

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

80986

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 Westchester Institute for Human Development, (“WIHD”) pursuant to which WIHD will administer the “Project IMPACT” program that will promote permanency, safety and well-being for children with parents, who have cognitive or learning disabilities and are at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$367,000.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (“County”) acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”) to enter into an with WIHD, pursuant to which WIHD will administer the “Project IMPACT” program that will promote permanency, safety and well-being for children with parents, who have cognitive or learning disabilities and are at risk of foster care placement, for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for an amount not to exceed \$367,000, 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 as the program will strengthen overall family functioning that may in turn reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect and/or need for foster care placement, and train the participants to improve their ability to handle child behaviors.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are to:

- Provide permanency, safety, and well-being for children with parents with cognitive and/or learning disabilities who are at risk of foster care placement
- Identify service needs for the child and family following intensive in-home services and to link families with appropriate services in order to reduce family disruption for these families
- Provide intensive in-home parent training services to families at risk for foster care placement of their children

- Provide parenting services consistent with the parenting curriculum that meet the learning needs of parents with cognitive disabilities.
- Verify that children in those families receive all appropriate health, mental health, and developmental services.
- Assist caseworkers in becoming more knowledgeable about the needs of these parents so they can be empowered to support permanency for children in those families.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety as the services empower parents who have cognitive disabilities with concrete parenting skills, that strengthen and stabilize families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements for the children of Westchester County.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the services assist in averting the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placement resulting in savings for the County as well as the taxpayers.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievement by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that with a yearly capacity of 18 families, Project Impact has serviced 15 families and 36 children from January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. The program has averted 100% of foster care placements, thus keeping these families intact, and 100% of the families have demonstrated decreased parenting stress using the Parenting Stress Inventory at completion of program.

The 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.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute of Human Development for the aforesaid purpose.

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

