

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell
Acting Commissioner

15064

DATE: October 21, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner, Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Grace Church Community Center, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to eighteen (18) single homeless females and up to four (4) emergency shelter beds for single homeless women outside the Department's regular shelter system at a facility known as the **Samaritan House** located at 33 Church Street, White Plains, New York for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$645,693 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The County of Westchester requests authorization to enter into an agreement with Grace Church Community Center, Inc., to operate a shelter for up to (18) single homeless females and provide up to four (4) emergency shelter beds for single homeless women outside the Department's regular shelter system at a facility known as the Samaritan House located at 33 Church Street, White Plains, New York for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$645,693 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase for the 2011 request.

The **public purpose** of the program is to provide immediate emergency shelter to eligible homeless single women in the County of Westchester. The Samaritan House program will provide 24-hour supervision, meals and 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 program are to provide the following services:

- to provide shelter to homeless single females with 24 hour supervision
- to assist women in finding permanent housing and employment

- to help customers move from public assistance dependency to self sufficiency and economic independence
- to provide a safe overnight shelter for the targeted population of homeless women outside the Department's regular shelter system, thereby keeping them off the streets during the night hours.
- to give homeless women, who are utilizing the emergency beds, an opportunity to rest in a supervised area to enhance their safety. Staff oversees the area and the women are observed to enhance security.

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

- The County enhances public safety by providing transitional housing for vulnerable single homeless females
- This program creates a safe haven for homeless women to live.
- Housing women will reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime and developing general health related issues that result from the lack of appropriate shelter
- Eligible homeless women will receive direct support services, linkages to programs to address their physical and mental health needs, weekly case management sessions and employment referrals

These goals and objectives are in **the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they are aimed at transitioning women off public assistance which will result in reducing the associated costs.

- This population will no longer be a burden to the County or tax payers once they become employed and economically independent.
- The provision of emergency shelter beds to homeless women outside the Department's regular shelter system is the least costly way to meet this basic need, especially for the myriad individuals with chronic mental and/or medical issues who often utilize a variety of public systems in an inefficient manner.
- People who are homeless and living on the streets tend to spend more time in the hospital per visit and demonstrate a greater likelihood to spend more time in jail or prison.

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. They include submission of quarterly reports and meetings and other direct contact with D.S.S. staff in order to swiftly address any impediments to the successful execution of the objectives and intents as detailed in the contract.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the Samaritan House shelter program met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. The facility accepted 100% of appropriate referrals during the 2010 contract period. As of 9/30/10, this program has effectively provided shelter and support services for 51 single homeless females. This program achieved the following outcomes:

- Secured Permanent Housing: Five (5) or 10% single women
- Secured Transitional Housing: Five (5) or 10% single women

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

Therefore, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Grace Church Community Center, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/09/2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Grace Church Community Center, Inc. to operate a shelter for up to eighteen (18) single homeless females and up to four (4) emergency shelter beds for single homeless women outside the Department's regular shelter system, at a facility known as the Samaritan House, located at 33 Church Street, White Plains, New York for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$645,693 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract 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.

Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$645,693

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/11

End Date: 12/31/11

Funding Source

\$645,693

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 50%

State Aid: 50%

Federal Aid _____

Other _____

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