

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

73183

DATE: December 6, 2019

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 Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”) pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services (“VAS”) program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children’s safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$149,864.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”) to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (“WestCOP”) pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services (“VAS”) program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children’s safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$149,864 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by promoting the safety and general welfare of the children in Westchester County who are the alleged victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. This will be accomplished through immediate and ongoing intervention services which will address their victimization and decrease the emotional stress to families in crisis. The program will preserve the family by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are to provide advocacy, protective and preventive services to non-offending family members and child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services. WestCOP will provide concrete services expeditiously to ensure children’s safety and reduce the risk of further abuse. Under the proposed agreement, the VAS program will:

- Be responsible for immediate and initial crisis counseling services for victims and children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Be responsible for maintaining continued contact with these families and to assist in the arrangement of specialized supportive services for them;
- Help these families cope with the multiple demands placed on them by the legal, medical and child protective systems they work with regularly;
- Participate in the child fatality reviews.

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services will promote and ensure the safety and well-being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual/physical abuse by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the program will avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placement. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department.** WestCOP will submit monthly and quarterly statistical reports in the format approved by the Department. Other monitoring efforts will include but are not limited to periodic review of records and site visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that as of the end of September 30, 2019, WestCOP is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the agreement. As of the end of the third quarter, the program has served 107 children and 92 families. Of the 92 families served, 100% have not had a new CPS report substantiated during the period of services. 100% of the families surveyed indicated feeling emotionally supported and safe since working with the Child Victim Advocate.

The procurement of this agreement is exempt from the application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii as this agreement will improve the well-being of children and youth in Westchester County.

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 of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services ("VAS") program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$149,864 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

	FUND	DEPT	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2020	101	22	8900	5960		\$149,864

Budget Funding Year(s): 2020 **Start Date:** 1/1/2020 **End Date:** 12/31/2020
(must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars: 33%
\$149,864 State Aid: 44%
(must match resolution) Federal Aid: 23%