

14812

DATE: October 20, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Acting Commissioner, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income individuals needing protection from eviction, in an amount not to exceed \$343,248.00 and for the term January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

The attached Resolution authorizes the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an Agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ("LSHV") for the provision of legal services to eligible low income individuals needing protection from eviction for a term from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 and for a not-to-exceed amount of \$343,248.00, to be paid pursuant to an approved budget.

LSHV has provided legal eviction prevention and housing resettlement services to low income residents with County funding since 1998, with the majority of its clients receiving public assistance benefits as well as Medicaid and Veteran's Administration benefits.

It is anticipated that LSHV will provide at least 210 households with eviction prevention services to prevent homelessness and the need for additional public assistance. Many of these households are incurring rental obligations that exceed their housing allowances provided to them by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

LSHV has the requisite expertise and capacity to address the variety of eviction prevention issues and a sufficient number of offices that are easily accessible to its clients and adequate to handle simultaneous court appearances in various locations.

The proposed agreement will serve the public purpose of preventing homelessness in Westchester County and will exhibit fiscal responsibility by reducing dependency on Social Service benefits.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreement is to provide legal assistance for approximately 500 new legal matters involving eligible low income households imminently in danger of becoming homeless in the County.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are in the County's best interests regarding 1) health and safety and 2) fiscal responsibility, as the legal services to be provided therein shall enable eligible low income households to avoid eviction, resulting homelessness and the need for homeless shelter residence,

thereby avoiding social and economic disruption to said households and consequential increased County expenditures for homeless shelters.

The Department of Planning staff shall monitor the goals and objectives of the proposed agreement and will review LSHV's payment requests to ensure that all contractual requirements are met.

Authority to exempt this agreement from the procedures of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, has been submitted to your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of even date herewith.

Accordingly, a resolution to authorize an agreement with LSHV is hereby submitted for your consideration.

I recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/ND/CP/cji
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10-28-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

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