social assessments of children placed in foster care, foster parent training and respite/recreational services to identified foster children in an amount not to exceed \$558,243 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement 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 (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 empowered to execute 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
2013	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$558,243

Budget Funding Year(s): 2013  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/13

End Date: 12/31/13

Funding Source

**\$558,243**  
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 25%  
State Aid: 47 %  
Federal Aid: 28%  
Other: