

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

66741

DATE:

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption after care program, for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$109,630

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (“County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”), to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of Westchester’s Resource for Adoption Program (“WRAP”), a post adoption after care program, for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$109,630 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Pursuant to the proposed agreement, the WRAP program will provide a community based, culturally competent, family focused, post adoption aftercare program for all families who have adopted or about to adopt children from Westchester County Foster Care. The services include short term clinical intervention services, mutual supports, information and referral services as well as training in adoption competency for families.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by providing needed aftercare to adopted children who have previously been in foster care. Children being adopted from foster care have histories of abuse, neglect, abandonment and other traumas. Caring for those children through adulthood can be a difficult task requiring skills, understanding and support beyond what would be required for children who had not been in foster care. Without education and parenting strategies, as well as support for both adoptive parents and adoptive children, adoptions can disrupt, leaving the child in limbo and adoptive families with a sense of failure.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are to meet the needs of adoptive families seeking help in sustaining their families and to assist Westchester County in meeting its goals of permanency, safety and well-being of the children. The program will serve as an information and referral resource for families and the community for adoption related issues. It will also be a professional training resource and support that will increase the capacity of our community to provide adoption competent services to families county-wide. The services will further support adoptive families and their children through support groups and training. The program is designed to achieve the following:

- Promote permanency for children through supporting and sustaining adoptions;
- Promote good parenting practices for adoptive parents;
- Provide support and collaboration among adoptive parents and adoptive children;
- Develop a network of adoption competent professionals in Westchester to provide appropriate clinical services for this population

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the proposed agreement will promote the health and safety of adopted children by assisting them in making the transition from foster care to a family environment as easily as possible. This program will also serve as a resource to adoptive families, adoptive children as well as the community at large.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** because the adoption of children keeps them out of the foster care system, avoiding the costs associated with foster care placements.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that from January 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018, the program served 52 families and 81 children and was able to prevent 100% of adoption disruptions.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xiv.

It should be noted that this agreement is not subject to 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 Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with WIHD for the aforesaid purpose.

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

