

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

DATE: February 9, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. Mahon, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Authority to amend an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Yonkers, Inc. (the "YMCA") for the provision of an after school activity and a summer day program for TANF eligible youth for the period from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$40,000 by:

1) extending the end date of the agreement to August 31, 2010; and 2) by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$20,000 from an amount not to exceed of \$40,000 to a new amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid in accordance with an approved program budget and subject to appropriation.

Through Resolution approved on February 19, 2009, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Yonkers, Inc. (the "YMCA") for the provision of an after school activity and a summer day program for TANF eligible youth for the period from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$40,000. The agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to amend the aforesaid agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Yonkers, Inc. (the "YMCA") by: 1) extending the end date of the agreement to August 31, 2010; and 2) by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$20,000 from an amount not to exceed of \$40,000 to a new amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid in accordance with an approved program budget and subject to appropriation. An amendment of this agreement is required to align the term of the agreement with the academic school year. This is crucial in the establishment of targets and the measurement of the academic performance of youth enrolled in the YMCA after school program.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement achieve a public purpose by creating a structured after school program for the TANF eligible youth population in Westchester County to improve school performance and attendance of these youth as well as provide an alternative to activities that may result in criminal behavior.

The purpose for this program is supported by the Yonkers Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition which identified truancy as one its highest priority issues. Members of the Coalition included representatives from the Yonkers Public Schools, Yonkers Police Department, Westchester County Department of Social Services, Family Court, Probation Department, Westchester County Law Department, District Attorney's Office and several Community Based Organizations who gathered together in order to determine the best course of action for youth in the City of Yonkers. The Coalition cited truancy as a major problem causing low educational performance by many of these students. Many students reported that they were not attending school because they could not keep up with the work due to falling behind in previous years. The Coalition concluded that extra intervention would be necessary, not only to turn around the academic performance of these youth, but also to keep them away from criminal activity.

The goals and objectives of this program are to offer a school year tutoring program and a summer day program to help TANF eligible young people, ages 13 to 15, achieve greater success in their academic learning and find alternatives to activities that may otherwise result in criminal behavior. The YMCA will offer a tutoring program during the months in which school is in session for a minimum of two hours and a maximum of five hours of tutoring weekly. During the summer months, the YMCA will provide day camp activities specifically designed for this age group. This will include trips as well as recreational indoor and outdoor activities for these students.

The goals and objectives of this program are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety and security in that this program encourages positive youth and community development aimed at reducing the occurrence of truancy and involvement of youth with the criminal justice system. Snyder and Sickmund reported that 60% of all juvenile crime occurs on school days, and juvenile crime is at its peak after school dismissal (*Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, 1997). Children are also at a much greater risk of being a victim of a violent crime during the hours after school (*Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, 1995). The YMCA of Yonkers after school program offers a safe, structured and positive environment that helps reduce juvenile delinquency and insulates children from victimization. The program will keep them off the streets and discourage them from getting involved in potential criminal and gang related activities. Some additional benefits of this program include an increase in the number of hours spent on homework and high-yield learning activities, improved attitude towards learning, remedial support, improved grades in school resulting in improved self-esteem and overall behavior.

The services provided by the program support youth in their homes and reduce family stressors created by youth involved in negative activities in the community. The goals and objectives of this program address the educational and social needs of these students by providing services that will enable them to succeed in their academic and employment pursuits, thus promoting the welfare of these TANF families. As youth become engaged in positive activities such as school engagement, successful academic performances and legal employment, they begin to acquire the skills required to become productive members of society.

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that this program provides the targeted population with the opportunity to enhance and achieve their academic and employment pursuits, thereby become economically independent in the long run. This would in turn reduce their reliance on public assistance to

support them. The alternative activities offered by the YMCA of Yonkers aid in the diversion of out-of-home placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care and juvenile justice systems result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster Care cost annualized per youth** - The cost of foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$19.26 to \$57.76 per day per youth depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an **annualized foster care cost from \$7, 029.90 to \$21,082.40 per youth.**
- **Residential Foster Care cost annualized per youth** - The cost of residential foster care costs can range from \$40.07 up to \$800.00 per day per youth. That translates into an **annualized cost for residential care from \$14,626 to \$292,000 per youth.**
- **Non-Secured Detention cost annualized per youth** - The average cost to maintain a youth in non-secured detention is \$323 per diem. This translates into an **annualized cost of \$117,895 per youth.**
- **Secured Detention cost annualized per youth** - The average cost to maintain a youth in a secured detention facility is \$317 per diem per youth. That translates into an **annualized cost of \$115,705 per youth.**
- **The YMCA of Yonkers Program cost annualized per youth** – This program has an annualized program cost of \$40,000. The program expects to serve 40 youth annually, with a per diem cost of \$2.74. That translates into an **annual cost of \$1,000 per youth.**

If this Resolution were not approved by your Honorable Board, the negative consequence would be an increase in the number of youth getting involved in truancy related activities which would have a negative impact on their lives and the community as well. The Department may experience an increase in out-of-home placements, which would result in an increase in costs associated with those out-of-home placements placing additional burden on tax payers.

The goals and objectives of this contract will be tracked and monitored using the Performance Measurement Indicators adopted by the Department and approved by the Westchester County Budget Office. Performance measurement reports include, but are not limited to, monthly reports on the participants submitted by vendor agency to the program office. The employment program office will continue to be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

The Department is pleased to report that the program exceeded all the targeted goals under the 2008-09 agreement. The data collected reflects that 42 TANF students were served out of which 26 demonstrated a twenty-five percent increase in attendance. In addition, 17 of these students increased their grade level by one letter grade by their third report card. The extension of the term of the agreement allows the Department and the YMCA to measure performance of the youth based on the academic school year. An earlier expiration would not yield all the statistical data required to measure youth academic performance. Listed below is a summary of the goals and accomplishments of this program in 2008-2009:

<u>Proposed (Goals)</u>	<u>Accomplished (outcomes)</u>
30 (number of Participants)	42 (40% increase)
20 (number of Attendance Improvement)	26 (30% increase)
15 (number of grade level)	17 (13% increase) Improvement)

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

Accordingly, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to amend an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association of Yonkers, Inc. (the "YMCA") for the provision of operating an after school activity and a summer day program for TANF eligible youth who reside in Yonkers for the period from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$40,000 by: 1) extending the end date of the agreement to August 31, 2010; and 2) by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$20,000 from an amount not to exceed \$40,000 to a new amount not to exceed of \$60,000 to be paid in accordance with an approved program budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Original Contract Amount:	\$40,000
This Amendment	<u>20,000</u>
Total	\$60,000

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	22	708k	4380	T708	\$20,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010- (Grant Year) Start Date: N/A End Date: 08/31/10
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$20,000
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars:
State Aid:
Federal Aid: 100%
Other: