



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

110007

DATE: November 24, 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 Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. pursuant to which it will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$364,141.

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Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester ("County") acting by and through its Department of Social Services ("the Department"), to enter into an agreement (DSS6028-25; the "Agreement") with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS"), pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement will serve a public purpose by preserving the family, reducing risk of abuse or neglect, preventing delinquency and youth crime, and diverting youth from becoming formal PINS (Person In Need of Supervision), thus averting the need for foster care placement as families will be better equipped to understand and handle child behavioral issues.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in compliance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services regulations, 18 NYCRR, Part 423 et seq., which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. This program provides specialized programming for children and parents diagnosed with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues, with a strong focus on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The catchment area of this program is Westchester. These services will be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department. Through the provision of WJCS services, the Department will

seek to avoid foster care placements by accomplishing the goals and objectives with the following services:

- Network Facilitation and the Support Circle model of care coordination
- Wraparound planning
- Strength-based care coordination and service planning
- Family engagement skills
- Crisis and respite planning
- Safety planning for sexually reactive youth as well as those with fire setting behaviors
- Assessment of childhood mental health and behavioral issues
- Advocacy for Committee on Special Education and other school meetings
- Using community services to enhance family stability
- PINS pre-diversion assessment and service treatment

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety because the services provided through this contract will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families, and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department will be able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County.

The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored to evaluate success of the services provided by WJCS mental health case management assessment using the mutually established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by the vendor, site visits, quarterly reviews of case notes, and monthly review of children and families served.

Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department can report that from January 1, 2024, through September 31, 2024, WJCS has provided CSU services and comprehensive assessments to 77 families. The comprehensive assessments have aided in triaging cases for mental health and determining whether a family needs an open case or to be connected to community based services.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii.

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 Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/05/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY

## 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 with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS"), pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget, (DSS6028-25; 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		\$364,141

**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:** \$364,141

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION  
RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY