



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Rocco A. Pozzi
Commissioner

112414

DATE: November 7, 2025

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Rocco A. Pozzi
Commissioner of Probation

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to:

1) Enter into a grant agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,293,672.00 under the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juvenile Program, to be used for the development and provision of programs that meet the needs of local youth at risk of entering, or are involved in, their juvenile justice system, for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026; and

2) Enter into three (3) agreements, each for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026, with: (i) Student Advocacy Inc., pursuant to which Student Advocacy Inc. will operate a program entitled "Education for Youth: Promoting School Success for Court Involved Youth," for an amount not-to-exceed \$80,000.00; (ii) Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc., pursuant to which Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. will operate the Linkages Designated Assessment Program, for an amount not to exceed \$191,339.00; and (iii) Finding Peace Within LLC, pursuant to which Finding Peace Within LLC will operate a program entitled "Trauma Sensitive Yoga finding Peace Within", for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Probation (the "Department"), to enter into a grant agreement (the "Grant Agreement") with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS"), to accept grant funds in the amount not-to-exceed \$1,293,672.00 (the "OCFS Funds"), under its

Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program ("STSJP"), to be used for the development and provision of programs that meet the needs of local youth at risk of entering, or are involved in, their juvenile justice system, for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026.

Authority is also requested from your Honorable Board to enter into the following three (3) agreements:

- 1.) an agreement with Student Advocacy Inc. ("Student Advocacy"), pursuant to which Student Advocacy will operate a program entitled "Education for Youth: Promoting School Success for Court Involved Youth" ("Education for Youth Program"), for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026, for an amount not-to-exceed \$80,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget (the "Advocacy Agreement"). Pursuant to the terms of the Advocacy Agreement, Student Advocacy will work with the Department, through the County's three probation offices, and the School Districts to ensure that students referred to the Education for Youth Program receive the education resources they are entitled too in order to meet their learning academic needs.

Furthermore, under the Advocacy Agreement, Student Advocacy will assist approximately 80 youth who are either returning to school by helping them obtain the necessary services to successfully reenter the learning environment, or who are already enrolled but are at risk of leaving school, by providing direct, legally based education advocacy to youth and their families, as well as technical assistance for the Department officers. All services to be provided under the proposed Advocacy Agreement shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. Student Advocacy's representation will be provided by trained advocates and will include the following:

- Interview with parent and youth to learn about educational history, family perspective and concerns
- Educate the student and family about their educational rights
- Obtain school records from all schools, programs, and facilities that the student attended
- Perform a comprehensive analysis of the student's school experience
- Interview social service providers, medical professionals, mental health providers and community partners to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the student's strengths and challenges
- Advocate for additional evaluations as required
- Represent the youth and family at school meetings to a) enhance the educators' understanding of the challenges facing the youth; b) advocate for appropriate school services and supports; c) ensure parental participation; d) advance youth voice and youth choice

The goals of the proposed Advocacy Agreement are to safely engage youth and their families who have interacted with the juvenile justice system, through innovative programming, to reduce out of home placement and detention of youth.

- 2.) an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS"), pursuant to which WJCS will operate the Linkages Designated Assessment Program (the "Linkages Program"), for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$191,339.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget (the "WJCS Agreement").

As part of the Linkages Program, WJCS will provide assessment services to youth who have been arrested in Westchester County and given Desk Appearance Tickets on Juvenile Delinquency cases which are determined to be appropriate for adjustment services. Additionally, WJCS may also do assessments on Persons In Need of Supervision ("PINS") diversion cases when appropriate. The goals of the proposed WJCS Agreement are to provide needed clinical interventions aimed at addressing underlying needs while helping the youth avoid protracted court involvement. The Department remains responsible for case planning and case management. WJCS will make every effort to engage families in the adjustment process to conduct assessments and provide diversion services and referrals as well as outreach to the victims. Assessments will consist of clinical as well as Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument evaluations.

