

19665

DATE: June 9, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Burroughs
Commissioner, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing an Agreement between the County of Westchester and Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., for a Condominium and Cooperative Board Fair Housing Education Program and an Asset Building /Individual Development Account (IDA) Program

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO) for a program to provide Fair Housing Education to Condominium and Cooperative Boards and an Asset Building /Individual Development Account program in Westchester County. The amount of the agreement shall not exceed \$30,000.00, pursuant to an approved budget, and the term of the agreement is January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

The agreement will provide for two programs. One program will be an education program on fair housing and discrimination aimed specifically to condominium and cooperative boards. WRO is the only HUD certified housing counseling agency promoting equal housing opportunities in Westchester County. It is anticipated that WRO will reach 35 condominium and cooperative boards during this contract period. The second program will be the implementation of an Asset Building and Co-op Fair Housing Education Program. WRO will assist families with incomes between 45% and 80% of median income through their Individual Development Account programs. They will also provide a first time home buying counseling program and homebuyers workshops. WRO will conduct one-on-one home buyer's education and counseling, provide fair housing information, establish a regular saving plan for potential home buyers, and conduct a financial literacy workshop. It is anticipated that WRO will reach over 395 households/individuals with homeownership counseling and education during this contract period.

WRO was able to meet or exceed most of their goals in 2010. They were unable to reach their financial literacy and first time buyer's education on co-ops goals as there were fewer people seeking to purchase a home and there were some concerns in purchasing and selling co-ops. WRO assures us this will not happen in 2011 as the County's new initiative to affirmatively further fair housing and making housing more affordable in various communities will help in reaching their goals. Additionally, they have experienced an increase in the number of individuals seeking first time home buying opportunities. We anticipate WRO will successfully accomplish all service goals established this year.

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., is a HUD-certified housing counseling agency. They are a not-for-profit organization, offering extensive housing programs in Westchester County that satisfy the need of low to moderate income families in the area. For a number of years, WRO has assisted the County in its effort to secure decent affordable housing for residents. WRO has expanded housing choices for all minority groups, promoted integration for all client groups served by the organization, provided

housing counseling services to the most fragile and needy population including, but not limited to, senior citizens, psychiatrically and physically disabled persons and homeless families and individuals, and assisted low and moderate-income persons to reside in decent, safe and sanitary housing. WRO has been deemed to possess the requisite skills and experiences to meet the needs of those in our community who require these services.

This agreement will serve the public purpose by providing education on fair and affordable housing opportunities to the public and education programs on fair housing and discrimination aimed specifically to condominium and cooperative boards. These unique services are necessary to fulfill the County's housing goals. The program will be monitored by Department of Planning staff, who will review all payment requests to make sure all contractual requirements are met.

Authority to exempt this Agreement from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)xxi thereof, has been requested by your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of even date herewith.

I recommend approval of this resolution.

EB/cp
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
01/07/2017
CAMPY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., for a Condominium and Cooperative Board Fair Housing Education Program and Asset Building/Individual Development Account Program, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00, to be paid pursuant to an approved budget, for the term of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized to execute any documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	19	0100	4420	N/A	\$30,000.00

Budget Funding Year(s) FY 2011 Start Date January 1, 2011 End Date December 31, 2011
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$30,000.00
 State Aid _____
\$30,000.00 Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution) Other _____

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APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS 07/07/2011 JOMAR VERA, SECRETARY