

109999

DATE: November 22, 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 Community Opportunity Program, Inc. pursuant to which Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$185,655.

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 (DSS6010-25) with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP"), pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services ("VAS") program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$185,655, 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 promoting the safety and general welfare of the children in Westchester County who are the alleged victims of sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse. This will be accomplished through immediate and ongoing intervention services which will address their victimization and decrease the emotional stress to families in crisis. The program will preserve the family by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are to provide advocacy, protective and preventive services to non-offending family members and child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services. WestCOP will provide concrete services expediently to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse. Under the proposed Agreement, the VAS program will:

- Be responsible for immediate and initial crisis counseling services for victims and children who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse;
- Be responsible for maintaining continued contact with these families and to assist in the arrangement of specialized supportive services for them;
- Help these families cope with the multiple demands placed on them by the legal, medical and child protective systems they work with regularly;
- Participate in the child fatality reviews.

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 will promote and ensure the safety and well-being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual/physical abuse by reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and maltreatment.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the program will avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placement. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievement by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor. Other monitoring efforts will include but are not limited to periodic review of records and site visits.

Based on that Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that from January 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, with an annual capacity of 120 families, WestCOP has served 152 children and 106 families. To date, 45 families have received advocacy services for Child Advocacy Center cases, including: any referrals made in the community (along with follow up on those referrals), OVS advocacy, Law Enforcement Advocacy. WestCOP has conducted 22 safety plans and assisted 20 families in understanding the justice process. There have been 52 families that have been referred for mental health, including Victims Assistance Services therapy services and 42 families that were provided with essential items (i.e., clothing).

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 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 Community Opportunity Program, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

LGT/MBG/tml

Attachment

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"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (DSS6010-25) with Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. ("WestCOP") pursuant to which WestCOP, through its Victims Assistance Services program, will provide advocacy and support services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and to children and families receiving foster care services to ensure children's safety and reduce the risk of further abuse, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$185,655, 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		\$185,655

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2025

Start Date: January 1, 2025 End Date: December 31, 2025

(must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	26%	CFDA#(s)	93.667		
State	36%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	38%				
Capital	N/A				

4. Total NTE: \$185,655

(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY