

**84744**

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

**FROM:** Dr. DaMia Harris Madden  
Executive Director, Youth Bureau

**DATE:** May 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Authority to enter into an agreement with Family Service Society of Yonkers, dba JCY-Westchester Community Partners, to operate its “Reading Buddies After School” program, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021, for an amount not-to-exceed \$49,324.00, payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

---

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Youth Bureau, to enter into an agreement (the “Agreement”) with Family Service Society of Yonkers, dba JCY-Westchester Community Partners (“FSSY”), pursuant to which FSSY will operate its “Reading Buddies After School” program (“Program”), for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021, for an amount not-to-exceed \$49,324.00, payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

The Program, a School Readiness Intergenerational Literacy program, uses the intergenerational mentoring strategy of JCY-Westchester Community Partners’ successful Students and Mature Adults Read Together (“SMART”) program, in an after school setting, to provide literacy support, homework assistance and general academic and social skills building to children. FSSY, partnering with public schools, provides through the Program, weekly support for literacy skills, literacy enrichment and/or assistance with homework assignments for students who need additional support. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, JCY-Westchester Community Partners’ recognized the need to continue to provide academic support online to students in critical need of assistance. FSSY transitioned to an e-tutoring program to continue to provide these mentoring services by providing virtual sessions with mentor/tutors to encourage students to improve their reading skills and complete their online education requirements.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by enhancing the educational experience of youth in Westchester County through effective learning initiatives and the engagement of volunteer mentors.

The goal and objective of the proposed Agreement is for FSSY to serve forty-five (45) students, ages 7-9 years old, comprised of students of the Church Street School in White Plains and School

13 in Yonkers. The goal and objective of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Youth Bureau.

The Program was previously undertaken in 2020 and reported the following outcomes:

The Program served approximately one hundred thirty-four (134) youth in 2020. The Program provided assistance with technology and distributed laptops to students, helping them overcome the initial hurdles of remote learning. When instructions moved online, many parents faced challenges with technology, online educational materials, and how to keep their children engaged. The Program assisted families with distance learning so students could complete their academic requirements.

One hundred percent (100%) of the participating youth received weekly one-on-one tutoring and academic skill support from two hundred seven (207) volunteer mentors on a weekly basis during after-school sessions and e-tutoring sessions. According to a survey administered, nearly eighty-eight percent (88%) of youth participants reported significant improvement in self-confidence and attitude towards learning and attending remote learning school and nearly ninety percent (90%) of the mentors expressed a sense of achievement and satisfaction in successfully helping students in their academic, social and emotional development through the one-on-one mentoring sessions.

The procurement of the proposed Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii) thereof, which exempts contracts with persons for the creation and support of recreation projects, youth service projects and other appropriate programs and services for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of the youth of the Westchester County.

I respectfully recommend the adoption of the attached resolution.

DHM/JE/LAC

Enc..

**RESOLUTION**

Upon a communication from the Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (“Agreement”) with Family Service Society of Yonkers, dba JCY-Westchester Community Partners (“FSSY”), pursuant to which FSSY will operate its “Reading Buddies After School” program, for a term commencing on January 1, 2021 and continuing through December 31, 2021, for an amount not-to-exceed \$49,324.00, payable quarterly 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 duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	52	2508	5100	NA	\$49,324.00

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021 Start Date 01/1/21 End Date 12/31/21  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$49,324.00  
State Aid \$0  
**\$49,324.00** Federal Aid \$0  
(must match resolution) Other \$0