

**18906**

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

**FROM:** Diane G. Balistreri  
Coordinator, Office for Women

**DATE:** June 27, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Authority to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, an agreement with the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., acting by and through its component program Victims Assistance Services, for the provision of two victim advocates at the Family Justice Center at the Westchester County Court Complex

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Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement between the County of Westchester (the "County") and the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., acting by and through its component program Victims Assistance Services ("VAS"), pursuant to which VAS would provide two victim advocates at the Family Justice Center at the Westchester County Court Complex, one of whom will be bilingual.

The proposed agreement will have a term of one year, beginning April 1, 2011 and ending March 31, 2012, for an amount not-to-exceed One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$116,000), to be paid quarterly pursuant to an approved budget.

The funding for the proposed agreement would be provided by part of a \$1,000,000 Federal Grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program awarded to the Office for Women by the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. VAS is one of several partner agencies involved in all three aspects of this federal grant: 1) implementing the Family Justice Center; 2) implementing an automated victim notification of protective orders ("VNPO") system; and 3) training police, prosecutors, the judiciary, advocates and service providers.

VAS is unique in its ability to do this work; has developed excellent working relationships with the courts and with its partner agencies; has facilitated the work of the courts, while at the same time providing safety to victims of abuse; and is able to provide very high quality service

at low cost. In addition, VAS reduces duplication of services. While victims are assisted, they are assessed by VAS in order to provide services specific to their needs. Without this assessment, victims would likely go to a number of other agencies seeking services based on their individual needs, wasting time and money. Victims are able to receive immediate assistance from VAS, which will ultimately increase their overall safety.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting from the application of the procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy the agreement between the County and VAS for the provision of two victim advocates at the Family Justice Center at the Westchester County Court Complex.

I recommend approval of the attached proposed Resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 07/14/2011 JOMAR WIEIRA, SECRETARY

# RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Coordinator of the Office for Women, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting written price quotations, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly not in the best interests of the County of Westchester in connection with the procurement of an agreement with the Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc., acting by and through its component program Victims Assistance Services, for the provision of two victim advocates at the Family Justice Center at the Westchester County Court Complex, one of whom will be bilingual.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/14/2011 JUMP/WIRA, SECRETARY