

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

44259

DATE: January 13, 2015

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to amend an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. to operate a Homeless Student Educational Success program for homeless school age children in order to 1) extend the termination date from December 31, 2014 to June 30, 2015; and 2) increase the not to exceed amount by \$131,013, from a total not to exceed amount of \$393,039 to a new total not to exceed amount of \$524,052.

By resolution approved on June 6, 2013, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. for the provision of a Homeless Student Educational Success program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, counseling, school registration, educational compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$262,026 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. The contract was subsequently executed.

Through a resolution approved on August 7, 2014, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester to amend the agreement by extending the termination date to December 31, 2014 and by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$131,013 from an amount not to exceed \$262,026 to a new not to exceed amount of \$393,039. The amendment was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester to further amend the agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc., by increasing the amount not to exceed by an additional \$131,013 from a total amount not to exceed \$393,039 to a new total amount not to exceed \$524,052, and by extending the end date of the contract from December 31, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

The Department would like to extend the existing contract for another six months to end on June 30, 2015 in order to continue providing the above said services to the targeted population during a transition implemented by the OTHA (Office of Temporary Housing Assistance) during

which the Department intends to supplant this contract with the Urban League by taking over these services using its own caseworkers.

The **public purpose** of this program is to assist homeless families, with school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address, with school registration, educational compliance and arrangement of school transportation.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to operate a program providing the homeless school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address with a choice of schools to attend and coordinate appropriate transportation. The program will also provide interventions necessary to improve the school attendance and school performance of Westchester County homeless students.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at providing services that will ensure that eligible homeless school-age children will attend school and receive appropriate support services. The goals and objectives are also aimed at helping to identify children who require special education. Referrals will be made to the appropriate service providers for medical evaluations and immunizations.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** because they ensure educational opportunity and support services for young homeless children. Due to the program's coordination and intervention efforts to improve school attendance and school performance, the students, many of whom remain in their school of origin, will experience fewer disruptions and a lower truancy rate. Frequent interventions by the case managers often times result in a reduction in the number of referrals for educational neglect to the Child Protective Services division.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored through performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The tracking and monitoring include the submission of monthly statistics and quarterly reports as well as direct contact with the D.S.S. staff in order to swiftly address any impediments to the program's success.

The **Department is able to report** that during the 2014 contract term, the Urban League of Westchester Homeless Student Educational Success Program has achieved the following program outcomes from April 2014 through November 2014:

- 1) Total unduplicated number of children served = 276
- 2) 3% of homeless student participants are Honor Roll students
- 3) 80% of homeless student participants have a grade point average of a C or better

Except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain the same.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to amend the agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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 amend an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc., to operate a Homeless Student Educational Success by increasing the amount not to exceed by \$131,013, from an amount not to exceed \$393,039 to a new total amount not to exceed \$524,052 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and by extending the end date of the contract from December 31, 2014 to June 30, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract 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 except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain the same; and be it further.

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

Original Contract Amount: \$262,026
 First Amendment: \$131,013
 This Amendment: \$131,013
 Total \$524,052

Account to be
 Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2015	101	22	8900	5630	-----	\$131,013

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 Start Date: N/A End Date: 06/30/15
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$131,013
 (must match resolution)

Tax Dollars:
 State Aid:
 Federal Aid: 100%
 Other: