



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

Philippe Gille  
First Deputy Commissioner

**43093**

DATE January 7 2015

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, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 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 January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The proposed agreement serves a **public purpose** by providing crisis oriented treatment that includes supplying families with the tools and skills needed to address their children’s behavior.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services) regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandates that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. The main goal of this contract is to keep young children out of psychiatric hospitals and assist families in locating appropriate 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.

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 using the performance measurement indicators as stipulated in the contract. They include reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits.

Based on the data submitted as of the end of September 2014, the Department is able to report that the vendor has met the targets and outcomes as stipulated by the current contract and in fact has exceeded the contract capacity of the number of families and children to be served having served 22 families and 22 children year to date. In addition, FSW reported that 100% of the children served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report and all were also diverted from foster care placements while receiving services. Of the 22 children served, 22 or 100% were diverted from psychiatric hospitalization.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii. This contract is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rule as the program falls under 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.

## 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, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 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
2015 101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$80,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2015

End Date: 12/31/2015

Funding Source

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

**\$80,000**  
(must match resolution)