



George Latimer, County Executive
Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

110026

DATE: November 25, 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 Family Ties of Westchester, Inc., for the provision of the "Every Kid Counts" program which serves low and moderate risk families with Child Protective Services or Cross Systems Unit involvement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$421,876.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("the Department") to enter into an agreement (DSS6016-25; the "Agreement") with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. ("Family Ties"), for the provision of the "Every Kid Counts" program to connect at risk families to needed services to improve family functioning and to reduce the number of families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services ("CPS") reports and/or foster care placements within the areas covered under the Department, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$421,876, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Family Ties of Westchester's Every Kid Counts program is a community based, short-term and intense family focused wraparound program that was developed to prevent child abuse, neglect and out-of-home care for low and moderate risk families that have come to the attention of the Departments of Social Services. Family Ties provides case management services for these families for a period of 3-6 months to reduce issues and behaviors that result in repeat CPS reports and/or foster care placements, to connect families to needed services and to improve family functioning. Every Kid Counts is a community-based program where families are linked to community service providers in order to address issues such as child safety, employment, housing, domestic violence, child support, education, and transportation. Family Ties will also provide a Family Team Meeting Specialist to conduct family team meetings (FTM's) for all youth who enter community-based foster care. A FTM will be conducted and completed within the first 21 days of placement. The specialist is essential in our Partnership 4 Permanency

(P4P) in seeking to reduce the length of stay in foster care and achieve permanency for children in the quickest, safest manner.

This contract serves a public purpose because it promotes healthy families and reduces the risk of children entering foster care. Family Ties uses the family unity model to strengthen families and to address dysfunction and mal-adaptation in family systems that place children at risk of out-of-home placements.

The goals and objectives of this agreement is to provide short term, preventive and follow-up services addressing the needs of low and moderate risk families that have come to the attention of Child Protective Services or the Cross Systems Unit. The primary goal is to reduce and prevent family dissolution and substitute care for children. Secondary goals are to address family system dysfunction that places children at risk of abuse and maltreatment.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health because the services provided address specific family systems issues that place children at risk of abuse and maltreatment. Families are guided through services, activities and trainings to inspire them to practice alternative ways of parenting, coping and managing their environments. Parents that adopt healthier lifestyles are often better prepared to parent healthier children.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety as the program reduces the recidivism rate of CPS intervention and improves family functioning as well as provide a resource for the families even after their case is closed. Services through the program address family system dysfunctions, which without intervention, would lead to further abuse and maltreatment of children.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is able to avert temporary and permanent substitute care of children and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing substitute care can result in substantial savings for the County and its taxpayers.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored to verify process, outcome and impact of performance measures as will be indicated in the contractual agreement. Goals and objectives will also be tracked, monitored and verified through periodic reports submitted. The Department of Social Services will also verify goals and objectives through periodic site visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department can report that from January 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. Family Ties has served 20 unduplicated families and 45 unduplicated children. EKC has served 31% of their annual capacity of 65 unduplicated families. This is due the EKC had two bilingual case planner positions vacant. EKC hired one bilingual case planner in august 2024. This program still has one bilingual position vacant. Family Ties carried over-active cases

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is authorized to enter into an agreement (DSS6016-25) with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. ("Family Ties"), for the provision of the "Every Kid Counts" program which serves low and moderate risk Child Protective Services families with children and low and moderate risk families referred by the Cross Systems Unit, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$421,876, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; 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		\$421,876

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: \$421,876

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY