

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

80984

DATE: November 24, 2020

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 The Children's Village, Inc. for the provision of its Safe Harbour Program for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$100,000**

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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide its Safe Harbour Program (the "Program"), a multi-faceted approach to support and serve youth who have been sexually exploited for a term beginning on January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000, 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 protecting and serving exploited youth, thereby promoting public safety.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are to strengthen the County's ability to serve sexually exploited youth in Westchester County. This includes a combination of individual clinical services, psycho-educational process groups, creative expression groups, as well as being more intentional with access to the programming and services available and the Children's Village Education and Employment Center. In addition, the Program provides youth with the opportunity to further their education and gain the invaluable job readiness skill required for them to acquire gainful employment.

The modalities will be blended, complimentary, and structured to help participants to process trauma, build self-esteem, establish coping mechanisms, promote personal and financial independence, and help achieve a higher level of functioning.

Target Referral: The definition of sexual exploited youth is quite broad and refers to a continuum of behaviors and circumstances ranging from being sexually abused by a family member or friend to being forced into the sex trade for food, money, or shelter to being a victim of sexual assault or trafficked. All of the youth in this program, whether they have been previously charged with a crime or not, are victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse.

Program performance measurement indicators will be tracked through milestones such as:

- Youth outreach and engagement measured by youth participation, attendance and program completion
- Youth reduced criminal behavior and/or satisfy the requirements of court or probation measured by arrest and/or probation report
- Youth involvement in pro-social positive activities including education, volunteer, employment, or recreational activity; measured by confirmation of youth participation in one of the aforementioned activities.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that since its inception in June 2013, the Safe Harbor team, through collaboration with Children's Village and the Department's Cross Systems Unit (CSU), 928 youth were referred to the Program for assessment and services for Human Trafficking. 37 of these youths are still in the process of being assessed, therefore, outcomes are still pending. Out of the 891 youth who have been assessed, 169 were federally confirmed victims, 158 NYS confirmed victims. As of November 2020, there have been 147 referrals to the Safe Harbor Unit. Out of these youths that were assessed 14 met Low indicators, 38 met Medium and 15 met High indicators for at risk of sexual exploitation; 5 met Federal indicators and 6 were NYS confirmed.

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

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.

The funding for this program is through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, 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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide its Safe Harbour Program (the "Program"), a multi-faceted approach to support and serve youth who have been sexually exploited for a term beginning on January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000, 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
2021	101	22	8900	5960		\$100,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2021 **Start Date:** 1/1/2021 **End Date:** 12/31/2021
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: _____ Tax Dollars: 49%
\$100,000 State Aid: 30%
 (must match resolution) Federal Aid: 21%