



Vedat Gashi  
Chairman,  
Westchester County  
Board of Legislators

## OnBase ID #109895

DATE: October 29, 2024

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Honorable Vedat Gashi  
Chairman, Westchester County Board of Legislators

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Children's Museum for the provision of its Disconnect 2 Reconnect Program, for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

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The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with the Westchester Children's Museum (the "Children's Museum") for the provision of its Disconnect 2 Reconnect Program, which will, among other benefits, provide free kits to local children that will provide no-tech/hands-on alternatives to passive screen time, for a term commencing January 1, 2024 and continuing through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, and to be paid pursuant to an approved budget as follows: one-half (1/2) upon full execution of the agreement, and one-half (1/2) on or about December 1, 2024.

The Children's Museum provides a vibrant, interactive learning space that fosters curiosity, enhances knowledge, and ignites imagination through creative hands-on exploration for children, families, and school groups. The Children's Museum annually welcomes over 75,000 visitors and offers a diverse range of cultural and STEAM-based programs tailored for children from Pre-K through Middle School. The Children's Museum strives to be an engaging, inclusive, creative place for play and a catalyst for building our children's confidence and critical thinking skills.

The proposed Agreement shall help reduce the amount of screen time in local children, which has been designated a public health crisis by the World Health Organization (WHO). Pursuant to the Agreement, the Children's Museum will create free kits that provide no-tech/hands-on alternatives to passive screen time. The kits will be distributed to family gathering spaces, like restaurants, laundromats, waiting rooms, etc. for families to utilize together, instead of their screens. In addition, the program will gather and highlight Westchester-based screen-free family fun opportunities to share as a list of resources, emphasizing the many wonderful experiential learning opportunities (like Museums, Libraries, and Parks) that Westchester County has to offer, with an emphasis on free and financially accessible opportunities.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by reducing the screen time of local children, thereby improving their mental health and enriching the lives of County youth. The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the County through the provision of four (4) quarterly progress reports and an end-of-year report on the Agreement and the Disconnect 2 Reconnect program.

The procurement of the proposed Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a) (xiii) and (xviii), which exempt from procurement contracts for the support, enhancement, or preservation of cultural resources and the arts and contracts for the creation and support of the advancement of the moral, physical and social well-being of the youth of Westchester County, respectively.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

VG/JPI

## **RESOLUTION**

Upon a communication from the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, it is hereby:

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with the Westchester Children's Museum for the provision of its Disconnect 2 Reconnect Program, for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, and to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and payment schedule; 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 Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, or his duly authorized designee, is hereby authorized to execute any documents and take such actions reasonably necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Sub-unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Dollars
101	52	2509	0010	5100	\$50,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date 1/1/24 End Date 12/31/24  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Dollars \$50,000.00

State Aid \_\_\_\_\_

\$50,000.00 Federal Aid \_\_\_\_\_

(must match resolution) Other \_\_\_\_\_