



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

30947

Date: December 11, 2012

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services Office of Workforce Investment, acting on behalf of the Westchester Putnam Local Workforce Investment Board, to: 1) enter into a sub-grantee agreement with STRIVE National, to accept funding in the amount of \$512,500 to be used to provide a suite of services centered around STRIVE's Core Attitudinal and Job Readiness Training to a group of 30 youth, ages 14-17 and 20 youth, age 18 and older who are involved with the juvenile justice system, and who reside in high poverty and high crime neighborhoods in the City of Yonkers, for the program period January 1, 2013 through February 28, 2015; and 2) enter into agreements with Westhab, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$378,124.55 and Family Services of Westchester in an amount not-to-exceed \$27,000, whereby the agencies will provide a suite of services centered around STRIVE's Core Attitudinal and Job Readiness Training to a group of 30 youth, ages 14-17 and 20 youth, age 18 and older who are involved with the juvenile justice system, and who reside in high poverty and high crime neighborhoods in the City of Yonkers, for the program period January 1, 2013 through February 28, 2015, pursuant to approved budgets

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services Office of Workforce Investment (the "Department"), on behalf of the Westchester-Putnam Local Workforce Investment Board (the "WPWIB"), to enter into a sub-grantee agreement with STRIVE National to accept funding in the amount of \$512,500 which will be used to provide a suite of services centered around STRIVE's Core Attitudinal and Job Readiness Training to a group of 30 youth, ages 14-17 and 20 youth, age 18 and older who are involved with the juvenile justice system, and who reside in high poverty and high crime neighborhoods in the City of Yonkers.

By way of background, the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) awarded STRIVE National \$4.1 million as one of four recipients

of Federal grant funds authorized by the Workforce Investment Act to serve juvenile offenders, ages 14 and above, in high-poverty, high-crime communities, in order to improve the long-term labor market prospects of these youth. STRIVE National is a not-for-profit organization committed to serving the hardest-to-employ, most at-risk individuals. These include the long-term unemployed, the formerly incarcerated, disconnected youth, recovering addicts, public assistance recipients, veterans, the homeless, and the working poor.

On September 20th STRIVE National issued an RFP to qualified STRIVE affiliates to submit proposals to receive a portion of said grant funding to provide the services to juvenile offenders. As a STRIVE affiliate, the WPWIB was qualified to submit a proposal in response to the RFP. Thereafter, on December 3, 2012, STRIVE National awarded Westchester County \$512,500 as one of only six recipients nationally to operate the *STRIVE for the Future* program (the "Program").

In order to implement the Program, authority is also requested for the County, acting by and through the Department, on behalf of the WPLWIB, to enter into agreements with Westhab, Inc. ("Westhab") in an amount not-to-exceed \$378,124.55 and Family Services of Westchester ("FSW") in an amount not-to-exceed \$27,000, pursuant to which the agencies will provide a suite of services centered around STRIVE's Core Attitudinal and Job Readiness Training to a group of 30 youth, ages 14-17 and 20 youth, age 18 and older who are involved with the juvenile justice system, and who reside in high poverty and high crime neighborhoods in the City of Yonkers, for the program period January 1, 2013 through February 28, 2015, pursuant to approved budgets, using the aforementioned funding.

Under the proposed agreement with Westhab, Westhab will provide case management and workforce development services. Case managers will deliver STRIVE's wrap-around case management model, in which case managers work one-on-one with clients to identify and overcome barriers to employment. Participants are assigned a case manager at intake and receive a comprehensive needs assessment to determine the types of supportive services they need, including transportation, housing, mental health services, health care, anger management, and child care. The workforce development component will provide year-round and summer internships, summer jobs for juvenile offenders ages 17 and under, and work experience and placement into apprenticeships and employment for juvenile offenders ages 18 and above.

Under the proposed agreement with FSW, FSW will provide mentoring and restorative justice services. The mentoring component will include career-based or transitional mentoring one-on-one, within a group, and/or pursuant to a service-based arrangement. The restorative justice component will provide community service projects to re-engage youth offenders with their communities and peer networks, as well as transition into institutions such as work and education. These projects will not only serve local residents, but will also provide substantive opportunities for youth to develop life and employment skills that are transferable to internships, vocational training, and to their lives after they graduate from STRIVE programs.

The agreements with the Westhab and FSW were procured in accordance with sections 6 and 13 of the County Procurement Policy. On October 2, 2012, the Department issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP"), to solicit proposals from local service providers to be partners in the Program, which provides intensive employment services to economically disadvantaged youth

who are juvenile offenders, ages fourteen and older in South-West Yonkers. The purpose of the Program is to improve the long-term labor market prospects of these youth. This solicitation sought to identify eligible local entities to provide one or all of the following components of the Program, including case management, workforce development, education and training and other services, restorative justice, mentoring and community services. An information session was held on October 4th and the following agencies' representatives attended: Westcop, Westhab, Urban League, Family Services of Westchester, Westchester County Foster Care Unit, Southern Westchester BOCES, and Educational Opportunities Center. On October, 9th the Department received five (5) proposals in response to the RFP, from the following agencies: Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WestCOP), Westhab, Southern Westchester BOCES (SWBOCES), Family Services of Westchester (FSW), and the Urban League of Westchester. The Department reviewed these proposals and evaluated them based upon the evaluation criteria specified in the RFP. The result of this review and evaluation was that Westhab was selected to provide case management and workforce development services, while FSW was selected to provide services under the mentoring and restorative justice category. Based upon Westhab and FSW's past performance in contracts with the County and their current proposals, the County is confident that both agencies are responsible vendors for these services.

The **goals and objectives** of these contracts are to place 50 program eligible youth, from various high crime, high poverty neighborhoods in Yonkers into a program to provide a suite of services centered around STRIVE's Core Attitudinal and Job Readiness Training.

The **goals and objectives** of these contracts are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility because the participating youth will receive case management, mentoring and restorative justice services to develop them economically and have a dramatic impact on their communities by reducing the impact on the criminal justice system where several of these youth have been involved.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement will be tracked and monitored by staff of the Department.

Accordingly, I respectfully recommend the adoption of the annexed resolution.

KMM/CJ/jpg

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the “County”) acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), on behalf of the Office of Workforce Investment (“WPLWIB”), is hereby authorized to enter into a sub-grantee agreement with STRIVE National, to accept funding in the amount of \$512,500 to be used to provide a suite of services centered around STRIVE’s Core Attitudinal and Job Readiness Training to a group of 30 youth, ages 14-17 and 20 youth, age 18 and older who are involved with the juvenile justice system, and who reside in high poverty and high crime neighborhoods in the City of Yonkers, for the program period January 1, 2013 through February 28, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County, acting by and through the Department, on behalf of the WPLWIB, is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with Westhab, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$378,124.55 and Family Services of Westchester in an amount not-to-exceed \$27,000, whereby the agencies will provide intensive employment services to economically disadvantaged youth who are juvenile offenders, ages fourteen and older in South-West Yonkers for the program period January 1, 2013 through February 28, 2015, pursuant to approved budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
275	22	476M	7340	T476	\$405,124.55
275	22	476M	4531	T476	\$107,375.45
275	22	476M	9852	T476	\$512,500.00

Budget Funding Year(s): 2012(Grant Year) Start Date: 1/1/13 End Date: 2/28/15
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars _____
State Aid _____
Federal Aid 100%
Other _____

\$ 512,500
(must match resolution)