

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

45655

**DATE:** March 24, 2015

**TO:** The Honorable 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 the Re-Entry Plus program providing responsible parenting and employability preparedness training services to men who were or are involved in the criminal justice system for the period March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016 in an amount not-to-exceed of \$45,000 pursuant to an approved budget.

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with FSW, pursuant to which FSW will provide the Re-Entry Plus program providing responsible parenting and employability preparedness training services to men who were or are involved in the criminal justice system for the period March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016. In consideration for the services to be rendered, the County will pay FSW an amount not-to-exceed of \$45,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The agreement with FSW will serve a **public purpose** by helping men who have or have had involvement with the criminal justice system to improve the emotional relationships with their children and provide for their economic support. By teaching these men to be better fathers and by assisting them in becoming employable, this program seeks to promote financial independence and improve the prospect of financial stability for many children and families within the County.

In addition, the program promotes the safety and well-being of County residents as well. A 2005 national conference of Mentoring Children of Prisoners programs estimated that without intervention, 80% of children of incarcerated parents will have some involvement with the



criminal justice system. It has been documented that such children suffer from disrupted attachments and placement with caregivers who are likely to have low incomes and lack the supports and resources necessary to address the child's needs. FSW established the Re-Entry Plus program to address issues commonly experienced by individuals who have been incarcerated in an effort to reduce exposing children of incarcerated parents to such risk factors as poverty, substandard housing, parental substance abuse, mental, physical and/or sexual abuse and exposure to criminal activities, as well as introducing stability into the lives of such children.

**The goals and objectives** of this program are to provide parenting workshops and employment training resources which offer tools to assist these men in meeting the challenges they face, such as, lack of family support, transportation, employment, and housing issues. The Vendor will be able to accomplish the goals and objectives using the following tools:

- Individualized parenting plan
- Child development and effective discipline workshops
- Employment counseling
- Job readiness training
- Financial literacy classes
- Computer training classes
- Interviewing workshops

**The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the goal is for the men to become employed and eliminate dependence on public assistance. Since these men are cooperating in the process of obtaining employment, whether through skills training or other support, they are involved in countable work activities. These countable employment activities are tracked by the federal government in order to continue providing funds for these employment programs. Westchester County is required to engage all TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) customers in countable employment activities in order to meet the federal participation rate requirements. Failure to meet these standards can result in federal fiscal sanctions for Westchester County.

**The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators** reported as of December 31, 2014, the Department is able to report that 62 men participated in parenting and/or employment training.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3 (a) xiv. It should be noted that each individual selected to receive assistance through this Re-Entry Plus program shall have demonstrated such financial need for public assistance through an income screening process.

It should be further 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 - 04/23/2015 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

**RESOLUTION**

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Social Services, it is 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 Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (“FSW”), pursuant to which FSW will provide the Re-Entry Plus program providing responsible parenting and employability preparedness training services to men who were or are involved in the criminal justice system for the period March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$45,000 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved Budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the 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 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 duly authorized designee is empowered to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate 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	-----	\$37,500
2016	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$ 7,500

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015-2016 Start Date: 03/01/15 End Date: 02/28/16  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 30%  
State Aid: 48%  
Federal Aid: 22%  
Other:

\$45,000  
(must match resolution)