

109858

DATE: October 22, 2024

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: Authority for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services to retroactively: (1) enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept a grant in the amount of \$60,000 for the continuation of the Domestic Violence Liaison to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025; and (2) enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. to provide the domestic violence advocacy component of Westchester County's Mobile Crisis Response Program under the grant for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 pursuant to an approved budget.

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through the Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to retroactively: (1) enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") to accept a renewal grant in the amount of \$60,000 for the continuation of the Domestic Violence Liaison ("DVL") to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 (DSS6061-24; the "Grant Agreement"); and (2) enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. to continue to provide the domestic violence advocacy component of the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program under the grant for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$60,000, payable pursuant to an approved budget (DSS6061A-24; the "Agreement").

As your Honorable Board may already be aware, in 2021, as part of the Family First Prevention Services Act ("FFPSA"), New York State established grant funding to Local Department of Social Services to implement mobile response pilot programs. These programs are designed to develop and operate coordinated programs of community based family support and family preservation services to prevent child maltreatment, ensure children's safety within the home, and preserve family integrity when needs can be effectively addressed at home.

The proposed Grant Agreement 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 Grant Agreement will provide funding for the continuation of the Domestic Violence Liaison for 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 support services for youth customers of the Department's Child Welfare Programs that have been exposed to domestic violence. The services provided by the Domestic Violence Liaison includes crime victim's advocacy, crisis intervention, psychoeducation, counseling, safety planning, language access, and referrals to support groups and community based services. Incorporating the Domestic Violence Liaison for the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program will ensure the continuum of services as part of the County's mobile response program. The Domestic Violence Liaison will ensure that there is qualified staff to provide intervention in domestic abuse cases and ongoing assessments of the risk posed to children by the presence of domestic abuse.

The proposed 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 the 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 Mobile Crisis Response Program falls under the Family First Prevention Services Act Social Services Block Grant.

The proposed Grant Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing the funds to be used for the staffing and implementation of mobile crisis stabilization services for the customers of the Department's Child Welfare programs. The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by providing a credentialed Domestic Violence Liaison to service the Department's Clients that have been victims of or exposed to domestic violence, utilizing the services through the County's Mobile Response Program.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Grant Agreement are to provide the Department with renewal grant funds to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program. The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are to continue to provide a qualified and credentialed Domestic Violence Liaison to staff the County's Mobile Crisis Response Program.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Grant Agreement and the Agreement are in the County's best interest regarding fiscal responsibility as the Grant Agreement will continue to provide the Department with 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.

Accordingly, authority is hereby requested for the County, acting by and through the Department, to enter into the Grant Agreement, and enter the Agreement for the Domestic Violence Liaison services to implement the County work plan under the Grant.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10/31/2024 - RAYMOND SOULIER, 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"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to retroactively: (1) enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept a grant in the amount of \$60,000 pursuant to which the County will provide the Domestic Violence Liaison services for the Mobile Crisis Response Program for the term from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 (DSS6061-24; the "Grant Agreement"); and (2) enter into an agreement with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., for the Domestic Violence Liaison services to implement the County work plan under the Grant in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the term September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025, payable pursuant to an approved budget (DSS6061A-24; the "Agreement").

RESOLVED, that the 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 / Charged:

	Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
Revenue	263	22	Z076	9853	G076	\$60,000
Expense	263	22	Z076	4380	G076	\$60,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2024-2025
 Start Date: 9/1/2024 End Date: 8/31/2025
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source:

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

Total NTE: \$60,000
 (must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10/31/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY