

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

19672

**Date:** June 9, 2011

**To:** Board of Acquisition and Contract

**From:** Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

**Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. to operate a special needs shelter for adult women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$500,842, \$20,000 of which is exclusively designated to cover the cost associated with the uncompensated overstay for Westchester County residents and \$83,333 of which is exclusively designated to cover the cost associated with providing domestic violence services in special needs shelters for undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence residing in the County of Westchester to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$102.92 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

The County of Westchester is requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. to operate a domestic violence shelter known as Hope's Door Shelter for adult women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$500,842, \$20,000 of which is exclusively designated to cover the cost associated with the uncompensated overstay for Westchester County residents, and \$83,333 of which is exclusively designated to cover the cost associated with providing domestic violence services in special needs shelters for undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence residing in the County of Westchester to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$102.92 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

There has been a reduction in the cost of this contract over that of the 2010-2011 contract year. Although the cost of the contract was reduced, it did not impact the services provided.

The County proposes to enter into this agreement to provide emergency shelter placements for victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence State Aid Rate (DVSAR) that has been approved by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 is currently \$102.92 per person per day based upon the shelter's capacity of 16 residents. This rate is subject to modification by the State prior to June 30, 2012. The County is therefore requesting authorization to adjust the current per-diem rate to conform to the revised DVSAR when it is issued by the State.

The services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement serve a **public purpose** by assisting the County to provide immediate emergency shelter to eligible victims of domestic

violence and their minor children; as well as to aid in the reduction of family violence in Westchester County through intervention and proactive prevention.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement are to provide a safe environment to women and their minor children experiencing domestic violence; to provide on-site counseling services and support groups and to increase responsiveness of the criminal justice system to the needs of battered women and their minor children by offering legal services, advocacy and accompaniment services for Court hearings and visits to the District Attorney's Office. The proposed agreement will also provide domestic violence services in special needs shelters for undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence residing in the County of Westchester.

The goals and objectives of this program are in **the best interests 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 a safe haven in the form of emergency housing to victims of domestic violence and their minor children. In the event that a resident's length of stay exceeds the allowable 135 days, this program provides additional funding to allow said resident to remain in a safe haven until appropriate housing is arranged.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they help to reduce costs associated with responding to emergency calls for help and protection of these victims. The services provided through this agreement further reduce the financial burden to taxpayers in other areas directly or indirectly related to the consequences of domestic violence, such as expenses incurred by the Department of Corrections, Medicaid, Children's Protective Services, the legal profession and the court system.

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. The contractor is required to submit to the Department monthly and quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program. Additionally, the operations of the Domestic Violence Shelter are monitored by New York State.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the aforesaid program has met its goal of housing eligible customers referred by the Department. As of 4/30/11, this program effectively provided shelter and supportive services for 36 women and 44 minor children from the County of Westchester. The average length of stay for Westchester County residents was 63.3 days. Thirty-Six (36) Long-Term Safety Plans were developed and signed by the residents.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3 (a) xiv as this contract is with a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of providing aid, care and support services to those who are in need of public assistance.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. for the above said purpose.

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

**RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. to operate a special needs shelter known as Hope's Door Shelter for adult women and their minor children who are victims of domestic violence for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed **\$500,842**, \$20,000 of which is exclusively designated to cover the cost associated with the uncompensated overstay for Westchester County residents, and \$83,333 of which is exclusively designated to cover the cost associated with providing domestic violence services in special needs shelters for undocumented aliens who are victims of domestic violence residing in the County of Westchester to be paid monthly at an approximated per diem of \$102.92 pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the contract per diem rate of \$102.92 is subject to change as may be prescribed by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to amend the aforementioned agreement subsequent to execution of the same in order to adjust the per diem rate to conform to the anticipated future modification of the said rate by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at such time as the County is notified by the State of such modification of the rate provided that such rate does not exceed the amount authorized herein; 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	5850	----	\$250,421
2012	101	22	8900	5850	-----	\$250,421

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011-2012 Start Date: 7/01/11 End Date: 6/30/12  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

**\$500,842**  
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars:

State Aid:

Federal Aid:100%

Other: