



Office of the District Attorney
County of Westchester

MEMORANDUM

OnBase: 89914

DATE: January 5, 2022

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS
BOARD OF ACQUISITION AND CONTRACT

FROM: MIRIAM E. ROCAH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RE: AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO 1) AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES TO ACCEPT A GRANT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$106,148.00 IN STATE FUNDS, FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO OPERATE THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER GRANT PROGRAM, FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT MONTHS, COMMENCING FEBRUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; AND 2) TWO (2) ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS, ONE WITH WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,100.00 AND THE OTHER WITH WESTCHESTER INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$26,686.00, BOTH AMOUNTS COMPRISED OF STATE FUNDS AND \$27,262.00 IN COUNTY TAX DOLLARS, PURSANT TO APPROVED BUDGETS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE GRANT PROGRAM, FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Office of the District Attorney (the "District Attorney's Office"), to enter into a grant agreement, known as Contract No. C029321, (the "Grant Agreement") with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (the "OCFS") to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$106,148.00 in State Funds, for the District Attorney's Office to operate The Multidisciplinary Team and Child Advocacy Center Grant Program (the "Program"), for the period from February 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022. Pursuant to the terms of the Grant Agreement, the County will be required to contribute \$27,262.00 in matching funds toward the cost of implementing the Program.

The MDT/CAC Grant Program provides the funding necessary for the coordination of all investigations that pertain to all suspected child abuse or maltreatment throughout Westchester County. It enables the successful investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases and comprehensive allocation of services for the therapeutic treatment of child victims. This process is coordinated through the Investigations Information Coordinator ("IIC" or "MDT IIC") who ensures all team members are joined in any specific investigation and attend scheduled forensic interviews and medical exams of the child victim at the Child Advocacy Center. This process has successfully limited child victims from being interviewed more than once by multiple agencies and preserved crucial prosecutorial evidence which has well enhanced prosecutorial cases. The MDT/CAC Grant Program not only provides child victims a safe friendly environment to receive medical and therapeutic services, but also a place where a child can report any occurring abuse to law enforcement officials.

Pursuant to the contract with WJCS, the agency will provide Mental Health Coordinators ("MHC") who will be available to the victim and family during the interview and examination process and a supervisor who will oversee the MHC to ensure that team services are being provided.

Pursuant to the contract with WIHD, the CAC Director ("Director") who works for WIHD will provide staff and programmatic oversight to the CAC. The Director will facilitate the monthly MDT case review meeting as well as the MDT/CAC planning committee in close relationship with the DA's Office and the MDT IIC. The part-time forensic interviewer works for WIHD and conducts forensic interviews of children referred to the CAC for a multidisciplinary team assessment

In addition, a portion of the Grant funds will be used directly by the District Attorney's Office to provide a Senior Domestic Violence Aide who will act as the MDT investigations information coordinator. This coordinator will review reports of child abuse to the State Central Registry provided by Child Protective Services ("CPS") to the District Attorney's Office and ensure that timely notification of cases is made to law enforcement, CPS, and the Child Advocacy Coordinator.

The goals and objectives of the Grant are to prevent duplication of interviews, increase the use of the Children's Advocacy Center by law enforcement, enhance prosecution by the immediate collection of evidence and help the establishment of state approved protocols for Westchester's MDT/CAC. The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety by promoting the health, safety and welfare of children who have been the victims of abuse or are suspected of being victims of abuse by enabling the County to increase the use of the Children's Advocacy Center, limit the number of child interviews, encourage sound forensic interviews and investigations, and assist the County in State approval of the Multidisciplinary Team. The goals and objectives will be monitored by the Office of the District Attorney and quarterly progress reports are submitted to the OCFS for their review and approval.

Because the agreement with OCFS is for the acceptance of grant funds, it does not constitute a procurement and, as such, is not subject to the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

The agreements with WJCS and WIHD are also exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a)(viii) and 3(a)(xviii) thereof.

I certify that my department, a.) has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b.) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c.) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d.) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Accordingly, approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested.

MER/OK/cmc

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from Miriam E. Rocah, District Attorney, be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester ("County") is authorized to enter into an agreement ("Grant Agreement") with the New York State Office of Family Services, to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$106,148.00 in State Funds, for the District Attorney's Office to operate The Multidisciplinary Team and Child Advocacy Center Program for the eight month period February 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County is further authorized to enter into two (2) additional agreements, one with the Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS"), in an amount not to exceed \$12,100.00 and the other with Westchester Institute For Human Development ("WIHD"), in an amount not to exceed \$26,686.00, for the period from February 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the terms of the Grant Agreement, the County shall be required to contribute \$27,262.00 in matching funds toward the cost of implementing the Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreements with WJCS and WIHD are subject to County Appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreements with WJCS and WIHD are also subject to the further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of these agreements. 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 the agreements or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to WJCS and WIHD, then WJCS and WIHD shall have the right to terminate the agreements upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his/her duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effect the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	37	850X	9854	T-850	\$106,148
101	37	0010	4912		\$27,262
263	37	850X	4380	T-850	\$38,786

Budget Funding Year(s) 2022 Start Date 02/01/2022 End Date 09/30/2022

(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: \$27,262

State Aid: \$106,148

\$133,410

Federal Aid: _____

(must match resolution)

Other: _____