- 3.) an agreement with Finding Peace Within LLC ("Finding Peace"), pursuant to which Finding Peace will operate a trauma sensitive yoga program, for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026, for an amount not-to-exceed \$10,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget (the "Peace Within Agreement", and together with the Advocacy Agreement and the WJCS Agreement, collectively, the "Service Agreements"). Youth within the justice system experience individual and familial trauma at disproportionately higher rates, which affects their behaviors and their ability to respond to stress. Ms. Fernandez, trainer and founder of Finding Peace, is a licensed master clinical social worker facilitating Trauma Sensitive Yoga ("TSY") and Mindfulness to justice-involved youth. This multifaceted curriculum called Finding Peace Within, combines evidence-based treatment practices and provides an intersectional approach using trauma-sensitive yoga. TSY helps participants learn to engage in mindful thinking and acting by providing tools to help them cope with stressful situations. TSY helps the brain develop new neuropathways, attend to and identify physical sensations of stress, fear, and anger and teaches participants how to handle those feelings and adapt to the presenting situation in a healthy manner. Promoting positive physical, mental, and emotional health is associated with an individual's ability to cope and develop increased resiliency.

The public purpose of the Service Agreements are to prevent future delinquency, including youth violence, by working with youth before they commit a crime or engage in other delinquent behaviors and provide youth with education resources to meet their learning needs. By providing

services in the community, youth can stay at home with their families and continue to go to school, while still getting their needs met and saving taxpayers money.

The remaining \$1,012,333.00 of the OCFS Funds will be used by the Department to provide several other juvenile programs, allocated as follows:

STSJP

• Probation Juvenile Extended Operations	\$120,000
• Westchester Alternative to Detention	\$140,000
• Electronic Home Monitoring	\$ 25,000
• Juvenile Trainings	\$ 25,000
• Probation Mediation and Mentoring	\$ 15,000

STSJP-RTA

• Westchester Alternative to Detention	\$140,000
• Electronic Home Monitoring	\$ 20,740
• Probation Mediation and Mentoring	\$ 30,000
• Juvenile Accountability and Community Services	\$ 180,000
• Problematic Sexual Behaviors and/or Fire Activity	\$ 106,962
• Community Violence	\$ 120,900
• Probation Coordinated Creative Arts	\$ 88,731

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.) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

The Grant Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures (the "Policy") pursuant to Section 3(a)iii thereof, which exempts "transactions or contracts with the United States of America, any State and any political subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof." The proposed Service Agreements are exempt from the Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)xviii thereof, which exempts: "any procurement for the purpose of entering into a contract or contracts with persons for the creation and support of recreation projects, youth service projects and other appropriate programs and services for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well being of the youth of Westchester County."

Based upon the foregoing, I most restfully recommend the approval of the attached resolution.

RAP/SV/sjc

Enclosure

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Probation, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Probation (the “Department”) is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement (the “Grant Agreement”) with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (“OCFS”), to accept grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,293,672.00 under the OCFS’s Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (“STSJP”), to be used for the development and provision of programs that meet the needs of local youth at risk of entering, or are involved in, their juvenile justice system, for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County, acting by and through the Department, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Student Advocacy Inc. (“Student Advocacy”), pursuant to which Student Advocacy shall operate a program entitled “Education for Youth: Promoting School Success for Court Involved Youth,” for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget (the “Advocacy Agreement”); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County, acting by and through the Department, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”), pursuant to which WJCS shall operate the Linkages Designated Assessment Program for youth who have been arrested in Westchester County, for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$191,339.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget (the “WJCS Agreement”); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County, acting by and through the Department, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Finding Peace Within, LLC (“Finding Peace”), pursuant to which Finding Peace shall operate a program entitled “Trauma Sensitive Yoga finding Peace Within,” for a term commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and continuing through September 30, 2026, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, payable pursuant to an approved budget (the “Peace Within Agreement”, and together with the Advocacy Agreement and the WJCS Agreement, collectively, the “Service Agreements”); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Service Agreements are subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Service Agreements are 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 the Agreements. 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 the Agreements or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to Student Advocacy, WJCS and/or Finding Peace, then Student Advocacy, WJCS and/or Finding Peace shall have the right to terminate the Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	263	39	A541	9854		\$601,339
	263	39	A541	4380		\$276,339
	263	39	A004	9854		\$692,333
	263	39	A004	4380		\$5,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2025-2026 Start Date 10/1/2025 End Date 9/30/2026
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars _____

State Aid \$1,293,672

\$1,293,672

Federal Aid _____

(must match resolution)

Other _____