



Kenneth W. Jenkins
Westchester County Executive

Department of Social Services
Leonard G. Townes
Commissioner

112571

DATE: November 24, 2025

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 Children's Village Inc., pursuant to which it will provide a Multi Systemic Therapy Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents involved with Persons-In-Need of Supervision Diversion, for the period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$1,350,000.

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 (DSS6029-26) with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village"), pursuant to which Children's Village will provide a Multi Systemic Therapy ("MST") Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents who are exhibiting truancy, academic problems, curfew non-compliance, non-compliance with directives at home and other anti-social behaviors, for the period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$1,350,000 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 by focusing on the diversion and prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the social and moral well-being of the youth of Westchester. Chapter 57 (Part E), NYS Laws of 2005, established requirements concerning the provision of diversion services to prospective PINS youth and their families for the purpose of avoiding the need to file a petition or to divert the detention of the youth. In addition, Chapter 57 (Part DD), NYS Laws of 2008 established additional requirements regarding alternatives to diversion and detention services. The referrals will be made to this program by the Westchester County Cross Systems Unit and the Westchester County District Offices.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement will address youth behaviors that place them at risk of out-of-home placements. Youth referred to the program are often non-compliant with directives at home which place them at risk of abuse and neglect. Research reveals that childhood abuse and neglect increased a youth's likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59% (Maxfield & Widom, 1996; Widom, 1989, 1992, as cited in *Youth Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems*, Morris & Freundlich, 2004). MST provided by Children's Village empowers parents and caregivers to take more control of their homes by creating a more, or sometimes less, structured environment. A Mutli-Systemic Therapist, trained to deliver the MST Program model, will focus on helping parents and guardians to become more consistent with parenting. Parents and guardians will learn to use their natural environment (other family members, church members, school personnel, adult supervised community centers) to meet and sustain treatment gains.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety as the program is designed to reduce anti-social behavior and violent activities associated with those behaviors. Youth referred for MST typically exhibit truancy, curfew non-compliance and substance abuse. According to Ryan & Testa (2004), the rate of delinquency increases among youth removed from their homes and placed in foster care (as cited in *Youth Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems*, Morris & Freundlich, 2004). The MST program is designed to work with youth exhibiting multiple behavior issues that place them at risk of out-of-home placements. The MST program will ensure the safety of the youth, their families, and the community by reducing out-of-home placements and youth delinquency.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health of the youth and families of Westchester County because the services provided will incorporate the use of the youth's total environment in the resolution of anti-social behaviors that would impair the health of the youth, the family and the community. The program will allow the youth and the family to incorporate aspects of the youth's environment that prove to be beneficial to the youth's social, emotional, intellectual, mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. The MST model will allow the infusion of extended family and concerned community members into the service plan for the benefit of the child and maintenance of the family system.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the program is expected to reduce the number of future foster care placements and the cost associated with those placements. This initiative will be a viable alternative to detention of PINS and will result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers. Youth that receive services through evidence-based programs such as MST will produce a cost/benefit for both the program participant and the County.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored to evaluate the success of the program and to determine and verify outcomes realized by youth, their families and the community. Mutually established performance measurement indicators will be used to

track and monitor the outcomes resulting in improved school attendance, reduced substance abuse, out-of-home placements, reduced anti-social behaviors and reduction in behaviors that lead to formal family court involvement.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that from January 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, the Multi Systemic Therapy Program has been challenged in meeting targets and outcomes as outlined in the current contract. With a contract capacity of 70, they have served 26 families and 28 focused youths, due to a shortage of staff in the 2025 contract year. They are currently short 3 therapist and 1 caseworker but have been diligently recruiting. 96% of youth served remained home during MST involvement. 98% of youth served had no criminal charges while MST was involved.

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 there is no federal funding for this program.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

LGT/MBG/fb

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 (DSS6029-26) with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village"), pursuant to which Children's Village will provide a Multi Systemic Therapy Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents who are exhibiting truancy, academic problems, curfew non-compliance, non-compliance with directives at home and other anti-social behaviors, for the period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$1,350,000 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		\$1,350,000

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2026

Start Date: January 1, 2026 End Date: December 31, 2026

(must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	0%	CFDA#(s)	N/A		
State	63.7%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	36.3%				
Capital	0%				

4. Total NTE: \$1,350,000

(must match resolution)