



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**44431**

Date: January 18, 2015

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Re: Authorization for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. (“NAFI”) pursuant to which NAFI will provide various services in connection with the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$264,044 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

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Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to enter into an agreement with the North American Family Institute, Inc. (“NAFI”) pursuant to which NAFI will provide various services in connection with the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$264,044 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The program serves a **public purpose** by assisting the County to keep the children out of foster care. These children are all subjects of abuse and neglect proceedings who have been court ordered into an out of home placement. If the §1055 placement cannot be safely preserved, the child will be placed in foster care. However, children do better when they can be placed with family, remain in their community/schools and maintain existing ties with the community.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to support relatives and caretakers who come forward as a resource for children who would otherwise be placed in foster care and to strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics. Frequently kins become caregivers after a family crisis. They may

have little preparation in terms of learning about the child welfare system, their new role as kinship caregivers or how to access support. Studies indicate that kins are more likely to be single and to be poorer, older, in poorer health, and have less formal education than non-kin foster parents. Therefore, relative caregivers may have a greater need for services and supports than non-kin foster caregivers. This program will provide services to the court directed custodian, the biological parent and children with the goal of preserving the placement, avoiding foster care placement and reuniting the family as quickly and safely as possible, thus promoting the welfare of these families. Services will include but not be limited to:

- Community linkages
- 24-hour on-call support
- Skill Building
- Communication skills
- Limit setting (rewards and consequences)
- Parenting skills
- Education advocacy
- Parent partner/mentor
- Day respite
- Clinical assessments and recommendations
- Mentoring

**The goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interests of the county in terms of public health and safety** as the Family Wraparound Program will support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases. The program will preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional foster care placement; empower the caretakers and biological parents to gain strategies, skills and services, including limit setting, how to give rewards and consequences; provide linkages to supportive community based services and support in assisting the family to develop better decision-making and parenting skills. This will ultimately strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics and allow the children to return home expediently and safely.

**The goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interests of the county in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they will preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional and more costly foster care placement.

**The goals and objectives of the agreement will be tracked and monitored** by the Department using the Performance Measurement Indicators developed by the Department. The Department's Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements.

**Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that from January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, services were extended to 29 families and 54 children. During this same period, 100% of the families served were not subject to an indicated CPS case while receiving services and 99.6% of progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare *Connections* database within 5 days of the event.

The aforesaid agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii of said Policy as the services provided hereunder are to advance the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of children in the County of Westchester.

It should also be noted that this agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rules, as funding for these services falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/26/2015 - JONARY VERA, SECRETARY

**RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), is authorized to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI") pursuant to which NAFI will provide various services in connection with the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$264,044 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement 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 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 either to 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 and empowered to execute any and all documents necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purpose 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	-----	\$264,044

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 Start Date: 01/01/15 End Date: 12/31/15  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars:	32%
	State aid:	47%
<u>\$ 264,044</u>	Federal aid:	21%
(must match resolution)	Other:	