

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

15888

DATE: December 9, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. (the "Urban League") pursuant to which the Urban League will provide a medical monitoring program for all DSS customers classified as temporarily unemployable due to a medical or mental health reason, to return them to employable status for a term commencing on January 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2011 in an amount not-to-exceed \$405,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations

Attached for your consideration is a resolution which, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. (the "Urban League") pursuant to which the Urban League will provide a medical monitoring program to assist all DSS customers classified as temporarily unemployable due to a medical or mental health reason, to return them to employable status.

This agreement will commence on January 1, 2011 and continue through December 31, 2011. In consideration for services to be rendered, the Urban League will be paid an amount not-to-exceed Four Hundred Five Thousand (\$405,000) Dollars in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

This program arose out of the historic occurrence of some individuals receiving Temporary Assistance who remained unemployable for an extended period of time. This program is a responsive approach toward moving customers out of this indefinite unemployable status. The Department of Social Services anticipates that the Urban League will be serving a minimum of 580 unduplicated customers.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement achieve a public purpose as the program helps in the successful removal of barriers by allowing the customers access to resources which will promote their self-sufficiency and economic security. Customers who are unable to move towards self-sufficiency, due to a more permanent medical condition, will be referred to the Social Security Administration for appropriate benefits under that program.

The goals and objectives of this program are designed to address particular issues which are preventing gainful employment. After the medical or psychological issues have been identified, a clear plan of action, tailored to the individual needs of each customer is developed. Under this program, customers will be directed to pursue medical

or psychological treatment. Urban League staff will follow up on this course of treatment, evaluate progress, and eventually recommend readiness for employment or training.

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility because this structured program is aimed at eliminating Welfare dependency by promoting self sufficiency. Through this service, the customer's status shifts to employable and he/she becomes qualified to engage in employment activities. These employment activities are tracked by the Federal Government in order to continue to provide funds for these employment programs. Westchester County is required to engage all TANF customers in employment activities in order to meet the federal participation rate requirements. Failure to meet these standards can result in federal fiscal sanctions for Westchester County. Currently, Family Assistance customers receive \$10,200 per year, Safety Net Families receive \$14,844 per year and Safety Net Individuals receive \$8,016 per year. This program assists customers in moving from temporary unemployable to employable. If customers are able to achieve unsubsidized job placements, this will significantly reduce the dollar amount of Westchester County's fiscal responsibilities

The goals and objectives of this contract will be tracked and monitored using the Performance Measurement Indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, the submission of monthly statistics, quarterly reports and direct contacts with the Department's Program Office.

As per the available statistics, the program has served an unduplicated 500 customers during the period from January 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. Of these customers served, 122 customers were determined to be employable. Of the customers served, 79 became eligible for Social Security benefits resulting in case closures or reduced benefits. The annualized cost avoidance is calculated below:

Safety Net Families \$14,844 per year - for 3 cases	$\$14,844 \times 3$	= \$ 44,532.00
Family Assistance \$10,200 per year - for 14 cases	$\$10,200 \times 14$	= \$142,800.00
Safety Net Individuals \$8,016 per year - for 62 cases	$\$8,016 \times 62$	= <u>\$496,992.00</u>
		Total \$684,324.00

This agreement is exempt from the application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) (xiv) thereof, which exempts contracts with not-for-profit organizations which provide aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance.

Accordingly, your approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Acting 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 an agreement with the Urban League of Westchester County, Inc. (the "Urban League"), pursuant to which the Urban League will provide a medical monitoring program for all DSS customers classified as temporarily unemployable due to a medical or mental health reason, to return to employable status for a term commencing on January 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2011, in an amount not-to-exceed \$405,000 to be paid 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 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 notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is empowered to execute all documents and take all actions necessary to effect the purpose of 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	-----	\$194,400
2011	263	22	708L	4380	T708	\$210,600

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011 Start Date: 01/01/11 End Date: 12/31/11

(must match resolution)

Funding Source

	<u>5860</u>	<u>T708L</u>
Tax Dollars:	50%	---
State Aid:	50%	---
Federal Aid:		100%
Other:		

\$405,000

(must match resolution)