

110009

Date: November 22, 2024

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Leonard G. Townes
Commissioner of Social Services

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Service Society of Yonkers, Inc. pursuant to which it will provide the Kinship Support Program that will promote equity for approximately seventy-five (75) children and (60) kinship households for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$100,000, payable pursuant to an approved budget.

Authority is requested for your Honorable Board to authorize the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement (DSS6030-25; the "Agreement") with the Family Service Society of Yonkers, Inc. ("FSSY"), to provide the Kinship Support Program for approximately seventy-five (75) children and (60) kinship caregivers. The program will provide advocacy and guidance in obtaining access to child-only grant funding to assist these families with the added costs and needs of caring for a child, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, payable pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The goals of objectives of the proposed Agreement will serve the public purpose of providing grandparent headed families, informal caregiving relationships, and kinship caregivers who have a custody order from a court and reside within the County with financial advocacy for accessing child-only grant funding, support groups for relative caregivers, parenting education, counselling services and youth activities to support school engagement and positive youth development. Providing these services to the kinship caretakers promotes equity, as absent financial support, they would not be able to afford certain basic needs. Additionally, the support provided by this program reduces foster care placements.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as this program will help to divert children from foster care placement and the costs associated with such placements by keeping them in a safe and healthy home environment with their relatives and grandparents.

In addition, the Kinship Support Program will ensure the health and safety of children and their families by providing advocacy, assistance, education, and supportive services to empower kinship caregivers, strengthen and increase the stability of families, thereby reducing the need for foster care placements and dependence on public assistance.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored through performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The tracking and monitoring include the submission of monthly statistics and quarterly reports as well as direct contact with the Department staff to swiftly address any impediments to the program's success.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department can report that from January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 FSSY aided Kin-caregivers in obtaining 32 financial grants. These grants have helped the caregivers with school related costs, summer camp enrollment assistance, eviction prevention, and electricity assistance.

The proposed Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xiv) thereof, which exempts agreements with not-for-profit organizations for the purpose of providing aid, care, and support to persons in need of public assistance. In addition, it should be noted that the proposed 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 the Social Services Block Grant.

A resolution is annexed hereto, which I recommend for your favorable consideration.

LGT
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 (the "Department"), is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (DSS6030-25 the "Agreement") with the Family Services Society of Yonkers, Inc. to provide the Kinship Support Program for approximately seventy-five (75) children and their caregivers, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, in an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 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 ("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 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 impact of any such budget(s) 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 the Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION'S CONTRACT #198094 - RAYMOND SOLER, SECRETARY

1. Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$100,000

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2025
 Start Date: 01/01/2025 End Date: 12/31/2025
 (Must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	28%	CFDA#(s)	93.658		
State	45%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	27%				
Capital	N/A				

4. Total NTE: \$100,000
 (Must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & COMMERCE 12/19/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY