

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon  
Commissioner

**DATE:** February 18, 2010

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

**FROM:** Kevin P. Mahon  
Commissioner of Social Services

**RE:** **Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. ("FSW") for the provision of the Reentry Plus program to help fathers who are involved in the criminal justice system to become better parents and providers for the period from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.**

---

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc., ("FSW") whereby FSW shall provide services via its Reentry Plus program. This program focuses on teaching responsible parenting skills as well as employability preparedness utilizing various support systems to men who have been involved in the Criminal Justice system. The proposed agreement would commence on March 1, 2010 and terminate on February 28, 2011. In consideration for services rendered, Westchester County will pay Family Services of Westchester, Inc. an amount not to exceed \$50,000 payable monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement achieve **a public purpose** by helping men who have had involvement with the Criminal Justice System 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. Further, the program promotes the safety and well being of the County residents as well.

A 2005 national conference of Mentoring Children of Prisoners programs estimated that without intervention, 80% of children of incarcerated parents will have some involvement with the criminal justice system. It has been documented that 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. Family Services of Westchester, Inc. established the program Reentry Plus in order to address issues commonly experienced by individuals who have been incarcerated in an effort to reduce exposing children of incarcerated parents to such risk factors as poverty, substandard housing, parental substance abuse, mental, physical and/or sexual abuse and exposure to criminal activities and to introduce stability into the lives of such children.

**The goals and objectives of this program are** to provide parenting workshops, counseling and employment training resources which offer tools to assist these men with meeting the challenges they face such as lack of family support, transportation, employment and housing issues. The Vendor will be able to accomplish its goals and objectives using the following tools:

- Case Management Services
- Individualized parenting plan
- Cultural sensitivity workshop
- Employment support
- Job Readiness training
- Classes in financial literacy
- Resume writing workshops
- 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.

If this Resolution were not approved by your Honorable Board, the public purpose would not be served, in that these incarcerated or formerly incarcerated men would not receive support services aimed at improving the emotional and financial lives of their children. Similarly, the fiscal burden would be placed upon the County to financially support these children. The ramifications for not providing these services are that these children most likely will be exposed to the conditions previously referred to by the above referenced 2005 National Conference of Mentoring Children of Prisoners programs.

**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 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 of December 31, 2009, the Department is able to report that the 84 participants have completed parenting training, 36 participants have completed employment training and 6 participants have been placed in employment.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3 (a) xiv. Each individual selected to receive assistance through this Reentry Plus program shall have demonstrated such financial need for public assistance through an income screening process.

Accordingly, your 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, it is hereby:

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. (FSW) for the provision of Reentry Plus Program to help fathers who are involved in the criminal justice system to become better parents and providers for the period from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 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.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, SECRETARY

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$41,666
2011	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$8,334

Budge Funding Year(s): 2010-2011  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 03/01/10

End Date: 02/28/11

Funding Source      Tax Dollars: 41%  
                                 State Aid: 41%  
                                 Federal Aid: 18%

\$50,000

(must match resolution) Other:

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