

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

37403

Date: February 20, 2014

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 Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the “Every Kid Counts” program serving low and moderate risk Child Protective Services (CPS) families with children and low and moderate risk families referred by the Cross Systems Unit (CSU) for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$291,431 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the “Every Kid Counts” program to connect at risk families to needed services to improve family functioning and to reduce the number of families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (“CPS”) reports and/or foster care placements within the areas covered under the Department of Social Services’ (“DSS”) Mount Vernon and Peekskill District Offices for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$291,431 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Family Ties of Westchester’s Every Kid Counts Program is a community based, short-term and intense family focused wraparound program that was developed to prevent child abuse, neglect and out of home care for low and moderate risk families that have come to the attention of Child Protective Services or Cross System Unit. Family Ties provides case management services for these families for a period of 3-6 months to reduce issues and behaviors that result in repeat CPS reports and/or foster care placements, to connect families to needed services and to improve

family functioning. Every Kid Counts is a community-based program where families are linked to community service providers in order to address issues such as; child safety, employment, housing, domestic violence, child support, education and transportation. Referrals to the program are received from the Department of Social Services, Mt. Vernon and Peekskill District Offices. The Department of Social Services will have the option of allocating services to either district office based on customer needs.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes healthy families and reduces the risk of children entering foster care. Family Ties uses the family unity model to strengthen families and to address dysfunction and mal-adaptation in family systems that place children at risk of out-of-home placements.

The **goals and objectives** of the Every Kid Counts program are to provide short term, preventive and follow-up services addressing the needs of low and moderate risk families that have come to the attention of Child Protective Services or the Cross System Unit. The primary goal is to reduce and prevent family dissolution and substitute care for children. Secondary goals are to address family system dysfunction that places children at risk of abuse and maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of the public health** because the services provided pursuant to the Family Ties Every Kid Counts program (the "EKC") address specific family systems issues that place children at risk of abuse and maltreatment. Families are guided through services, activities and trainings to inspire them to practice alternative ways of parenting, coping and managing their environments. Parents that adopt healthier lifestyles are often better prepared to parent healthier children.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of the public safety** because services provided by Family Ties of Westchester under the "EKC" program reduce the recidivism rate of CPS intervention and improves family functioning as well as provide a resource for the families even after their case is closed. Services provided through the Every Kid Counts Program address family system dysfunctions, which without intervention, would lead to further abuse and maltreatment of children.

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 temporary and permanent substitute care of children and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing substitute care can result in substantial savings for the County of Westchester.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to verify process, outcome and impact of performance measures as will be indicated in the contractual agreement. Goals and objectives will also be tracked, monitored and verified through periodic reports submitted as per the terms of the contractual agreement. Department of Social Services will also verify goals and objectives through periodic site visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that all (100%) of the youth that received services from January, 2013 through December, 2013 were

diverted from foster care placement. Ninety-four (94%) percent of the families did not experience a repeated, subsequent and/or initial CPS investigation while receiving services from Family Ties.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant 3 (a) xviii in that the program under the aforesaid agreement creates and supports recreation projects and other appropriate programs for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the advancement of the well-being of the youth of Westchester County. This program is exempt from the requirements of the Common Grant Rule as this falls under the Social Service Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the aforesaid services.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/06/2014 - JOHANNY VILLALBA 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 Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the Every Kid Counts Program serving low and moderate risk Child Protective Services (CPS) families with children and low and moderate risk families referred by the Cross Systems Unit (CSU) for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$291,431 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract is subject to County Appropriations; 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 hereby authorized to execute 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
2014	101	22	4500	4439	-----	\$291,431

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/14 End Date: 12/31/14

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 32 %

State Aid: 47 %

\$291,431

Federal Aid: 21%

(must match resolution)

Other:

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