



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services
Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

46528

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Date: April 30, 2015

Re: **Authority for the County to amend agreements with Family Services of Westchester and Children's Village, Inc. to provide Aftercare to serve Children Transitioning from Out-of-Home Foster Care, for the term June 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017 in order to change the date that youth may be referred for services from 120 days prior to discharge home, to the date of placement in Out-of-home foster care.**

Pursuant to a Resolution approved by your Honorable Board on May 23, 2013 the County of Westchester, by and through its Department of Social Services ("Department"), entered into agreements with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. on June 10, 2013, and with the Children's Village, Inc. on June 12, 2013 to provide aftercare for children transitioning from out-of-home foster care for the term June 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017 in the annual amounts of \$982,762 and \$804,078 respectively, for a total not to exceed amount of \$8,189,684 for the term of both agreements (the "Agreements"), to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

Authority is being requested to amend the Agreements in order to change the date that youth may be referred for services from 120 days prior to discharge to the date of placement in out-of-home foster care at no additional cost to the County. The Department believes that the youth currently placed in foster care who would be eligible for aftercare services, pursuant to the Agreements from 120 days prior to discharge, would benefit from the ability to be referred to aftercare services as soon as the date of placement. It is anticipated that the referred youth would

benefit from receiving aftercare services sooner and for a longer period of time, the goal being a more successful reunification with family and a possible reduction in the amount of time these youth spend in foster care.

Authority is therefore being requested that the scope of services in each of the Agreements be amended to reflect that the date of referral for services is the date of placement and not 120 days prior to discharge. The proposed amendment would ensure the success of the Aftercare program by facilitating the reunification of these youth with their families, providing services for these youth from the date of their placement and continuing post discharge for up to two years, and reducing their length of stay in foster care.

The proposed amendments will serve the public purpose of helping children leave foster care and reunite with their parents in the anticipation that they will successfully achieve independence through intensive case management and support services offered through an early initiated Aftercare program. Capturing the referrals on the date of placement will help to ensure the goals of reducing recidivism and reducing the length of stay in foster care. These goals and objectives are in the County's best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility as the services provided through this program focus on assisting foster care youth to become independent and self-sufficient.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreements would remain in full force and effect.

A resolution is annexed hereto, which I recommend for your favorable consideration.

KMM/DI
Attachment

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, effective upon execution, to amend agreements with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. dated June 10, 2013 in the annual amount of \$982,762.00, and with Children's Village, Inc. dated June 12, 2013 in the annual amount of \$804,978.00, to provide aftercare for children transitioning from out-of-home foster care for the term June 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017 (the "Agreements"), in order to change the date that youth may be referred for services from 120 days prior to discharge home, to the date of placement in Out-of-home foster care at no additional cost to the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of the Agreements shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s) 2013 – 2017 Start Date 6/1/13 End Date 12/31/17
(must match resolution)

Funding Source _____ Tax Dollars: _____
 _____ State Aid: _____
N/A Federal Aid: _____
 (must match resolution) Other: _____