

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

61421

Date: January 29, 2018

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Re: **Authority for the County to enter into agreements with Congregations Linked in Urban Strategy to Effect Renewal, Inc. (“CLUSTER”) and Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (“WRO”) to provide financial eviction prevention services for Department of Social Services Customers, for the term January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$885,581 to be paid pursuant to approved budgets and subject to County appropriations.**

On November 17, 2017, the Westchester County Department of Social Services (“Department”) issued a Request for Proposals for Eviction Prevention Services (the “RFP”). The RFP was posted on the County website. The RFP stated that the County intended to award one or more contracts for eviction prevention. The Department received 6 proposals in response to the RFP. Following a review of each proposal with reference to the evaluation criteria contained in the RFP, the Department determined that two of the respondents, CLUSTER and WRO, were each qualified to perform the services, that each proposal met the evaluation criteria contained in the RFP and that each proposal was cost effective and advantageous to the Department.

It is therefore recommended that your Honorable Board authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into agreements with both CLUSTER and WRO to provide financial assistance in the form of rent and/or financial assistance for the prevention of eviction or utility shut-off for applicants referred by either the Department or other community resources and such other eviction prevention services that will prevent the incidence of homelessness to low income households residing in Westchester County. The term of each Agreement will commence on January 1, 2018 and continue through December 31, 2018. In consideration for services to be rendered, the County shall pay CLUSTER an amount not-to-exceed \$560,046 and WRO an amount not-to-exceed of \$325,535 (the “Agreements”), to be paid pursuant to approved budgets and subject to County appropriations.

Following the expiration of the initial term, the County, at its sole option, may renew each Agreement for up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods, payable pursuant to the option year budgets submitted by both CLUSTER and WRO in their respective proposals and subject to the further approval of your Honorable Board.

The proposed Agreements will provide financial assistance in the form of rent and/or financial assistance for the prevention of eviction or utility shut-off for applicants referred by either the Department or other community resources that will prevent the incidence of homelessness to low income households residing in Westchester County. The Agreements will implement the Westchester County Eviction Prevention Program by providing financial assistance to prevent the incidence of homelessness, including :

- 1) Short-term subsidies to defray rent for families that have received eviction notices.
- 2) Utility arrears for households that have received a service termination notice, where such service termination will cause the family to be evicted or temporarily displaced from their residence.
- 3) Financial assistance to secure permanent housing in the form of first month's rent, security deposits and/or moving expenses.

The Agreements will also require that efforts will be made to prevent homelessness such as financial assistance to families who have received an eviction notice or notice of termination of utility services, where such families have been determined to be eligible.

The Agreements will serve the public purpose of stabilizing families who are at risk of eviction. This in turn has the goal of preventing homelessness and thereby saving taxpayer funds.

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

KMM/CW/jpg
Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with Congregations Linked in Urban Strategy to Effect Renewal, Inc. (“CLUSTER”) and Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (“WRO”) to provide eviction prevention services for the term January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 (the “Agreements”); and be it further

RESOLVED, that in consideration for services to be rendered under the Agreements, the County shall pay CLUSTER an amount not-to-exceed \$560,046 and WRO an amount not-to-exceed of \$325,535, to be paid pursuant to approved budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that following the expiration of the initial term, the County, at its sole option, may renew each Agreement for up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods, payable pursuant to the option year budgets submitted by both CLUSTER and WRO in their respective proposals and subject to the further approval of the Board of Acquisition & Contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these contracts are subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these Agreements are 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 these Agreements, 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.

| Account to be Charged/credited | Fund | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit | Object/ Sub Object | Trust Account | Dollars |
|--------------------------------|------|------|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5960 | ----- | \$885,581 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Budget Funding Year(s): 2018
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/18 End Date: 12/31/18

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 33%

State Aid: 44%

\$885,581

_Federal Aid: 23%

(must match resolution):