

20511

DATE September 9, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Edward Buroughs
Commissioner of Planning

Diane G. Balistreri
Coordinator, Office for Women

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income individuals needing protection from eviction

The attached resolution authorizes the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ("LSHV") for the provision of legal services to eligible low income individuals needing protection from eviction for the term January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. The agreement will be in the not-to-exceed amount of \$343,223.00 pursuant to an approved budget, of which \$308,923.00 will be paid by the Planning Department and \$34,300.00 will be paid by the Office for Women as per the Board of Legislators authorization.

LSHV has provided legal eviction prevention and housing resettlement services to low income residents with County funding since 1998, with the majority of its clients receiving public assistance benefits as well as Medicaid and Veteran's Administration benefits. It is anticipated that LSHV will provide at least 210 households with eviction prevention services to prevent homelessness and the need for additional public assistance. Many of these households are incurring rental obligations that exceed their housing allowances provided to them by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. This agency has the expertise and experience to provide the appropriate services, the capacity to provide these services and they have the local offices to provide the services at locations that are easily accessible to those who need these services.

The agreement will prevent homelessness in Westchester County by providing legal assistance for approximately 500 new legal matters involving eligible low income households imminently in danger of becoming homeless in the County. It is in the County's best interest to enter into this agreement as the legal services to be provided will enable eligible low income households to avoid eviction, resulting homelessness and the need for homeless shelter residence, thus avoiding social and economic disruption to households and consequential increased County expenditures for homeless shelters. Department of Planning staff shall monitor the agreement by reviewing LSHV's payment requests to ensure that 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.

We recommend approval of this agreement.

EB/cp
Attachment

RESOLUTION

UPON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING AND THE COORDINATOR OF THE OFFICE FOR WOMEN, BE IT HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for the provision of legal services to eligible low income households needing eviction prevention, for the term January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$343,223.00, to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement is subject to County appropriations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee be and hereby is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

		Major Program, Program & Phase	Object/	Trust	
Fund	Dept	Or Unit	Sub Object	Account	Dollars
101	19	0100	4420	N/A	\$308,923.00
101	11	0900	4380	N/A	\$ 34,300.00

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

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$343,223.00
 State Aid _____
\$343,223.00 Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution) Other _____