

**103088**

DATE: August 28, 2023

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: Authority to amend a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept a grant in the amount of \$120,000 for the hiring of two full-time Family Peer Advocates to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program, in order to; 1. extend the termination date of the grant agreement from April 30, 2023 to April 30, 2024 and, 2. enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. to implement the Parent to Parent Mobile Stabilization and Mediation Program under the grant for the term May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024.

---

By resolution approved on November 10, 2022, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through the Department of Social Services ("Department"), to enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") to accept a grant in the amount of \$120,000 for the hiring of two full time Family Peer Advocates ("FPAs") to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program for the term May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 (the "Grant Agreement"). The grant agreement was subsequently executed.

OCFS informed the Department that it has extended the term of the County's Mobile Crises Response Program grant for the staffing of Family Peer Advocates to a new termination date of April 30, 2024 in order to optimize utilization of the grant funds that were unexpended due to the delay of the implementation of the Mobile Crises Unit. Accordingly, authority is now respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County to;

1. amend the Grant Agreement with OCFS for the hiring of two full time Family Peer Advocates to staff the County's Mobile Crises Response Program for the purpose of extending the termination from April 30, 2023 to a new termination date of April 30, 2024 (DSS6044-A-22 #, the "First Amendment"), and;

2. enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the Parent to Parent Mobile Stabilization and Mediation Program to implement the County work plan under the Grant in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for the term May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024, payable pursuant to an approved budget (DSS6044A-22; the "Agreement").

As your Honorable Board may already be aware, as part of the Family First Prevention Services Act ("FFPSA") New York State provided grant funding to Local Department of Social Services Districts to implement a mobile response pilot program as a strategy to develop and operate coordinated programs of community based family support and family preservation services to prevent child maltreatment among families at risk, assure children's safety within the home, and preserve integrity of the family unit in which children have been maltreated when the family's needs can be safely addressed effectively in the home.

The proposed First Amendment to the grant and the proposed Agreement will leverage Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funding to support and improve state child protective services (CPS) systems. The proposed First Amendment to the Grant Agreement will support the Department by providing additional time for the Department to utilize the grant funding to hire and incorporate Family Peer Advocates (FPAs) into the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program. The proposed Agreement will ensure that the County's Mobile Crisis Van will have qualified and credentialed staff to effectively deliver in house crisis stabilization that includes outreach and information, engagement, bridging and transition support, self-advocacy and self-efficacy support, empowerment resources, parent skill development, and family-driven practices and support to customers of the Department's Child Welfare Programs. Incorporating FPAs into the staffing of the County's Mobile Crises Response Program will aid in improving reunification outcomes and reducing child welfare involvement by providing support to address family challenges before they become crises.

The proposed First Amendment to the Grant Agreement with OCFS does not constitute a procurement and therefore, the provisions of the Westchester County Procurement Policy do not apply.

The procurement of the proposed Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3 (a) xiv as the services to be provided herein are for the purposes of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

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 the Parent to Parent Mobile Stabilization and Mediation Program falls under the Family First Prevention Services Act Social Services Block Grant.

The proposed First Amendment to the Grant Agreement shall serve a public purpose by providing additional time for the Department to utilize the funds to be used for its work regarding the staffing and implementation of mobile crisis stabilization services for the

customers of the Department's Child Welfare programs, and the proposed Agreement shall serve a public purpose by implementing the Parent to Parent Mobile Stabilization and Mediation Program to provide credentialed Family Peer Advocates to service the Department's Clients utilizing the services through the County's Mobile Response Program.

The goals and objectives of the proposed First Amendment to the Grant Agreement are to provide the Department with additional time to utilize the grant funds to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program. The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are to provide qualified and credentialed Family Peer Advocates to staff the County's Mobile Crises Response Program.

The goals and objectives of the proposed First Amendment to the Grant Agreement, and the Agreement are in the County's best interest regarding fiscal responsibility as the first amendment to the Grant Agreement will extend the availability to the Department Non-County funds to be used for the Agreement to staff the County's Mobile Response Program with qualified and credentialed staff to provide the Department's customers with mobile crisis stabilization services.

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) will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement shall remain the same.

Accordingly, authority is hereby requested for the County, acting by and through the Department, to enter into the proposed First Amendment to the Grant Agreement, and enter the Agreement for the Parent to Parent Mobile Stabilization and Mediation Program to implement the County work plan under the Grant.

I respectfully recommend your Honorable Board's approval of the attached Resolution.

## 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 amend a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept a grant in the amount of \$120,000 pursuant to which the County will hire two full time Family Peer Advocates to staff the Mobile Crisis Response Program for the term from May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 (the "Grant Agreement"); in order to; 1. extend the termination from April 30, 2023 to a new termination date of April 30, 2024 (DSS6044-A-22; the "First Amendment") and; 2. enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the Parent to Parent Mobile Stabilization and Mediation Program to implement the County work plan under the Grant in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 for the term May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024, payable pursuant to an approved budget (DSS6044A-22; the "Agreement").

RESOVLED, that except as amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement shall remain in full force and effect; 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.

Account to be Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	22	X061	9853	G061	\$0

Budget Funding Year(s): 2022-2024  
Start Date:5/1/2022 End Date:4/30/2024  
(must match resolution)

Account to be Charged:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	22	X061	4380	G061	\$120,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2023-2024  
Start Date:5/1/2023 End Date:4/30/2024  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source:

Federal	100%	CFDA#(s)	93.556		
State		State ID#(s)			
Operating/ Tax Levy					
Capital					

Total NTE: \$120,000  
(must match resolution)