

110002

DATE: November 22, 2024

TO: Honorable Members of the 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 Westchester Institute for Human Development, to administer an Educational Care Coordination program for children in family foster care, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$290,124.

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Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement (DSS6012-25) with the Westchester Institute for Human Development, ("WIHD") pursuant to which WIHD will administer an Educational Care Coordination program for children in family foster care, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$290,124, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation (the "Agreement").

The services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement will serve a public purpose as the program will identify and address the complex educational needs of children entering family foster care for the duration of their family foster care placement and throughout the reunification process through coordination, collaboration and advocacy. The services provided by this program ensure that children in family foster care do not experience lengthy wait time to be enrolled in school once placed in care and once enrolled, receive the services appropriate to their educational needs.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are to:

- Ensure timely and seamless transition of appropriate educational services for children entering family foster care from home school districts;
- Ensure that children continue to receive educational services to meet their learning needs during their foster care placement.
- Ensure that children transitioning from family foster care to birth families or to adoptive placements receive timely and appropriate educational services;
- Ensure appropriate documentation of these educational services in NY CONNECTIONS System and medical records.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County as they are aimed at ensuring that children are enrolled in appropriate school placements. When children are not in appropriate educational placements, they do not learn to their

capacity and often misbehave at school which can lead to placement disruption. Educational success and achievement are critical to children's well-being. Furthermore, the electronic educational record follows the child as he/she navigates the various stages of the family foster care system as well as upon discharge, thus ensuring a seamless flow of information.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as program advocates for children to receive appropriate educational services and support deemed necessary that are paid through the school system whenever possible. Additionally, timely and accurate entries into CONNECTIONS by the vendor assist DSS in meeting mandates (federally required data elements are tracked through CONNECTIONS), thus avoiding state and federal fiscal sanctions.

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 from January 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, 221 children were served, exceeding the yearly capacity of 110. WIHD has completed 257 CONNECTIONS entries to date. Additionally, to date, over 2,568 advocacy phone calls and emails were made on behalf of the children being served.

The procurement of this Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii thereof. 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.

LGT/MBG/tml

Attachment

## RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (DSS6012-25) with the Westchester Institute for Human Development, ("WIHD") pursuant to which WIHD will administer an Educational Care Coordination program for children in family foster care, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$290,124, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget (the "Agreement"); 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

**1. Account to be Charged/Credited:**

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5960		\$290,124

**2. Budget Funding Year(s):** 2025

Start Date: January 1, 2025 End Date: December 31, 2025  
(must match resolution)

**3. Funding Source:**

Federal	35%	CFDA#(s)	93.667		
State	30%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	35%				
Capital	N/A				

**4. Total NTE:** \$290,124  
(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & COM

12/19/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY