

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

30767

DATE December 26, 2012

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the "Family Strengthening Program" to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$81,000 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") for the provision of the "Family Strengthening Program" to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$81,000 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services provided through this contract serve a **public purpose** in that it preserves the family, reduces risk of abuse or neglect, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families are better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program promotes the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County. The Family Strengthening Program was initiated in 2002 in response to the rising amount of psychiatric hospitalizations of very young children.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with OCFS regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. One of the main goals of this contract is to keep young children out of psychiatric hospitals and assist families locate appropriate community resources for their child within their communities. The Family Strengthening Program is a crisis-oriented program that works with children and families within their communities. Another significant goal of the FSW Program is to identify gaps in services and to encourage more collaboration between the

hospitals, schools, outpatient mental health clinics and intensive/clinical case management programs. The Family Strengthening Program is available to families with a young child who has behavioral and/or emotional difficulties. This program provides direct intervention in the home and community, focusing on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The provider is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Intensive, in-home, crisis-oriented treatment
- Family education in order to preserve families and prevent foster care placement
- Assessment services to access community resources
- Teaching child development and age appropriate expectations
- Improving overall functioning and ability to parent children
- Improving family communication and establishing household routines

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements. Families are referred through to the Crisis Prevention and Response Team at St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's Hospitals. The FS Program also accepts referrals from area psychiatric hospitals, the SPOA committee, the Department of Community Mental Health, and the Department of Social Services (Child Protective Services, Preventive Services and Foster Care).

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

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.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** provided as of the end of the third quarter, September 30, 2012, the Department is able to report that the vendor is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the current contract and is on track to serving 100% of contract capacity. As of September 30, 2012, the program has provided services to eight (8) children. Of the eight (8) children served, FSW has averted 100% from Psychiatric hospitalization. In addition, FSW reported that 100% of the children served did not become the subject of a subsequent indicated CPS report and were also diverted from foster care placements while receiving services.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii. This contract is exempt from the application of the Common Grant Rule as it is contract that falls under the Social Service Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the above stated purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/14/2013 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") for the provision of the "Family Strengthening Program" to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$81,000 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, and this contract is 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 budget of the State budget and/or the adoption of the 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 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 duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take all actions necessary and appropriate on behalf of the County of Westchester 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	4500	4439	-----	\$81,000

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

Start Date: 01/01/2013

End Date: 12/31/2013

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 20%

State Aid: 46%

\$81,000
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 34%

Other: