

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**30740**

Date: November, 2012

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption after care program for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$109,630 payable pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

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Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through the Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption after care program for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$109,630 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Pursuant to the proposed agreement, WIHD will provide a community based, culturally competent, family focused post adoption aftercare program that provides adopted children who had previously been in foster care with support to meet their needs by providing clinical services, mutual supports, information and referral services as well as training in adoption competency for families.

The proposed agreement is exempt from the Procurement Policy of the County of Westchester pursuant to Section 3(a)(xiv) thereof. In addition, although the last Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for these services was awarded to WIHD in 2006, an RFP has not been undertaken this year as the service provided in past years has been excellent and the cost of this program has been reduced by \$7,041 for 2013 as compared to the annualized cost for 2012 which was at \$116,671.

This contract falls under the Social Services Block Grant and therefore is exempt from the Common Grant Rule.

The **public purpose** of the proposed agreement is to provide needed aftercare to adopted children who had previously been in foster care. Children being adopted from foster care have histories of abuse, neglect, abandonment and other traumas. Caring for those children through adulthood can be a difficult task requiring skills, understanding and support beyond what would be required for children who had not been in foster care. Both adoptive parents and adoptive children should be educated. Parenting strategies should also be developed. Without these supports, adoptions might not work out leaving the children in limbo without permanency and adoptive families.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to help children integrate into a family and assist in avoiding the re-entry of these children back into foster care. The program is designed to achieve the following:

- Promote permanency for children through supporting and sustaining adoptions,
- Promote good parenting practices for adoptive parents,
- Provide support and collaboration among adoptive parents and adoptive children,
- Develop a network of adoption competent professionals in Westchester to provide appropriate clinical services for this population.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** because services provided by this contract will help to ensure that each child coming into foster care will have their needs and conditions evaluated and properly treated, if needed. Initial assessment for children coming into foster care is critical in order to quickly identify complicated, serious physical health, mental health, or developmental problems. Furthermore, prevention strategies recommended and implemented by the Pediatrician may help to lessen the ill effects of neglect and abuse.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the proposed agreement will promote the health and safety of adopted children by assisting them in making the transition from foster care to a family environment as easily as possible.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the adoption of children keeps them out of the foster care system, avoiding the costs associated with foster care placements. **Based on the statistics available**, the Department is able to report that none of the 58 families and 114 children served by WIHD resulted in adoption disruptions. The children remained out of the foster care system, resulting in potential savings to the County.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** through the application of performance measures as stipulated in the contract developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The Department will also review periodic reports submitted by the Vendor and make onsite visits. The program office will be responsible for establishing milestones and tracking the Vendor's achievements. In addition,

program staff maintains ongoing phone and face-to-face contacts with the vendor and conducts regular site visits.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) to operate the WRAP program for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

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

KMM/DI

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/10/2013 - JOMARY WELLS, SECRETARY

## 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 the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of the Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption aftercare program for the term January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$109,630 payable pursuant to an approved budget; 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 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 the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2013	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$109,630

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

Start Date: 01/01/13

End Date: 12/31/13

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 41%  
State Aid: 30%  
Federal Aid: 29%  
Other:

**\$109,630**  
(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS & CONTRACT 01/10/2013, SIMPLY VIEIRA, SECRETARY