

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

DATE: April 19, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. to operate a program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, case counseling, school registration, education compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$291,140 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc., to operate a program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, case counseling, school registration, education compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$291,140 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations. There has been no increase in the amount requested for the proposed agreement.

The **public purpose** of this program is to assist homeless families with school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address with school registration, educational compliance and arrangement of school transportation.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are:

- 1) to operate a program providing the homeless school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address, with a choice of schools to attend and coordinate appropriate transportation
- 2) to provide interventions necessary to improve school attendance and school performance of Westchester County homeless students

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 providing the following services:

- 1) Eligible homeless school age children will receive direct support services: counseling, referrals to community resources, advocacy, and coordination of transportation for homeless school age children placed outside the school district of their last permanent address.

- 2) Case managers will identify special education needs of school age children with poor academic performance. Referrals will be made to the appropriate service providers for medical evaluation.
- 3) Case managers will identify pre-school homeless children who may have a handicapped condition. Committee on Preschool Special Education will schedule the family for an evaluation and appropriate recommendations will be made based on this evaluation.
- 4) Case managers will assist in the arrangement of immunizations.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they may lead to cost avoidance resulting from the coordination and intervention to improve school attendance and school performance.

- 1) This program has experienced a very high success rate with the homeless students' promotion rate. Students who decided to remain in their school of origin experienced fewer disruptions and a lower truancy rate. The frequent interventions by the case managers caused a reduction in the number of referrals for educational neglect to the Child Protective Services division. Providing this service is potential cost avoidance of expenditures associated with the CPS staff and court costs.
- 2) Students with educational and academic success will have a better chance of achieving self – sufficiency, thereby breaking the cycle of intergeneration dependency on public assistance and reducing the potential number of future recipients of public assistance.

Failure to provide this service could result in the County being out of compliance with NYS Education laws and regulations of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to provide homeless families with school age children placed in emergency housing outside the school district of their last permanent address, with a choice to attend the school in their prior district or the school within the shelter's district. In the absence of this program, the homeless school age children's school attendance will significantly decrease. A decrease in school attendance may initiate more referrals to the Department for possible educational neglect.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The contractor is required to submit to the Department, quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the Urban League of Westchester County Homeless Students' Educational Program met its goal of improving attendance and school performance. The program accepted 100% appropriate referrals during 2009 - 2010 contract period. We are able to report the following program outcomes:

- 1) 93% of the homeless students participants were promoted during the 2008-2009 school year
- 2) 14% of homeless student participants are Honor Roll students
- 3) 73% of homeless student participants have a grade point average of a C or better

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv).

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc., to operate a program to facilitate the completion of educational designations, case counseling, school registration, education compliance and arrangement of school transportation for homeless school age children for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$291,140 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 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 empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5630	_____	\$145,570
2011	101	22	8900	5630	_____	\$145,570

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

Start Date: 7/1/10

End Date: 6/30/11

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 25%

State Aid: 25%

Federal Aid: 50%

\$291,140

(must match resolution)

Other: _____