

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Leonard G. Townes
Commissioner

86168

DATE: July 6, 2021

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. (Children's Village") for the provision of transitional living services for homeless youth and youth aging out of foster care aged 17-21 and to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thus avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester, for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$199,180, to be paid on a monthly basis, pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester, 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") to provide the "Life Bridges" program consisting of transitional living services for homeless youth and youth aging out of foster care aged 17-21 and to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thus avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester, for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$199,180, 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 the public purpose of providing residential and transitional living services for homeless youth aged 17-21. The "Life Bridges" program will provide housing through intensely supervised independent living apartments as well as with education and employment training. Additionally provided will be life skills training, referral and follow-up with mental and physical health care, job preparedness training, ongoing counseling, and practice at real work activities such as budgeting, banking, saving and bill paying. The residential component will serve 6 youth. The non-residential component will provide auxiliary services to 60 youth annually and will include emergency cash assistance, job readiness training and paid internships with participating employers. Children's Village has consistently proven successful in delivering these services.

The proposed agreement will **serve a public purpose** by reducing the long term dependency of the targeted population on supportive services from the County because the program will equip them with the tools needed to move from dependency to self-sufficiency.

The **goals and objectives** of the Life Bridges program are to provide transitional living services to young adults aged 17-21 who are homeless or aging out of foster care in order to make them independent and self sufficient. The program provides them the necessary tools to become self sufficient. Foster Care support ends when a young adult turns age 21. If not prepared for the end of services, the young adult is at risk of continued homelessness and dependence on Temporary Assistance. The objective of Life Bridges is to strategically prepare these high risk young adults for Independent Living. This objective will be achieved through two core services: 1) a supervised community apartment program which provides the youth with the experience of maintaining an apartment, and 2) an education and employment training program to teach them how to find and maintain employment and to continue vocational and educational planning. In addition, the program will provide on-going case management services to address individual needs, such as mental health issues, substance abuse, or crisis intervention services.

The **goals and objectives of this program are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at ensuring and enhancing the health and safety of the targeted population. Housing homeless and foster care youth aging out of the foster care system will reduce the risk of their becoming homeless, victims of crime and developing health related issues.

The aforesaid **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they promote individual self-sufficiency, reduce homelessness and dependence on Temporary Assistance and improve the successful transition of foster children to adulthood.

The Department of Social Services will continue **to track and monitor the success of the Life Bridges program** by requiring the submission of regular reports outlining the program's success in meeting the goals and objectives.

The Department is able to report that at the close of the program's 2020-2021 term, 21 youth received services; 21 were screened. During this same period, 11 (52%) of the youth in residential program were transitioned into permanent housing; 6 are still in program. 17 (81%) of those youth obtained some form of employment.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) xiv. This agreement is also exempt from the application of the Federal Common Grant Rule as this program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. to provide the aforesaid services.

A resolution authorizing the same is attached hereto for your Honorable Board's approval.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Children’s Village, Inc. (“Children’s Village”) to provide transitional living services for homeless youth and youth aging out of foster care aged 17-21 to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency and thereby, avoid long term dependency on supportive services from the County of Westchester, for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$199,180 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract is subject to County Appropriation; 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 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 execute any and all documents 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
2021	101	22	8900	5885		\$99,590
2022	101	22	8900	5885		\$99,590

Budget Funding Year(s): 2021-2022 Start Dates: 7/1/2021 End Date: 6/30/2022
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars:	19 %
	State Aid:	31 %
<u>\$199,180</u>	Federal Aid:	50 %
(must match resolution)	Other:	N/A