

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

51087

DATE: March 7, 2016

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 offer the R.E.A.L. Parenting program providing responsible parenting and employability preparedness training services to promote the financial and personal responsibility of non-custodial fathers for the period from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 in an amount not-to-exceed of \$45,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

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 Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") pursuant to which FSW will offer the R.E.A.L. Parenting program (formerly known as the Re-Entry Plus Program). The program was expanded to include all non-custodial fathers to receive responsible parenting and employability preparedness training services. The R.E.A.L. Parenting program will promote the financial and personal responsibility of non-custodial fathers. The contract will be for the period from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. 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 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. It has been documented that the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children has declined as a



result of increasing divorce rates, out of wedlock births, incarceration and substance abuse. Compared to children raised in two-parent households, children raised by a single parent are more at risk of experiencing negative outcomes. 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 R.E.A.L Parenting program to address issues commonly experienced by non-custodial parents and reduce the incidence of a fathers' absence in an effort to reduce exposing children 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, 2015, the Department is able to report that 40 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 R.E.A.L Parenting program shall have demonstrated such financial need for public assistance through an income screening process.

This procurement is exempt from the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule) as the federal funding for this program 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 - 03/31/2016 - LISA MRISAJ, 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 offer the R.E.A.L Parenting Program providing responsible parenting and employability preparedness training services to promote the financial and personal responsibility of non-custodial fathers for the period from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 for a total 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
2016	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$37,500
2017	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$ 7,500

Budget Funding Year(s): 2016-2017 Start Date: 03/01/16 End Date: 02/28/17
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 27%
State Aid: 43%
Federal Aid: 30%
Other:

\$45,000
(must match resolution)