

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**37401**

Date: December 5, 2013

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 Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$115,650

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services ("VAS") program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse, for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$115,650 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by promoting the safety and general welfare of the children in Westchester County who are the alleged victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. This will be accomplished through immediate and ongoing intervention services which will address their victimization and decrease the emotional stress to families in crisis. The program will preserve the family by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are to provide protective and preventive services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services. WestCOP will provide concrete services expediently to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse. Under the proposed agreement, the VAS program will:

- be responsible for immediate and initial crisis counseling services for victims and children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse
- be responsible for maintaining continued contact with these families and to assist in the arrangement of specialized supportive services for them
- help these families cope with the multiple demands placed on them by the legal, medical and child protective systems they work with regularly
- participate in the child fatality reviews

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services will promote and ensure the safety and well being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual/physical abuse by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the services provided by the program will avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placement. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of the program using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, submission and reviewing of periodic reports submitted by WestCOP and onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators** available as of the end of September 30, 2013, the Department is able to report that WestCOP is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the agreement. As of the end of the third quarter, the program has served 98 children and 90 families. Of the 90 families served, the program has diverted 99% of those families from substantiated reports of abuse and neglect of children. One hundred percent (100%) of the families surveyed indicated feeling emotionally supported and safe since working with a Child Victim Advocate.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii) thereof as it is an agreement to improve the well-being of children and youth in Westchester County.

It should be noted that the agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rules as the program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached resolution authorizing the County to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. to provide advocacy and support services is most respectfully requested.

**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, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”) pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$115,650 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with 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 duly authorized designee is empowered to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2014	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$115,650

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014                      Start Date: 1/1/2014                      End Date: 12/31/2014  
 (Must match resolution)

Funding Source                      Tax Dollars: 32%  
    State Aid: 47%  
    Federal Aid: 21%  
    Other:

**\$115,650**  
 (Must match resolution)