

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

DATE: February 12, 2010

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

RE: Authority for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to exercise the second option to extend an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of an After Care from Foster Care Tier I & Tier II Program, providing after care case management, supports and services to foster care families in a two "Tier" design for the period from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,474,735 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations

Following the completion of an RFP process and pursuant to a resolution approved on July 27, 2006, the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, entered into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (FSW) for the provision of a community based, culturally competent, family focused After Care From Foster Care Tier I & Tier II Program providing after care case management, supports and services to foster care families in a two "Tier" design for the period March 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007 in an amount not to exceed \$310,986 with the County having the option to extend the agreement for two (2) subsequent three-year periods at amounts to be negotiated. Tier I is for up to one year post discharge and Tier II is beyond one year post discharge as assessed to prevent return to care. This Agreement was subsequently executed.

Through the resolution approved on May 10, 2007, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester to exercise its first option to extend the Agreement ("First Extension Agreement") for an additional three-year period commencing on March 1, 2007 and ending on February 28, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$1,472,175. This First Extension Agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to exercise its second and final three-year option to extend the Agreement ("Second Extension Agreement") for the period from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,474,735 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. The amount requested reflects a slight increase of \$2,560 to cover the cost associated with hiring an additional staff person at .5FTE to cover an increase in caseload

during Year 2 and Year 3 of the contract. The total estimated cost over three years shall not exceed \$1,474,735 in the aggregate.

The services to be provided through this contract serve a **public purpose** in that it preserves the family and reduces the risk of re-entry into foster care, thus averting the need for foster care placement. Aftercare services assist the families in addressing the special needs of their children, as well as navigating community based services to address such needs. The support services provided pursuant to this program assist children who return from foster care to reintegrate back into the community and the school system, thereby promoting the safety and welfare of the targeted population.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide aftercare support services to families of children who are returning from the Westchester County foster care system. Children transitioning out of the foster care system are more likely to face an increased rate of poor educational achievement, unemployment, mental health issues, incarceration and homelessness. The Aftercare Program seeks to ensure that children successfully transition to their local school system and maintain academic improvement and find employment. The program addresses the health and safety needs of this population, provides drug and alcohol treatment and promotes the self sufficiency of these families. The Vendor shall be using the following services to accomplish the goals and objectives:

- Initial assessment of family unit
- Case management
- Face-to-face contact
- Telephone contact
- Crisis support and management
- Case planning
- Counseling
- Parent skill enhancement training
- Linkages to community based organizations
- Independent Living Skills as required
- Anger management
- Communication skills
- Respite services

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract help to maintain or restore family functioning and increase the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for replacement in the foster care system. The program is designed to enhance the physical well being and safety of the children discharged from foster care. Further, it promotes the safety of the County residents as the program would prevent these children from getting involved in anti-social activities.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department will be able to avert the need for foster care replacements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from re-entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster care cost annualized per child** - The cost of foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per child depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized foster care cost from **\$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 per child per year.**
- **Residential Foster care cost annualized per child** - The cost of Residential foster care costs can range from \$47.15 up to \$627.00 per day per child. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$17,206.10 to \$228,855 per child per year.**
- **Contract program cost per child** – Family Services of Westchester, Inc., Aftercare Program cost for the 2010 contract year is \$475,721. The Vendor is contracted to serve 100 children for the 2010 contract year, at this rate of service, this translates to a per child cost of **\$4,757.21 per year.**

The negative consequence for not approving this agreement will be that the Department will show an increase in children re-entering foster care. The recidivism rate was about 24% in the years prior to the inception of this specialized aftercare services program to children being discharged from the Westchester County Foster care system. However, the Department has witnessed a dramatic reduction in the rate of recidivism, bringing it down to 4%, after the After Care From Foster Care Program was initiated. The reduction in the recidivism rate supports the effectiveness of the aforesaid program.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. 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 December 31, 2009, the Department is able to report that the vendor has met the targets as stipulated by the contract and is on track to serving 100% contract capacity. As of December 31, 2009, of the 91 children served, FSW-Aftercare Program has averted 98.90% foster care replacements. As of December 31, 2009, FSW- Aftercare Program reported that 95.92% of the families served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report while receiving services.

Except as specifically modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement as extended shall remain in full force and effect.

Accordingly, authority is now requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to exercise its second and final option to extend the aforesaid agreement for the period from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2013 for the above said purpose.

Approval of the attached resolution by your Honorable Board is respectfully requested.

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 exercise its second and final option to extend an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. whereby Family Services of Westchester, Inc. will operate a community based, culturally competent, family focused After Care From Foster Care Tier I & Tier II Program providing after care case management, supports and services to foster care families in a two "Tier" design for the period from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,474,735 to be paid 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 except as specifically modified herein, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement as extended shall remain in full force and effect with the second and final extension; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

Original Contract Amount:	\$310,986
First Extension:	\$1,472,175
This Extension:	\$1,474,735
Total	\$3,257,896

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$396,434
2011	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$495,543
2012	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$499,507
2013	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$83,251

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-13
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 03/01/10

End Date: 2/28/13

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 41%

State Aid: 41%

Federal Aid: 18%

Other: _____

\$1,474,735

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-4-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY