



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

46979

DATE: May 27, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contracts

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

SUBJECT: Authority for the County of Westchester to amend the agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) pursuant to which PCG will provide Social Security eligibility services for “Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care” cases as well as for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Safety Net Assistance cases for the County for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 by extending the end date for an additional six months to end on December 31, 2015 at no cost to the County

Pursuant to a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) issued by the Department on April 19, 2011 and a Resolution approved on July 7, 2011, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for “Aid to Families with Dependent Children–Foster Care” cases as well as for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Safety Net Assistance cases for the County for the term July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$350,000 (the “Agreement”) with the County having the option, in its sole discretion, to extend the agreement for up to three (3) additional one (1) year periods. The agreement was subsequently executed.

Through a resolution approved on June 21, 2012, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“The Department”), to exercise the first option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 for an amount not to exceed \$380,000. The first extension was subsequently executed.

Through a resolution approved on June 20, 2013, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“The Department”), to exercise the second option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$380,000. The second extension was subsequently executed.

Through a resolution approved on July 03, 2014, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“The Department”), to exercise the third option to extend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$580,000. The third extension was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“The Department”), to amend the Agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) for the provision of Social Security eligibility services for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 by extending it for another six months to end on December 31, 2015 in order to keep the services provided by the vendor uninterrupted. The Department is in the process of redesigning the employment program and the Department needs more time to work on a Request for Proposal (“RFP”). We believe this matter deserves an exemption from the Federal Common Grant Rules based on the exigency clause. The Department will issue a Request For Proposal (“RFP”) to provide these services beyond the six months’ extension.

The proposed agreement will serve a **public purpose** by providing services to a target population which is faced with multiple barriers and is unable to pursue benefits on its own. By definition, the Federal Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program is targeted towards individuals who are incapable of engaging in substantial gainful employment activity. Particularly, in the case of mental disability, the very nature of the individual’s impediment is incongruous with self-advocacy. PCG, under the proposed agreement, will provide necessary assistance to the residents of Westchester County who are eligible for SSI benefits by helping them secure the benefits to which they are entitled.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to provide services in the establishment of eligibility as well as maintenance of SSI benefits for AFDC-FC customers as well as for TANF and SNA customers.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of **fiscal responsibility** as this program will assist DSS customers in securing benefits thereby leading to case closures and related savings in County resources expended in assisting such individuals.

Additionally, DSS assumes representative payee status for many of the foster care children who are eligible for SSI benefits where the benefits are paid directly to DSS. This program can help defray the annual cost of foster care.

The **performance measurement indicators** will be tracked and monitored through monthly statistics and reports as well as through direct contact with DSS's Program Office. The vendor is only paid when customers are approved for SSI benefits. The Department is able to report that during the 2014/2015 contract year, 95 customers were approved for SSI out of which 84 resulted in TA case closures.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 06/25/2015 - JOHNNY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to amend the agreement with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (“PCG”) pursuant to which PCG will provide Social Security eligibility services to the County for Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (“AFDC-FC”) cases as well as for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”) and Safety Net Assistance (“SNA”) cases for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 by extending the agreement for six months to end on December 31, 2015 at no cost to the County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the agreement shall remain full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions reasonably necessary to implement this Resolution.

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

Budget Funding Year(s): N/A
(must match resolution)

Start Date: N/A End Date: 12/31/15

Funding Source

\$N/A
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: N/A
State Aid: N/A
Federal Aid: N/A
Other: N/A