

**December 21, 2017**

**Dear County Executive Astorino:**

**Given the serious questions regarding lack of transparency and fairness in the 2018-2020 Invest-in-Kids grant awards, we respectfully urge you to make the current IIK grants for one year rather than three years. This will give the incoming administration a chance to:**

- **Evaluate funded programs whose applications did not score well to ensure that they are in fact delivering quality youth development programs.**
- **Evaluate funded programs that do not appear to be offering positive youth development programs to understand if their program model fits into the Invest –in-Kids guidelines.**
- **Determine if any programs are charging fees, which is contrary to the invest in Kids guidelines.**

**The intent of temporarily making one-year awards is not to encumber a full-fledged round of applications in 2018. Rather, we suggest that the programs funded for 2018 be automatically renewed for 2019-2020 so long as they adhere to the Invest-in-Kids purposes and guidelines and deliver quality services. If any additional funding becomes available as a result of some programs not being renewed or by additional budget allocations, programs that submitted original applications for the 2018-2020 funding cycle would have the opportunity to have their applications reconsidered for funding in 2019-2020.**

**Signed**

Cora Greenberg, Westchester Children's Association

Susan Wayne, Family Service of Westchester

Shawyn Howard, Yonkers YMCA

Andre Early, Greenburgh Dept. of Community Resources

Maria Imperial, YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester

Rachel Arterberry, Youth Voices Center

Ellette Hirschorn, Open Door Family Medical Centers

Dr. Jim Bostic, Nepperhan Community Center

Karen Cheeks-Lomax, My Sisters' Place

Nalini Purvis

James Kaufman, Abbott House

Giselle Ayala, Westhab

Christian Philemon, Youth Shelter Program

Cheryl Hunter-Grant, LHVPN

Laura Schwartz, April's Child

Kelly Johnson, New Rochelle Youth Bureau

Lindsay Farrell, Open Door Family Medical Center

Liz Mark

Kathy Halas, Child Care Council of Westchester

Lutonya Russel-Humes, Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle

Frank Williams, White Plains Youth Bureau

Damia Harris, Mt. Vernon Youth Bureau

(list in formation)