

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

11218

DATE: April 30, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Providence House, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to seven (7) homeless families and/or homeless single adult women at a facility known as Providence House located at 89 Sickles Avenue, New Rochelle, New York for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$268,256 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$128.60 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Providence House, Inc., to operate a shelter for up to seven (7) homeless families and/or single adult women at a facility known as Providence House located at 89 Sickles Avenue, New Rochelle, New York for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$268,256 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$128.60 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been a 10% reduction in the amount requested from that of last year.

The services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County to provide immediate emergency shelter to eligible homeless single women and high risk young mothers.

Providence House will provide 24 hour supervision, meals, counseling as well as supportive services, including assistance in finding permanent housing, assistance with seeking and obtaining employment and casework services. These services are aimed at improving the quality of life of the homeless population in the County.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are as follows:

- to provide shelter to homeless single women and young at-risk mothers
- to provide supportive services that include helping single women and young at-risk mothers to find permanent housing and employment to support the transition from welfare to economic independence.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interests of the County in terms of public health and public safety as they are aimed at enhancing and ensuring the health and safety of the targeted population.**

- The program enhances and ensures safety by providing vulnerable single women and young at-risk mothers with supervision and housing
- This program creates a safe haven for the targeted population
- Housing women and children will reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime and developing general health related issues that result from not having appropriate shelter
- Eligible homeless families will receive direct support services: employment and training, weekly case management sessions, life skills workshops and transportation and linkages to programs to address their medical and mental health needs
- Homeless families will have access to housing, food, medical, counseling and other supportive services until permanent housing is secured

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they will help single women and young at-risk mothers transition off welfare and thereby lower public assistance costs.

- As the participants in this program become gainfully employed, their dependency on public assistance is significantly reduced.
- The payment schedule is based upon an approximated per diem rate. The vendor payment for services is based upon the monthly occupancy rate in contrast to a flat fee schedule.

Failure to provide this service would result in the County being out of compliance with NYS laws and regulations requiring the provision of emergency housing for the needy. Without this program, the Department will have a reduced capacity to house single women and young at-risk mothers. Further, the Department's permanent capacity to provide homeless shelter placements will be reduced since its ability to open new homeless shelters is limited.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The contractor is required to submit to the Department monthly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the Providence House shelter program met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. The facility accepted 100% of appropriate referrals during the 2009-2010 contract period. This program effectively provided shelter and support services for 19 single women and young at-risk mothers. As of 3/31/10, this program achieved the following outcomes:

- Average Length of Stay: 88 days
- Six (6) or 33% of the women secured permanent housing
- Seven (7) or 37% of the women secured transitional housing

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (xiv).

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Providence House, Inc., for the aforesaid purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board's approval.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Providence House, Inc., to operate a shelter for up to seven (7) homeless families and/or homeless single adult women at a facility known as Providence House located at 89 Sickles Ave., New Rochelle, New York for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$268,256 to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$128.60 pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County Appropriation; 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 empowered to execute any document necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5850	_____	\$134,128
2011	101	22	8900	5850	_____	\$134,128

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010-2011
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 7/1/10

End Date: 6/30/11

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 25%

State Aid: 25%

\$268,256
(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 50%

Other: _____