



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

22007

DATE: September 30, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

SUBJECT: Authority for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department") to 1) enter into a renewal grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive and administer a grant for \$105,000 (the "grant") to continue funding for a supportive housing program to provide transitional housing and supportive services program for domestic violence victims (the "transitional housing program") for a term November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012 and 2) enter into a separate agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to continue operation of the transitional housing program for the aforementioned term and for the not-to-exceed amount of \$105,000 to be paid by the County from the grant

The Westchester County Department of Social Services (the "Department") has been notified of a renewal grant award in the amount of \$105,000 (the "grant") from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and pursuant to HUD's "Continuum of Care" project, to continue funding for a supportive housing program to provide transitional housing and supportive services to domestic violence victims (the "transitional housing program") for a period November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012.

Authority is therefore requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through the Department, to enter into a renewal grant agreement with (HUD) to receive and administer the grant in the amount of \$105,000 for a term November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012.

Authority is also requested for the County, acting by and through the Department, to enter into a separate agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("MSP") as HUD's designated sub-grantee, to continue MSP's operation of the transitional housing program for a term November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012 and for a not-to-exceed amount of \$105,000 to be paid by the County entirely from the grant.

MSP has committed to paying a \$4,200 match towards the supportive services cost for the program equaling 25% of the \$16,800 "supportive services" portion of the grant for same.

Both aforementioned agreements **serve a public purpose** by providing victims of domestic violence and human trafficking with the ability to transition their housing from homeless shelters, emergency domestic violence shelters or residing with their abusers, to permanent housing and with support services to enable their future economic self sufficiency.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement between the County and HUD shall be to provide the funding, pursuant to the grant, to continue the program to provide domestic violence victims with transitional safe haven housing and vital support services.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement between the County and MSP shall be to continue MSP's actual operation of the program as aforementioned that shall specifically include:

- Rental assistance for up to 24 months
- Access to the full range of services offered at MSP that includes individual and group counseling, advocacy, safety planning, legal advice and representation, and specialized services for children
- Assistance with housing search and working towards permanent housing goals
- Assistance in achieving educational and employment goals
- Referrals to community resources and services
- Follow-up services as needed with individuals exiting the program

The goals and objectives of both proposed agreements are in the County's **best interests** regarding **fiscal responsibility** as they respectfully provide the funding for and operation of the transitional housing program that transitions domestic violence victims from County subsidized homeless and domestic violence shelters to permanent housing and economic self sufficiency that correspondingly reduces the County's public assistance expenditures.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreements are also in the County's **best interests** regarding **public health and safety** as they respectfully provide the funding for and the operation of the transitional housing program that promotes safer communities by providing program participants and their children with continued access to abuse-free, safe and secure environments, the ability to foresee future abusive relationships and the breaking of inter-generational cycles of violence through MSP's children's prevention and outreach programs.

Performance measurement indicators for this transitional housing program shall be as follows:

Goal: Obtain and remain in permanent housing:

- At least 71% of participants will be living in permanent housing at program exit.

Goal: Increase skills and income:

- At least 78% of participants exiting the program will have maintained or increased their income compared to the baseline at intake.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement **between the County and HUD shall be tracked and monitored** by the County's required submission of Annual Progress Reports (APR's) to HUD that shall include the results for the performance measurement indicators as aforementioned.

The **goals and objectives** of the proposed agreement **between the County and MSP shall be tracked and monitored** by MSP's submission of progress reports to the County that shall include the results for the performance measurement indicators as aforementioned and with MSP additionally maintaining goal tracking sheets in each participant's file to document the participant's progress at various points during their participation in the program and upon exiting the program.

The Department is pleased to report **Performance Measurement Results** for the program as operated by MSP under the current agreement, as of August 31, 2011, as follows:

- Nine (9) families / individuals received transitional housing, service referrals and participated in the development of an individual housing stabilization plan.
- Three (3) (or 100%) of the families / individuals who exited the transitional housing program received permanent housing.
- Three (3) (or 100%) of the families / individuals who exited the transitional housing program had increased income.

The program will continue to provide housing and services to a total of nine individuals and/or families who are victims of domestic violence at any given time. As individuals/families transition off the program and into permanent housing, units are filled with new individuals/families in need of transitional housing and support services.

Additionally, MSP encourages each transitional housing program participant to participate in the completion of an individual housing stabilization plan. This plan serves to increase each participant's self determination by setting goals in conjunction with a transitional housing specialist throughout the course of the participant's time in the program. Goals and objectives are reviewed periodically and updated as they are completed. MSP projects that at least 90% of the participants will participate in the development of an individualized housing stabilization plan.

MSP began operating the transitional housing program in late 2007 with a three-year grant from the HUD in response to the severe shortage of transitional and permanent housing options for domestic violence victims who were either exiting emergency domestic violence shelters or fleeing abuse in their homes. Prior to the transitional housing program's implementation in 2007, MSP clients in need of housing (including those clients exiting MSP's emergency shelters) often had no options for fully transitioning to safety within their community with many victims being forced to leave their employment due to abuse or to reside in confidential shelters.

The proposed agreement with MSP is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy (the "Procurement Policy") pursuant to Procurement Policy Section 3(a)(xii).

Accordingly, authority is hereby requested for the County, acting by and through the Department, to enter into agreements with HUD and MSP for the purposes stated above.

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

KMM/PS/cji

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS
JOMANTYLLER, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), is hereby authorized to enter into a renewal grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") to receive and administer a grant (Grant No. NY0624B2T041002) in the amount of \$105,000 (the "grant") to continue funding for a supportive housing program that provides transitional housing and supportive services to domestic violence victims (the "transitional housing program"), for a term November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County, acting by and through the Department, is hereby authorized to enter into a separate agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to continue operation of the transitional housing program for a term November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012 and for a not-to-exceed amount of \$105,000, with such authority to include the County's allowance to pay the \$105,000 not-to-exceed amount entirely from the grant and with said amount to be paid in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive, or his authorized designee, is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	22	688L	9852	T688	\$105,000
263	22	688L	4380	T688	\$105,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011-12 Grant Year Start Date: 11/01/11 End Date: 10/31/12
 (Must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: _____

State Aid: _____

\$105,000 (Revenue)
 \$105,000 (Expense) Federal Aid: 100%
 (must match resolution)

Other: _____