

**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner

**15065**

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 thirty-eight (38) single homeless men and up to fourteen (14) emergency shelter beds for single homeless men outside the Department's regular shelter system at a facility known as the **Open Arms Shelter** located at 86 East Post Road, White Plains, New York for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$1,584,138 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 thirty-eight (38) single homeless men and up to fourteen (14) emergency shelter beds for single homeless men outside the Department's regular shelter system, at a facility known as the Open Arms Shelter, located at 86 East Post Road, White Plains, New York, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$1,584,138 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase for the 2011 request.

The services to be provided pursuant to this contract will serve the **public purpose** by assisting the County to improve the quality of life of the targeted population in the County of Westchester by providing emergency shelter and supportive services.

The **goals and objectives** of the program are to provide the following services:

- to operate a shelter for single homeless men
- to provide 24 hour supervision
- to provide supportive services including counseling, assistance with finding permanent housing, obtaining employment, and casework services. It is to be noted that the long term goal is to help this population move from public assistance to self sufficiency and economic independence. The supportive services provided hereunder would help to achieve this goal

- to provide a safe overnight shelter for the target population of homeless men outside the Department's regular shelter system, thereby keeping them off the streets during the night hours
- to give homeless men utilizing the emergency beds, an opportunity to rest in a supervised area to enhance their safety. Staff oversees the area and the men are observed to enhance security

The goals and objectives are **in the best interest of the County in terms of public health, public safety and the environment**. The population served routinely suffers from various impediments such as substance and/or alcohol abuse, mental illness, chronic unemployment, poor work history, inability to maintain a job, etc., and many are burdened with multiple barriers to permanent housing which have resulted in their current homeless status. Through this contract, customers who are eligible for these emergency housing services, are provided direct supportive services and linkages to programs to address their needs. Housing the targeted population will reduce the risk of them becoming victims of crime and general health-related issues that result from not having appropriate shelter. The program is designed to ensure the physical well-being of the targeted population, thereby improving the **public health**. Providing temporary shelter to these homeless men, while addressing the issues that caused their homelessness, has a positive impact on the environment. Without this service these customers would be literally sleeping on the streets. The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County as the above said facility provides a **safer environment** and keeps them off the streets, thereby enhancing their **safety and that of the community**.

The goals and objectives are in **the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they are aimed at reducing the number of people on public assistance which will, in turn, result in reducing the associated costs. This population will no longer be a burden to the County or taxpayer once they become employed and economically independent. People who are homeless and living on the streets tend to spend more time in 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 Open Arms Shelter housing 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 131 single homeless men. This program achieved the following outcomes:

- Secured Permanent Housing: 6 or 5% of the men
- Secured Transitional Housing: 12 or 9 % of the men

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

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 thirty-eight (38) single homeless men and up to fourteen (14) emergency shelter beds for single homeless men outside the Department's regular shelter system, at a facility known as the Open Arms Shelter, located at 86 East Post Road, White Plains, New York, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$1,584,138 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.

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5860	_____	\$1,584,138

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

Start Date: 01/01/11

End Date: 12/31/11

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 50%

State Aid: 50%

**\$1,584,138**

Federal Aid \_\_\_\_\_

(must match resolution)

Other \_\_\_\_\_