

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

37655

DATE January 7, 2014

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. ("FSW") pursuant to which FSW will provide Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$359,353

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 Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") pursuant to which FSW will provide Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$359,353 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided through this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by preserving the family, reducing the risk of abuse or neglect, preventing delinquency and youth crime, thus reducing the need for foster care placement, as families are better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program will promote the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County. FSW has provided this service for the County for the past several years.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are in compliance with the regulations of the Office of Children and Family Services (NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10)) which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placements. Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services are also available to families with a child coming home from foster care, to help with the transition home and when possible, allow the child to have a shorter length of stay in foster care. The provider is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Intensive short term in-home crisis intervention
- Family education in order to preserve families and prevent foster care placement
- Assessment services to include housing assistance, child care, job training, educational services support and training related to home and finance management
- 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 agreement will 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.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to reduce 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.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the agreement will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate performance through the use of established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. Tracking and monitoring include, but are not limited to, the review of periodic reports and onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of the end of the third quarter 2013 (September 30), the Department is able to report that the FSW- Family Preservation Program is meeting targets and outcomes as outlined in the current contract, and the program is on track to serving 100% of contract capacity. As of September 30, 2013, FSW served 83 families and 218 children. Of the 218 children served, 95.87% were diverted from foster care placements. During this same period 96.38% of the families were diverted from a substantiated report of abuse and neglect while actively receiving services from the program.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii.

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

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. to provide the Family Preservation Program for the above stated purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (“FSW”) pursuant to which FSW will provide Intensive Home-Based Family Preservation Services to families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$359,353 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, 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
2014 101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$359,353

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

Start Date: 01/01/2014

End Date: 12/31/2014

Funding Source

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

\$359,353
(must match resolution)