

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

43725

Date: December 5, 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 the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption after care program, for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 an amount not to exceed \$109,630 payable pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through the Department of Social Services (the “Department”) to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”), for the provision of Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption after care program, for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$109,630 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Pursuant to the proposed agreement, the WRAP Program will provide a community based, culturally competent, family focused, post adoption aftercare program for all families who have adopted or about to adopt children from Westchester County Foster Care. The services include short term clinical intervention services, mutual supports, information and referral services as well as training in adoption competency for families.

The **public purpose** of the proposed agreement is to provide needed aftercare to adopted children who had previously been in foster care. Children being adopted from foster care have histories of abuse, neglect, abandonment and other traumas. Caring for

those children through adulthood can be a difficult task requiring skills, understanding and support beyond what would be required for children who had not been in foster care. Without education and parenting strategies, as well as support for both adoptive parents and adoptive children, adoption can disrupt, leaving the children in limbo and adoptive families with a sense of failure.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to meet the needs of adoptive families seeking help in sustaining their families and to assist Westchester County in meeting its goals of permanency, safety and well being of the children. The program will serve as an information and referral resource for families and the community for adoption related issues. It will also be a professional training resource and support that will increase the capacity of our community to provide adoption competent services to families county-wide. The services will further support adoptive families and their children through support groups and training. The program is designed to achieve the following:

- Promote permanency for children through supporting and sustaining adoptions,
- Promote good parenting practices for adoptive parents,
- Provide support and collaboration among adoptive parents and adoptive children,
- Develop a network of adoption competent professionals in Westchester to provide appropriate clinical services for this population.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the proposed agreement will promote the health and safety of adopted children by assisting them in making the transition from foster care to a family environment as easily as possible. This program will also serve as a resource to adoptive families, adoptive children as well as the community at large.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the adoption of children keeps them out of the foster care system, avoiding the costs associated with foster care placements.

The **performance measurement indicator reports and statistics** submitted by the vendor will be tracked and monitored by the program office. Based on the data reported by the vendor from January, 2014 through September, 2014, the Department is able to report that the program served 55 families and 86 children and was able to prevent 100% of adoption disruptions.

The proposed agreement is exempt from the Procurement Policy of the County of Westchester pursuant to Section 3(a) xiv and 3(a) xviii thereof. This contract is funded by the Social Services Block Grant and therefore is exempt from the Federal Common Grant Rules.

An appropriate resolution is attached for your Honorable Board's approval.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”), for the provision of the Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption aftercare program, for the term January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$109,630 payable pursuant to 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2015	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$109,630

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

Start Date: 01/01/15

End Date: 12/31/15

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 32%

State Aid: 47%

\$109,630
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 21%

Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/05/2015 - JOMAR VERBA SECRETARY