

Office for Women

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38948

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women
Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chairman
Westchester County Board of Legislators

DATE: March 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to provide counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, for a term commencing April 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed \$30,000

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, for a term commencing April 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget.

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by supporting state-mandated non-residential domestic violence services for victims of abuse. Studies have shown that children exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk for behavioral, social, and emotional problems; cognitive deficiencies; and increased risks as adults for depression and symptoms of trauma, as well as involvement in abusive relationships.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are for My Sisters' Place to provide individual counseling and support services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of the public health, safety and general welfare, as providing domestic violence related support services for children will reduce the likelihood of problematic emotional and behavioral patterns.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring My Sisters' Place's performance by means of quarterly statistics and narratives. The effectiveness of these services will be determined by voluntary surveys distributed to parents.

The procurement of the proposed Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xviii) thereof, which exempts contracts for the "advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well being of the youth of Westchester County."

Please be advised that Section 459-c of the New York Social Services Law directs social services districts, such as the County, to offer and provide non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance. Non-residential services programs must have the ability to provide the following services:

- 1.) Information and Referral services
- 2.) Advocacy
- 3.) Counseling
- 4.) Community education and outreach activities
- 5.) Hotline services

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women and the Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Office for Women, (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide counseling services for children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence, for a term commencing April 1, 2014 and continuing through December 31, 2014, for an amount not-to-exceed Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00), payable quarterly, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 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	52	2508	5100	N/A	\$30,000	2014

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014 Start Date: 4/1/2014 End Date: 12/31/2014
 (must match resolution)

\$30,000
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$30,000
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid _____
 Other _____