

38619

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: February 25, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to amend an agreement with Empire Justice Center to provide various legal services for immigrant men and women who present problems associated with immigration, housing, employment, education, health and other systems, by increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$25,000 and extending the term of the agreement by three (3) months

On May 2, 2013, your Honorable Board approved a resolution authorizing the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into an agreement with Empire Justice Center ("EJC") pursuant to which EJC will provide various legal services for immigrant men and women who present problems associated with immigration, housing, employment, education, health and other systems, for a term January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000 (the "Agreement"). The Agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County to amend the Agreement by increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$25,000, from an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000 to an amount not-to-exceed \$125,000, and extending the term of the Agreement by three (3) months, to a new termination date of March 31, 2014.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain the same.

The proposed amendment will serve a public purpose by providing additional time and funding to provide legal assistance to immigrant men and women of Westchester. Immigrants seeking legal relief have extra burdens such as language and cultural barriers vis-à-vis using the courts and the legal system. Because of immigration issues, they may be fearful of the legal system. Legal assistance can keep these individuals from having to remain dependent on social service systems and help them mainstream into the American culture.

The goal and objective of the proposed amendment is to provide additional time for EJC to provide individuals with legal advice and counsel as well as initiate new cases.

The goal and objective of the proposed amendment will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/20/2014 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is hereby authorized to amend an agreement with Empire Justice Center ("EJC"), pursuant to which EJC will provide various legal services for immigrant men and women who present problems associated with immigration, housing, employment, education, health and other systems, for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000, for a term January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 (the "Agreement"), in order to increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$25,000, from an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000 to an amount not-to-exceed \$125,000, and extend the term of the Agreement by three (3) months, to a new termination date of March 31, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain the same; and be it further

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

Account to be charged/credited:

| FUND | DEPT | Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars | Funding Year |
|------|------|---|--------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| 101 | 11 | 0900 | 4380 | N/A | \$25,000 | 2014 |

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/2014 **End Date:** 3/31/2014

\$25,000

(must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$25,000
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid _____
 Other _____